**Title:** New SEC Oversigning Rules Use Alabama RB As Guinea Pig

**Subtitle:** Alabama running back, Justin Taylor, has unwittingly become the test case for the SEC’s new recruiting rules:&nbsp;specifically those designed to prevent oversigning.

**Meta Description:** Due to new SEC oversigning rules, Alabama running back, Justin Taylor, finds himself in NCAA limbo. Anthony Caruso gives us the lowdown here.

**Date:** 0-5-2012

**Author:** Anthony R. Caruso

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Under the new SEC oversigning rules, schools can only sign up to 25 players a year to national letters of intent. Although Taylor committed to Alabama in February 2011, he was recently informed that he is the unlucky number 26.

According to Sports Illustrated, Alabama coach Nick Saban told Taylor that Alabama would guarantee him a scholarship in the 2013 signing class, but would not have a spot for him this year. He cited the SEC rule as well as the ACL injury that caused the young athlete to sit out his senior year.

For those unfamiliar with oversigning, it essentially involves signing more players than you have room for on your roster in order to gain a competitive advantage. It could be signing more than 25 players in a single recruiting class or signing more prospects than there are spaces available under the 85-scholarship-per-team limit.

Since oversigning is perceived to exploit the recruiting process, many conferences have adopted rules to combat it.

Many will argue that Taylor got a raw deal, however, in this case, the rule largely functioned as it was intended to. Before the rule, Alabama could have signed Taylor to a national letter of intent next month all whilst knowing there wasn’t a spot for him on the roster. Taylor would have been forced to grayshirt and thus, defer scholarship benefits until 2013.

Now, Taylor still has options: he can stick with Alabama and sign next year or he can explore his options with another team.

Although he has until next Wednesday to change his mind, Taylor has indicated that he will grayshirt with Alabama,. While many people in his life will likely influence his decision, we can only hope that one of them is an experienced sports attorney.

**Raw Content:** <!-- wp:heading -->
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