

A **Future** FOR  
THE **Sport**



**COLLEGIATE**

# RECRUITING POLICIES

**2026-2027**

## LETTERS OF COMMITMENT

1. There will be one signing window each academic school year. The signing period for the 2026-2027 season shall be Nov. 8 to July 31. This is the only time a school is allowed to have a prospective student-athlete sign a USBC Collegiate Letter of Commitment.
  - a. Prospective student-athletes may not sign a Letter of Commitment before the start of their senior year of high school.
  - b. Letters of Commitment will become null and void if the prospective student-athlete fails to be admitted to the institution they signed their Letter of Commitment to. Proof of rejection must be provided to USBC Collegiate before a Letter of Commitment is voided.
  - c. Prospective student-athletes who choose to appeal a rejection decision will still be bound to the Letter of Commitment until the appeals process is completed and a final decision has been made.
  - d. Failure to apply to the institution does not qualify as not being admitted.
2. A copy of a signed Letter of Commitment must be submitted to USBC Collegiate within seven days of being signed. The Letter of Commitment is not valid until it is posted on the USBC Collegiate database. A student-athlete is considered a member of an institution's team as of the day the signed letter is posted to the database.
3. Once a Letter of Commitment is signed, other coaches/teams are not allowed to contact the individual in regards to recruiting.
4. Institutions may agree to let a student-athlete break their Letter of Commitment before the student-athlete participates in any intercollegiate competition. These student-athletes may transfer to another institution and will be eligible immediately. This does not count as a one time transfer, and the student-athlete should still fill out a "request for transfer" form. If a student-athlete has rolled a ball in competition, then they must abide by Rule 203a or 203b.
5. If a student-athlete chooses to break a Letter of Commitment without permission from his or her institution, they must sit one academic year (two semesters) before they are eligible to participate in intercollegiate competition. Student-athletes who choose to break their Letter of Commitment do not lose any eligibility by doing so.

A Letter of Commitment is voluntary to both prospective student-athletes and institutions. Letters of Commitment are not required in order to participate in USBC Collegiate.

## NULL AND VOID LETTERS OF COMMITMENT

A Letter of Commitment shall become null and void should any of the following scenarios occur:

1. A prospective student-athlete fails to be admitted to the institution they signed their Letter of Commitment to. Proof of rejection must be provided to USBC Collegiate before a Letter of Commitment is voided.
  - a. Prospective student-athletes who choose to appeal a rejection decision will still be bound to the Letter of Commitment until the appeals process is completed and a final decision has been made.

- b. Failure to apply to the institution does not qualify as not being admitted. Failure to apply will be viewed as breaking a Letter of Commitment.

2. Closure of an institution.

3. If it is found that the signed prospective student-athlete was illegally recruited.

## **STUDENT-COACH CONTACT**

- A. Student-athletes who participated in current or previous season (including student-athletes who have graduated) wishing to transfer from a school.
  - 1. Associated with NCAA, NAIA, NJCA or any other collegiate organization must follow the transfer requirements associated with that organization.
  - 2. Only associated with USBC Collegiate must first register in the USBC Collegiate Transfer Portal.
    - a. Once a student-athlete registers in the transfer portal, an email will be automatically sent to their current coach informing them that the student-athlete has registered in the transfer portal. All transfer rules will still apply.
    - b. Student-athletes who register in the transfer portal will remain in the transfer portal until July 31 of the current year or until the student-athlete requests in writing to be removed from the portal.
    - c. A list of all the student-athletes who have registered in the transfer portal will be published on a weekly basis on BOWL.com/ Collegiate.
    - d. Student-athletes who do not sign a Letter of Commitment must register in the transfer portal.
- B. Coaches who are contacted by student-athletes from different schools should first check the list of student-athletes registered in the transfer portal or contact USBC Collegiate. If a coach communicates back with a student-athlete and the student-athlete has not registered in the transfer portal, the coach could be subject to disciplinary action from USBC Collegiate.
- C. Should a recognized USBC Collegiate program be discontinued or an institution closes, a student-athlete should register in the transfer portal.

## **PROCESS FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS**

Any individual associated with a USBC Collegiate program who believes a violation has occurred may file a complaint with the USBC Rules Department. The procedures outlined in USBC Bylaws, Disciplinary Supplement, Article II will be followed.

## **PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS**

USBC may impose a recruiting ban to any coach found in violation of this recruitment policy based on the following:

First violation: 0-3 weeks

Second violation: 0-6 weeks

Third violation: 7-13 weeks

Fourth violation: 14-26 weeks

## **RECRUITING AFTER INFRACTIONS:**

1. If a coach has received a warning or suspension, a separate team representative may talk to potential recruits only during the signing period.
2. Coaches who are suspended may not communicate directly through a team representative in order to speak to prospective student-athletes or parents/guardians. Examples include phone calls, text messages, Facetime, etc. with a team representative while they are meeting with a prospective student-athlete.
3. Information about a prospective student-athlete may be shared with a suspended coach but only through a team representative.
4. Coaches who have received a warning or suspension are not to have any direct contact with prospective student-athletes or parents/guardians until their warning period or suspension is complete.



# COLLEGIATE

## Letter of Commitment

Name of Prospective Student-Athlete \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Postal Code Country

Prospective Student-Athlete's USBC ID \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Head Coach (or designee) Date Issued to Prospective Student-Athlete

Check here if this is a two-year college ☐ Two-year college transfer ☐ College transferring from \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please attach release letter if student did not graduate)

If you will NOT be attending a two-year institution or are NOT transferring from a two-year institution, you may leave the boxes empty.

This is to certify my decision to enroll at \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Institution

I certify that I have read all terms and conditions included in this document. I have discussed them with the coach and/or other staff representatives of the institution named above, and I fully understand, accept and agree to be bound by them. I understand that signing this LOC is voluntary and I am not required to sign the LOC to receive athletics aid and participate in USBC Collegiate events. Additionally, I give my consent to the signing institution, to disclose to authorized representatives of its athletics conference (if any) and the USBC Collegiate Office any documents or information pertaining to my LOC signing.

I understand that signing this LOC does not guarantee admittance to the above institution. Should I not be admitted to the above institution, my LOC will be become null and void. If I choose to appeal this decision, I will still be bound by this LOC until a final decision is given.

I certify that I have never held a professional bowling membership of any kind. If I have held a professional membership in the past, I must request a waiver to USBC Collegiate per Rule 207. If the waiver is not granted, this LOC will not be recognized.

If I falsify any part of this form, or if I have knowledge that my parent or legal guardian falsified any part of this form, I understand I shall forfeit a year of my USBC Collegiate eligibility.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Prospective Student-Athlete Signature Signing Date

Parent/legal guardian signature required if prospective student-athlete has not reached his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check one) ☐ Parent or ☐ Legal Guardian Signature Signing Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian Telephone Number (including area code) Email Address

Email completed form to [USBCCollegiate@bowl.com](mailto:USBCCollegiate@bowl.com)

## IMPORTANT-READ CAREFULLY

It is important to read this document in its entirety before signing. It is suggested that you keep a copy of this letter for your personal records. A signed copy must be sent to USBC Collegiate via email, fax or mail in order to be valid. Signing a Letter of Commitment is voluntary in regards to both prospective student-athletes and institutions. No prospective student-athlete or parent is required to sign a Letter of Commitment in order to participate in USBC Collegiate events.

1. Prospective student-athletes are not allowed to sign a Letter of Commitment before the start of their senior year of high school.
2. There will be one signing window each academic school year. This signing period shall be Nov. 8 to July 31.
3. A copy of a signed Letter of Commitment must be submitted to USBC Collegiate and is not valid until it is posted on the USBC database. A student-athlete is considered a member of an institution's team as of the day the signed letter is posted to the database.
4. Once a Letter of Commitment is signed, other coaches/teams are not allowed to contact the individual in regards to recruiting.
  - a. Student-athletes who wish to speak with coaches at other institutions must register in the transfer portal before initiating contact.
5. If a student-athlete chooses to break a Letter of Commitment without permission from his or her institution, they must sit one academic year (two semesters) before they are eligible to participate in intercollegiate competition with exception to Rule 304. Student-athletes who choose to break their Letter of Commitment do not lose any eligibility by doing so.
6. Institutions may agree to let a student-athlete break their Letter of Commitment before the student-athlete participates in any intercollegiate competition. These students may transfer to another institution and will be eligible immediately. If a student-athlete has rolled a ball in competition, then they must abide by Rule 203 a or 203 b.
7. This Letter of Commitment shall become null and void should any of the following scenarios occur:
  - a. A prospective student-athlete fails to be admitted to the institution they signed their Letter of Commitment to. Proof of rejection must be provided to USBC Collegiate before a Letter of Commitment of voided.
    - i. Prospective student-athletes who choose to appeal a rejection decision will still be bound to the Letter of Commitment until the appeals process is complete and a final decision has been made.
    - ii. Failure to apply to the institution does not qualify as not being admitted. Failure to apply will be viewed as breaking a Letter of Commitment.
  - b. Closure of an institution.
  - c. If it is found that the signed prospective student-athlete was illegally recruited. The USBC Collegiate Rulebook, along with more information about USBC Collegiate, can be found at [BOWL.com/Collegiate](http://BOWL.com/Collegiate).



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