

WCAL Interacting with Prospective Students FAQs

Interacting with Prospective Students

Reference CIF Bylaw 510

All shadow opportunities should be the same – not personalized based on athletic interests.

CIF does not permit athletic scholarships.

Can we talk with students during shadow days?

- Yes; but you should never meet with them 1-on-1 (there should always be another person present) nor can you ever arrange a special situation to talk (i.e., a sit down conversation or walk together in the gym, on the field, or on pool deck).

When we run into prospective students in the community, can we answer their questions?

- Yes, you can answer general questions like:
 - How many teams do you have?
 - How many players usually tryout?
 - What time are your practices?
 - How many practices per week?
 - Are freshmen allowed to play varsity?
 - How good is your program?
 - What is your coaching philosophy?
- *You must avoid statements like:*
 - We are your best chance at getting noticed by college coaches.
 - You would start for us.
 - Our program does the best job of developing players for the next level.
 - You cannot explain how they would fit in our program (i.e., you would be a 4-year varsity player, I could see you starting at guard as a sophomore, we will develop you into a two-way starter, etc.).
- Expand the conversation to include information about the school as a whole:
 - Extracurricular activities, clubs
 - Service programs, opportunities
 - Faith formation
 - Wellness programs
 - Academic offerings
 - Admissions & tuition assistant process - hand off to admission office
 - Undue influence - what we are allowed to talk about and what constitute
 - Penalties for undue influence - can make a student athlete ineligible for 24 months

Correspondence with Prospective Students

- You can never email, text, DM, Snapchat or use any other platform for contacting a prospective student directly.
- You may respond to emails in the appropriate manner (as outlined on this document).
- If a prospective student participates in a school camp (i.e., school summer camp) or has expressed interest in your program (i.e., Open House) you are allowed to contact them in group emails (not targeting a specific student) to provide information (e.g., thank you for attending, upcoming camps, etc.).

Communication with Parents of Prospective Students

When parents are here to drop off/pick up their child for a scheduled admissions event (shadow day) am I allowed to answer their questions?

- Yes. See below for outline of appropriate topics and information.

When I run into parents in the community or at other events, can I answer their questions?

- Yes, you can answer general questions like:
 - How many teams do you have?
 - How many players usually tryout?
 - What time are your practices?
 - How many practices per week?
 - Are freshmen allowed to play varsity?
 - How good is your program?
 - What is your coaching philosophy?
 - You can never suggest, insinuate, or imply that their child will be accepted (direct them to Admissions Office)
 - You can never encourage them to apply (this would be recruiting)
 - You can never imply financial benefits (this would be recruiting)

Other Important CCS Bylaw Items

Per CCS Undue Influence Bylaws, the following are not permitted and jeopardize the eligibility of the student-athlete.

- WCAL member schools and their representatives can neither arrange nor provide tours or meetings with outside organizations/teams.
- WCAL member schools and their representatives cannot approach players or parents at outside organization events to initiate conversation about its member school/team/program.
- WCAL member schools and their representatives cannot provide free tickets/admission to outside organizations/teams that show up at our WCAL contests. An “8th Grade Night” or similar is permitted as it is not directed at student-athletes but rather a group of students.
- WCAL member schools and their representatives cannot provide “sideline access” to any player(s)/teams/coaches that are not their current high school students.