

A Guide for Boosters, Alumni and Friends of Athletics

Your efforts to follow these rules are greatly appreciated, because violations could affect the eligibility of involved prospects or student-athletes, result in NCAA penalties being imposed on this institution, and lead to restrictions regarding your involvement with the athletics program.

All NCAA legislation cannot be covered in a document such as this. Therefore, any additional questions should be forwarded to the Compliance Administrator in the Department of Athletics. We appreciate your interest and ask you to contact the Department of Athletics, at the numbers below, should you have any questions.

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ARE YOU A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INSTITUTION'S ATHLETICS INTERESTS?

You are a Representative of Athletics Interests (RAI), if you meet any of the following conditions:

- You are a member of any organization that promotes the athletics program.
- You have made a financial contribution to the Department of Athletics or its Booster organizations.
- You have ever assisted in the recruitment of prospects for the Department of Athletics.
- You have provided benefits (e.g., summer jobs or occasional family meals) to enrolled student-athletes.
- You have ever, in any way, promoted the athletics program.
- *NOTE: Please remember that once you become an RAI, you retain that identity indefinitely.*

WHO IS A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE?

A prospective student-athlete, commonly known as a "prospect," is any individual who has started classes for the 9th grade. In addition, student-athletes enrolled in preparatory schools or two-year colleges are considered prospects. Ultimately, a student remains a prospect until enrollment at a four-year collegiate institution.

WHO CAN RECRUIT?

Only coaches who successfully complete the annual NCAA Coaches Certification Exam, which tests their knowledge of NCAA recruiting legislation, are permitted to be involved in the recruiting process.

As a Representative of Athletics Interests, YOU MAY NOT:

- Make any recruiting contacts with prospects or their relatives. This includes telephone calls, letters, emails, and facsimiles, along with any face-to-face contact either on or off-campus.
- Assist coaches by picking up transcripts, films, or any other information pertaining to a prospect's ability from the prospect's educational institution.

As a Representative of Athletics Interests, YOU MAY:

- Forward information about prospects to the appropriate coaching staff member as long as you were not asked to do so by an institutional staff member.
- View a prospect's athletics contest on your own initiative, provided you do not contact the prospect or his/her relatives, coach, principal, or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the academic or athletic abilities of the prospect. You are responsible for all incurred costs or fees at a contest.
- Speak to a prospect on the telephone ONLY if the prospect initiates the call. You are not permitted to have a recruiting conversation, but you may exhibit normal civility. Under such circumstances, you must refer all questions about the athletics program to the coaching staff.

NCAA RULES REGARDING THE INVOLVEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS WITH PROSPECTS:

As a Representative of Athletics Interests, YOU MAY NOT:

- Provide benefits of any kind (e.g., clothing, special discounts, lodging, meals, transportation, tickets, loans of money; or the promise of same) to prospects or their relatives.
- Make contact with a prospective student-athlete or his/her parents when the prospect is on campus for an official or unofficial recruiting visit.
- Contact a prospective student athlete to congratulate him/her on signing a National Letter of Intent to attend this institution.
- Provide transportation or arrange for payment of transportation costs for a prospect or his/her relatives or friends to visit campus.
- Earmark funds for specific prospects to attend summer camps. Instead, you must donate the funds to the high school, and the school and the students will decide which camps they will attend.
- Employ or arrange for employment of a prospect before the completion of his/her senior year in high school or official withdrawal/graduation from junior college or prep school. You may employ a prospect at this point as long as compensation is for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with experience and the going rate.
- Provide ANYTHING to a prospect or the prospect's family or friends without prior approval from the Compliance Office.

NCAA RULES REGARDING THE INVOLVEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS WITH ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES:

As a Representative of Athletics Interests, YOU MAY NOT:

- Pay for or arrange for payment of room, board, or any type of transportation at any time for currently enrolled student-athletes, their relatives, or their friends.
- Provide student-athletes with any sort of extra benefit, which refers to any special arrangement to provide a student-athlete or his/her relatives or friends with a benefit unavailable to the general student population.
- Provide student-athletes with any special discounts (e.g., free or reduced meals, housing), payment arrangements (e.g., cosigning a loan), credits on a purchase (e.g., airline ticket, clothing), or services (e.g., dry cleaning, transportation, use of telephone).
- Provide awards or gifts to student-athletes for any reason. This also prohibits honorariums for speaking engagements. All awards to student-athletes must meet NCAA legislation and be approved by the Compliance Office.
- Entertain student-athletes or their family and friends. The only exception to this is that you may, on an occasional basis, provide a student-athlete or team (not family members or friends) with a meal. That meal can be catered, but it must be in your home, and you must notify the coach and receive prior approval from the Compliance Office.

NOTE: These rules apply throughout the student-athlete's entire enrollment, including summer breaks.

NCAA RULES REGARDING STUDENT-ATHLETE EMPLOYMENT:

PROSPECTS MAY be employed by RAI during the summer prior to enrollment; however, this employment may not begin until the prospect has graduated from high school or withdrawn/graduated from junior college or prep school.

CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES MAY seek employment during both the academic year and summer. This employment must meet the following regulations:

- The student-athlete's compensation must not include any remuneration for the value or utility the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following that he or she has obtained because of athletics ability;

- The student-athlete must be compensated only for work actually performed; and
- The student athlete must be compensated at a rate commensurate with the going rate for similar services in that locale. Provided these regulations are met, there is no limit on the amount of money student-athletes can earn. Although there is no longer a limit on student- athletes' earnings, the Compliance Office still must keep records verifying all student- athlete employment. If you intend to hire a student-athlete at your place of business, please be sure to remind the student athlete that he or she should consult the Compliance Office regarding the employment arrangements.

RULES REGARDING PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES:

Student-athletes are not permitted to be involved in the advertisement, recommendation, or promotion of commercial products or services because it could affect their amateur status. However, there are certain instances when student-athletes are permitted to be involved in charitable, educational, community engagement or nonprofit promotional activities. These events must be approved by the Compliance Office prior to the student-athletes' participation. If you are interested in involving student-athletes in this sort of activity, please contact the Compliance Office.

NCAA RULES REGARDING THE INTERNET:

The internet is considered similar to email, telephone calls, or general correspondence. Therefore, it should not be used by RAI to contact prospects, their families, or their coaches. Participating in "chat rooms" or "instant messaging" with prospects is also strictly prohibited.

COMMON QUESTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS:

Q: *Can I be involved when a prospect is on an official or unofficial visit to campus?*

A: No, you are precluded from all recruiting activities, including face-to-face contacts with a prospect or his/her relatives at any time.

Q: *Can I contact prospects to encourage them to attend the institution?*

A: No, any such contact could result in the prospect being declared ineligible to participate in athletics at this institution.

Q: *May I engage in evaluation activities on behalf of the institution?*

A: Yes, you may view a prospect's contest on your own initiative, provided no contact is made with the prospect or his/her family. However, this evaluation may not take place at the request or direction of an institutional staff member, and you are not permitted to contact anyone associated with the prospect in an effort to evaluate him/her.

Q: *May I attend a public event (e.g., high school awards banquet or dinner) at which prospects are in attendance?*

A: Yes, however contact with prospects or their families may not occur, and no attempt can be made to recruit the prospect.

Q: *May a student-athlete's name, picture, or appearance be used in a promotional activity?*

A: It depends on the situation. Please contact the Compliance Office with your specific question.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you know of a high school student-athlete who might want to attend the institution, please call the appropriate coach. This is the only permissible recruiting activity for a representative of athletics interests.

CONSEQUENCES FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS WHO VIOLATE NCAA RULES:

Under NCAA rules, the institution is responsible for all actions of its boosters. Therefore, it is our responsibility to make you aware of consequences for violating the rules. RAIs found in violation of NCAA rules are subject to the loss of benefits and privileges, including season tickets. In addition, the NCAA Committee on Infractions, in some cases, has required institutions to disassociate the RAI from the institution.

TWO FINAL REMINDERS:

1. Please contact the Compliance Office at **808-735-4748** if you need a specific NCAA rule interpretation or have questions about any of the information in this document.
2. If in doubt, remember that in most cases:

CONTACT WITH AND/OR PROVISION OF ANY BENEFIT TO PROSPECTIVE OR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES IS PROHIBITED!