

Niagara University Official/Unofficial Visit Policy

PHILOSOPHY:

The recruitment of prospective student-athletes will not include any activities beyond those normally enjoyed by all students at Niagara University. The purpose of a prospect visit is to provide the prospective student-athlete with a realistic view of life as a student-athlete. All recruiting activities shall be done in accordance with NCAA, MAAC, and Niagara University regulations and policies. Niagara University (NU) is clearly opposed to recruiting abuses and shall take appropriate action against individuals who are involved in such abuses. Each staff member involved in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes shall possess a sound working knowledge of all applicable policies and regulations.

Transportation, Meals, and Lodging:

- NU cannot use private or chartered airplanes when transporting prospects; instead, they must use commercial air travel at coach-class fares.
- NU must use standard vehicles to transport prospective student-athletes and those accompanying them on official visits.
- Prospects and their parents or legal guardians must be housed in standard lodging and offered standard meals similar to those offered on campus.

Game-Day Activities/Presentations:

- NU cannot use personalized recruiting aides (such as jerseys or scoreboard presentations) or game-day simulations during campus visits. Prospects can visit the locker room before or after a game or stand on the sidelines during pre-game activities under this measure.

Entertainment (Alcohol/Drugs & Other Illicit Activities):

- Student hosts must be current student-athletes or students who conduct visits or tours as part of the admissions process. Student-athletes shall not excessively entertain any prospect, their parents or relatives or friends at any site, at any time.
- Consumption of alcohol and use of drugs will be strictly prohibited. The host and the prospect will not engage in any illegal activities.
- NU strictly prohibits the use of sex as a recruiting tool. The use of adult entertainment of any kind is prohibited.

Responsibilities of Hosts, Coaches and Administrators:

Student Hosts: Student-hosts must sign the student-host form acknowledging both NCAA rules and the university official visit policy prior to hosting a prospect or receiving any host money. When the visit has concluded student-hosts must again sign the student-host form to verify the visit was in compliance with NCAA rules and university policy. If host money was allocated, the remaining money (if any) must be returned along with all receipts that the host money was used for.

Coaches: Coaches are required to ensure that an itinerary and a copy of the prospect's high school or junior college transcript with SAT or ACT scores are on hand prior to a visit. Coaches must also submit an expense summary form at the conclusion of each visit with receipts for travel, meals, and lodging. It will be the responsibility of the head coach to keep track of all official visits ensuring that their respective prospects and student-hosts comply with all aspects of this policy. Violations of the policy will be dealt with at the discretion of the athletic director, and will be reported to the conference.

Administrators: It is the responsibility of the Assistant Athletic Director-Compliance (AAD) to make sure that all forms are filled out properly and turned in promptly after the visit. The AAD will distribute any host money and make sure all hosts sign the student-host form before and after each visit. It will also be up to the AAD to bring any possible violations to the attention of the athletic director. The AAD, with guidance from the athletic director, will monitor and enforce the official/unofficial visit policy.

Administration and Education

NU will take the following steps in administering the Official/Unofficial Visit Policy:

- The Official/Unofficial Visit Policy will be incorporated in the Student-Athlete Manual and Athletic Department Policies and Procedures Manual.
- The policy will be distributed to all coaches and administrators at the earliest possible NU All Staff Meeting.
- The policy will be posted on the NU Compliance Website; www.niagara.edu/compliance
- Copies of the policy will be sent to prospects; along with the Graduation Rate Report and the NCAA Banned Substances List.

Unofficial Visits:

1. If NU or its boosters pay for any of the prospect's travel expenses or entertainment, the visit becomes official.
2. Coaches are required to record all unofficial visits on the "Unofficial Visit Record Form" and return the completed forms to the compliance office.
3. The compliance office will review, and compile all Unofficial Visit Record Forms in the compliance office.

Any person aware of impermissible recruiting activity identified in this policy or as regulated by the NCAA should contact the Assistant Athletic Director – Compliance immediately. Failure to report impermissible activity may place the individual(s) aware and/or involved in impermissible recruiting activity and the institution in a position of violation of NCAA Bylaws. This policy has been reviewed and approved by Niagara University President, Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.