

Mississippi State University Policy on Official and Unofficial Visits

Adopted 12-1-04, Amended/Revised 1-14-05, 9-24-08, 9-10-12, 1-25-2018, 8-1-22, 7-1-22, 7-17-23

RECRUITING PHILOSOPHY – The recruitment of prospective student-athletes will not include any activities beyond those normally enjoyed by students of Mississippi State University. The purpose of a prospect visiting Mississippi State is to provide the prospective student-athlete with a realistic view of life as a Mississippi State student-athlete.

NCAA OBLIGATION – Mississippi State University must have written departmental policies related to official visits that apply to prospective student-athletes, student hosts, coaches and other athletics administrators that are approved by the institution's president or chancellor and kept on file at the institution and conference office. Mississippi State University is responsible for the development and enforcement of appropriate policies and penalties regarding specified areas, as identified by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. Mississippi State University shall have an outside entity (e.g., conference office) evaluate its policies related to official visits once every four years. Mississippi State University may be held accountable through the NCAA infractions process for activities that clearly demonstrate a disregard for its stated policies. (1-25-18)

METHODOLOGY USED TO DEVELOP POLICY – Upon passage of the new recruiting legislation by the NCAA in August 2004, the Office of Athletic Compliance began to develop a policy for official and unofficial visits for the university. A "temporary" policy that included current university policy and conformed to the new legislation was developed and approved by the Athletic Council of Mississippi State University in August 2004. With this "temporary" policy in place to assure compliance with the new legislation during the fall 2004 term, the compliance office then turned its attention to developing a comprehensive policy that addressed all the areas recommended by the NCAA task force in its July 2004 final report. Information from the Southeastern Conference membership was included in developing this policy to ensure no member of our conference would use this process to gain a recruiting advantage over other institutions in our conference. This policy carries the approval and signature of the President of Mississippi State University, the Faculty Athletics Representative and the Director of Athletics.

EDUCATION – The following steps will be taken annually to educate administrators, coaches, support staff, enrolled student-athletes, and prospective student-athletes:

1. Copies of this policy along with all required forms will be sent to all coaches and secretaries involved in the recruiting process.
2. At a monthly coaches compliance meeting each fall, the policy will be reviewed and any updates given at that time.
3. All enrolled student-athletes who will serve as hosts will be required to attend an official visit rules education session each year.
4. The Head Coach or his/her designee will review with the prospect (and any adults accompanying the prospect on the visit), no later than when they arrive for their official visit, a copy of the official visit policy and the expectations of Mississippi State University during their visit. (Amended 1-25-18)

TRANSPORTATION ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT – Airfare must be commercial transportation at coach-class with no upgrades. Use of private aircraft is prohibited. A prospective student-athlete may be reimbursed at the Mississippi state rate for mileage if driving from the prospect's home. Automobile transportation must be provided using the prospect's or parent's vehicle, a staff member's personal or university provided vehicle, or the student-host's vehicle. If a high school or community college coach transports the prospect to campus for an official visit, no mileage reimbursement can be provided. Special or customized automobiles with televisions, gaming systems or other vehicles with entertainment value will not be utilized. Off-campus transportation may be provided within current NCAA bylaws. (Amended 9-10-12, 1-25-18)

TRANSPORTATION ON AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT – During any unofficial recruiting visit, the institution may provide the prospective student-athlete with transportation to view practice and competition sites in the prospective student-athlete's sport and other institutional facilities and to attend a home athletics contest at any local facility. An institutional staff member must accompany the prospective student-athlete during such a trip. Payment of any other transportation expenses, shall be considered a violation. Transportation may be provided within a one mile radius of the campus directly to and from the destination. (Amended 1-25-18)

MEALS – Meals during an official visit must be provided on a scale comparable to normal student life. Prospective student-athletes will take meals as students normally do. Some restaurants in the Starkville area can be considered depending on the value and size of the meal. Three Meals per day and reasonable snacks during an official visit may be provided not to exceed \$125 per day per person, with no single meal costing more than \$60 per person. (Amended 9-24-08, 9-10-12, 1-25-18, 8-1-22)

ENTERTAINMENT- Entertainment will be provided on a scale comparable to normal student life. Entertainment may be provided only on an official visit through the entertainment expenses allotment per NCAA Bylaws. (Amended 7-17-23)

LODGING – On an official visit, lodging may be provided to a prospect in any dormitory on-campus. Hotel accommodations can be used, but must be a standard room. No non-standard hotel room may be utilized. On an unofficial visit, lodging may be provided in any dormitory on-campus under Mississippi State University guidelines for guests in the dorm. **NCAA bylaws do not allow university staff members to arrange hotel lodging for prospects and/or their families on an unofficial visit.** (Amended 9-10-12, 1-25-18)

ACADEMICS – A prospective student-athlete on an official visit is required to meet with a member of the Athletic Academics staff and/or a MSU faculty member.

ALCOHOL/DRUGS & ILLICIT ACTIVITIES – Mississippi State Athletics fosters an alcohol and drug free environment. Consumption of alcohol and use of drugs will be strictly prohibited. The host and the prospect will not engage in any form of gambling or illegal activities. Mississippi State strictly prohibits the use of sex as a recruiting tool. The use of adult entertainment is prohibited.

STUDENT HOST – The **student-athlete host** must sign the student-host form acknowledging both NCAA rules and the Mississippi State official visit policy prior to hosting a P S A . All current student- athletes must attend a rules education session on hosting prospects before they can serve as a student host. **NO athletic specific host groups will be involved in the recruiting process.** Only full time staff members, a graduate assistant coach (FB only) or a current student-athlete can assist in hosting prospects on-campus during official and unofficial visits. Football may use a university student host organization only on game days inside Davis Wade stadium. (Amended 9-10-12, Amended 8-1-22)

CURFEW – The prospect must be in for the night no later than 1:00 AM on each night of the official visit. A member of the coaching staff must be present to verify curfew. (Amended 1-14-05)

RESPONSIBILITY & VIOLATIONS – It will be the responsibility of the head coach for each sport to ensure the expectations of this policy are met. The head coach or his/her designee must complete an official visit verification form or unofficial visit form within 7 working days after each visit that documents the completion of all requirements of this policy. Complete official visit packets with all documentation of the visit should be submitted to the compliance office within 30 days of the visit completion. Violations of the policy will be dealt with at the discretion of the athletic director, and all violations will be reported to the conference commissioner. (Revised 1-25-18)


Mississippi State University is committed to operating its athletic program within all the policies, rules and regulations of the NCAA, SEC and Mississippi IHL board. This policy reflects that commitment.



Dr. Mark Keenum, President

7-20-23


Date



Zac Selmon, Director of Athletics

7-19-23

Date



Brent Fountain, Faculty Athletics Representative

7-20-23

Date