

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

Sport	Initial Signing Date	Final Signing Date
Early Period: Baseball, Basketball, Crew, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling	November 12, 2008	November 19, 2008
Regular Period: Basketball	April 15, 2009	May 20, 2009
Regular Period: Baseball, Crew, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling	April 8, 2009	August 1, 2009
Field Hockey, Soccer, Cross Country/Track & Field	February 4, 2009	August 1, 2009

Institutional Agreement

By signing an NLI, a prospect agrees to attend MSU for one academic year in exchange for athletics financial aid for one academic year.

Basic Penalty

If a prospect does not attend MSU or attends for less than one full academic year, and that student enrolls at another NLI institution, that student may not represent the second institution in competition until he/she has completed one academic year in residence at the second institution. Additionally, the student will lose one season of eligibility in all sports.

Release from the NLI Obligation

In the event that the student-athlete wishes to be released from his/her NLI obligation, he/she must obtain a Release Request Form. This form gives MSU the option to release the individual from all penalties associated with the NLI. Should the coach and/or the Director of Athletics choose not to utilize the "Complete Release" option, the student will still be bound by the basic penalty of the NLI. The student may appeal the decision by filing a petition with the NLI Steering Committee.

Statute of Limitations

The NLI remains in effect for a period of four years. If a student has a valid NLI and chooses not to apply to or enroll in the signing institution or to defer admission, the NLI would remain valid and binding.

Financial Aid Requirement

The NLI must be accompanied by an athletics financial aid award which must list the terms and conditions of the award, including the amount and duration of the financial aid. Financial aid must be awarded in equal amounts for each term (i.e., Fall, Spring). Once a prospect signs the NLI, the athletics aid may not be reduced unless otherwise stated on the financial aid agreement.

It is NOT permissible for a prospect to sign an NLI as a ceremonial gesture when no athletics financial aid is being offered (e.g., walk-on). An institution that submits an NLI to a prospect that does not meet the terms of this provision may be in violation of the NLI program and subject to sanctions.

Prospects Who May Sign a National Letter of Intent

As a general rule, the only prospects who may sign an NLI are:

- Prospects who will be entering a four-year institution for the first time as full-time students (i.e., high school, preparatory school and two-year college students). It is NOT permissible for a junior to sign an NLI; and
- 4-2-4 transfers who are graduating from a junior college.

Midyear enrollees MAY NOT sign an NLI; however, a midyear enrollee may sign a Big Ten tender. There is one exception to this rule. A junior college football transfer who graduates from the junior college at midyear may sign an NLI. A midyear junior college transfer who fails to graduate from the junior college would maintain a valid NLI provided he/she was a Division I qualifier.

Parent/Guardian Signature Required

A parent or legal guardian is REQUIRED to sign the NLI if the prospect is younger than 21 years of age at the time of the signing, regardless of marital status. If the parent or legal guardian does not sign the NLI it is not considered valid. If the student's parent or legal guardian is not available, another individual may signed the NLI for the student. The cosigner must be approved in advance by the NLI Office.

Signing Deadline

The prospect and parent or legal guardian must sign the NLI and Big Ten Tender within **14 days** from the date of issuance. In turn, MSU must file the NLI with the Big Ten conference within 21 days of the final signature. If the prospect and/or his/her parent/legal guardian fail to sign the NLI within 14 days of issuance, the NLI will be invalid. In that event, another NLI may be issued within the appropriate signing period. Please note that during the early signing period, all NLIs must be signed between the dates of November 12-19, 2008.

The NLI may be sent to a prospect prior to the initial signing date; however the NLI may not be signed prior to the signing date. When the NLI is issued prior to the initial signing date, the "date of issuance" shall be considered to be the initial signing date and not the date that the NLI was signed or mailed by the institution.

Dead Period Restrictions

The National Letter of Intent initial signing date is surrounded by a dead period that starts Monday at 12:01 a.m. prior to the initial date of signing and ends Thursday at midnight after the initial date of signing. No in-person, on- or off-campus recruiting contacts are permitted during a dead period. In sports other than football, institutional coaching staff members may make unlimited telephone calls to the prospect on the initial date for the signing of the NLI and during the two days immediately following the initial signing date. It is permissible to send general correspondence to a prospect during a dead period.

Issuance and Retrieval of the National Letter of Intent

Two copies of the NLI must be delivered to the prospect. One copy is to be kept by the prospect and the other copy is to be returned to MSU. MSU will file a copy with the Big Ten Conference Office.

The NLI may be delivered by express mail, courier service, regular mail, facsimile or e-mail. Please note that it is NOT permissible to include additional items (e.g., application for admission, media guide) in NLI mailings to U.S. prospects. Additional permissible recruiting materials may be included in NLI mailings to international prospects.

If the NLI is delivered to a prospect via e-mail, the offer of athletically related financial aid (i.e., Big Ten Tender) must be included in the e-mail. The prospect should print out the NLI and financial aid agreement, sign two copies, and send one copy of each document back to MSU. If the prospect chooses to return the signature pages via fax, he/she will still need to return one hard copy to MSU.

MSU MAY NOT hand deliver an NLI to a prospect. In-person, off-campus delivery of an NLI is prohibited. Coaches MAY NOT be present when a prospect signs an NLI off-campus. Any in-person, off-campus contact made with a prospect for the purpose of signing an NLI or attendance at activities related to the signing of the NLI is prohibited. It is permissible for a prospect to receive an NLI while he/she is on campus for an official visit (provided the visit does not occur during the dead period).

Recruiting Ban

All participating conferences and institutions are obligated to respect a prospect's signing and cease all recruitment once a prospect signs an NLI with an institution. The NLI recruiting ban remains in effect until the prospect enrolls in the signing institution or if the prospect does not enroll at the signing institution, the recruiting ban will be lifted after the signing institution's next academic year has elapsed.

Signing Only One NLI

A student may sign only one NLI. It would not be permissible for a student to sign an NLI in one sport and later sign an NLI in another sport. The student is bound by the first valid NLI signed. If an NLI is rendered null and void, the student may sign another NLI in a subsequent signing year. In addition, any prospect who signs an NLI during the early signing period and is subsequently granted a full and complete release is not permitted to sign a second NLI during the regular signing period. These prospects may sign an offer of financial aid (i.e., Big Ten tender) or another NLI in a subsequent signing year. If an NLI is declared invalid, the prospect is permitted to sign another NLI during the same signing period.

Null and Void Letters

The NLI will be declared null and void if any of the following occur:

- **Admissions Requirement:** If a prospect is denied admission the NLI shall be declared null and void. If the institution defers admission to a subsequent term, the NLI will be rendered null and void; however, if the prospect defers admission the NLI remains binding.
- **Eligibility Requirement:** If a prospect is certified as a nonqualifier by the NCAA Eligibility Center the NLI is null and void. In addition, if the prospect does not meet the institution's requirements for admission or financial aid or NCAA junior college transfer requirements the NLI is null and void.
- **One-Year Absence Provision:** If a student has not attended any institution for at least one academic year (or has attended an institution that does not participate in the NLI program), the student may seek to apply this provision.
- **Service in the U.S. Armed Forces/Church Mission:** The prospect serves on active duty with the U.S. armed forces or on a church mission for at least 12 months.
- **Discontinued Sport:** The sport is discontinued by the institution with which the prospect has signed.
- **Recruiting Rules Violation:** The institution (or a representative of its athletics interests) violates NCAA or Big Ten Conference rules while recruiting the prospect. An NLI will be declared null and void if a recruiting violation results in the need for eligibility reinstatement.

Please note that an institution must notify a prospect in writing that his/her NLI is not valid within five business days from when the institution is made aware of the status of the NLI.