

## MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What actions should boosters take if they become aware of a rules violation?

A: Boosters should contact the Compliance Office or the Director of Athletics office to report and discuss the information pertinent to the violation. Boosters may remain anonymous if they wish. The Compliance Office will review the information and process it as necessary.

Q: When does a prospect become a student-athlete?

A: A prospect remains a prospect even after signing a National Letter of Intent. A prospect does not become a UC student-athlete until he or she reports for regular squad practice or attends class.

Q: Is the restriction on contacts with prospects applicable to established family, friends and neighbors?

A: No, however, it must be understood that such contacts may not be made for recruiting purposes and may not be initiated by a member of the institution's coaching staff.

Q: Can a Booster provide a meal to a currently enrolled student-athlete?

A: Yes, Boosters are permitted to provide a meal in their home to a currently enrolled student-athlete provided they notify the compliance office in advance to receive permission.

If you have any questions please contact:

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## NCAA RULES OF COMPLIANCE

### RULES OF THE GAME

**For UC Alumni,  
Fans and Friends**



## Dear Alumni, Fans and Friends,

As a UC season ticket holder, alumnus, donor, or member of the UCATS, you are by NCAA definition a representative of UC's athletics interests. Those who actively support UC athletics are an integral part in the overall success of the program. Your support enables our student-athletes to train and prepare in quality facilities, compete against challenging opponents and receive superior coaching. Your level of support is vital to the outcome of contests and competitions.

We value your interest and support, but we must remind you that an inappropriate action on your part can jeopardize the eligibility of a prospective or currently enrolled student-athlete.

The NCAA has strictly limited the role you, as a Bearcat fan, may assume with regard to prospects and student-athletes. This guide is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of NCAA rules and regulations that you should know as someone who cares about intercollegiate athletics.

While this guide does not include all applicable legislation, it does include the most common situations encountered by alumni and friends and the most important rules governing these situations.

Compliance with NCAA rules is of the highest priority for our athletics program and institution. As a member of the NCAA, UC is responsible for the action of its alumni, supporters, and fans. Even the best-intentioned action on your part may be a violation of NCAA rules. Please contact the Compliance Office if you have any questions regarding what is permissible. Remember to "Ask Permission, Not Forgiveness!"

UC appreciates its alumni and friends who strive for the highest level of ethical conduct while supporting the student-athlete's goals for both academic and athletic success.

We thank you for your support.

**Mike Thomas**  
Director of Athletics

## RECRUITING DEFINITIONS

### Representative of Athletics Interests

A "representative of the institution's athletics interests" is anyone who is known (or who should have been known) by a member of the institution's executive or athletics administration to:

- Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program (UCATS);
- Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to a UC booster organization;
- Assisted or has been requested by UC staff to assist in the recruitment of prospects;
- Assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families;
- Have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletics program;
- Is or ever was a season ticket holder in any sport;
- Has helped coordinate summer and/or vacation employment for a prospective or enrolled student-athlete; or
- Participated as a varsity athlete at UC.

Please be reminded that once an individual is identified as a "representative of the institution's athletics interests," the person retains that identity **FOREVER**.

### Prospective Student-Athlete

A prospective student-athlete (prospect) is a student who has:

- Started classes for the ninth grade
- Ever received any financial assistance or other benefit prospective students do not generally receive.

An individual remains a prospect until one of the following occurs (whichever is earlier):

- The individual officially registers and enrolls in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends classes in any term of a four-year collegiate institution's regular academic year.
- The individual participates in a regular squad practice or competition at a four-year collegiate institution that occurs before the beginning of any term.

Remember a prospect remains a prospect even after signing a National Letter of Intent with UC.

## RECRUITING DO'S AND DON'TS

Only authorized institutional staff members are permitted to recruit prospective student-athletes. The NCAA prohibits all boosters from the following:

- **DO NOT** telephone, write, or make in-person contact (either on or off-campus) with a prospect for recruiting purposes.
- **DO NOT** become directly or indirectly involved in making arrangements for a prospect, the prospect's relatives or friends to receive money or financial aid of any kind.
- **DO NOT** provide any transportation costs to prospects, their relatives or friends to campus to attend athletics events.
- **DO NOT** contact a prospect's coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the prospect.
- **DO NOT** visit a prospect's school to acquire films or transcripts in an attempt to evaluate the prospect's academic or athletics eligibility.
- **DO NOT** entertain any coach from a junior or senior high school, preparatory school, or junior college or provide them with tickets, gifts, or other benefits.
- **DO NOT** provide free tickets or tickets at a reduced cost to any UC home or away event to prospects, their friends or relatives.
- **DO NOT** mail anything, including newspapers, clippings, posters, programs, etc. to prospects.
- **DO NOT** use UC game footage, a student-athlete or photograph of a student-athlete in any commercial advertisements without first contacting UC athletics.
- **DO NOT** attempt to sell a picture of a student-athlete. It may jeopardize his/her eligibility at UC.
- **DO NOT** provide any information pertaining to UC's student-athletes to gambling operations.
- **DO NOT** contact student-athletes enrolled in other four-year institutions regarding the possibility of transferring to UC and its' athletics program.

Even though there are many rules prohibiting your involvement with prospects and the recruiting process, as a booster you are permitted to do the following:

- **DO** feel free to send newspaper clippings and other information about prospects that you believe may be important to UC's coaching staff.

## RECRUITING DO'S AND DON'TS, CONTINUED

- **DO** feel free to attend high school or two-year college athletics contests, provided no contact with the prospect, prospect's parents, or coach occurs.
- **DO** continue existing friendships, provided solicitation of a prospect's enrollment does not occur.
- **DO** notify the Compliance Office or the Athletic Department of employment possibilities for student-athletes.

### EXTRA BENEFITS

The NCAA defines an extra benefit as any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution's athletics interests to provide a prospective or enrolled student-athlete or the student-athlete's relative or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.

A booster CANNOT provide an extra benefit or special arrangement to a student-athlete that is not available to all other students at the university.

Specifically prohibited financial aid, benefits and arrangements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- An employment arrangement for a prospect's relatives
- Gift of clothing or equipment
- Cosigning of loans
- Providing loans to a prospect's relatives or friends
- Cash or like items
- Any tangible items, including merchandise
- Free or reduced-cost services, rentals or purchases of any type
- Free or reduced-cost housing
- Permit use of personal property
- Providing discounts for goods and services
- Providing an automobile
- Providing transportation
- Providing tickets to an athletics event, institutional or community event
- Providing a promise of financial aid for postgraduate education to a prospect
- Anything that is not provided to all students on campus

## EMPLOYMENT

Boosters may contact a prospect to discuss a summer job **ONLY** after the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend UC. In addition, boosters **MAY NOT** employ or arrange employment of a high school prospective student-athlete until the prospect has completed all classes and graduated from high school. Further, boosters **MAY NOT** employ or arrange employment of a two-year college prospective student-athlete until the prospect has officially withdrawn from or completes requirements for graduation at the two-year college. Enrolled student-athletes are permitted to be employed during the regular academic year as well as during official vacation periods. **Prior** to the student-athlete's employment they must receive written approval to work during the academic year from the Director for Compliance and Student Services. Once employment is approved, the student-athlete must return the contract and information form, which must be completed and signed by the employer and the student-athlete prior to employment. The contract contains information and agreements ensuring compliance with NCAA student-athlete employment legislation. Please note the following restrictions regarding the employment of student-athletes.

- Student-athletes may be paid only for work actually performed.
- Student-athletes must be paid at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services.
- Transportation may not be provided to student-athletes unless it is a benefit provided to all employees.
- A student-athlete may not be paid on the basis of his/her athletics ability, reputation or fame.
- Employers may not advertise a student-athlete's employment to generate extra business, nor may they use a student-athlete's name or picture to advertise, promote, or recommend the sale or use of any commercial product or service.
- A student-athlete cannot endorse a company or employer through public advertising mediums.
- Student-athletes may not be paid on a fee-for-lesson basis.
- Student-athletes cannot be provided with any benefits not provided to other employees. This includes the use of vehicles, transportation to or from work, meals, loans, advances, or time off with pay.

Please note all employers and student-athletes are subject to NCAA regulations and penalties for any violations.

## ARE YOU A BOOSTER?

The NCAA has developed a four-part test to measure whether or not an individual has become a booster and/or provided a student-athlete, their relatives or friends with an impermissible benefit. If any of the following statements are true, then providing benefits to prospects or student-athletes, or their relatives and friends can result in the student-athlete being rendered ineligible and cause the individual providing the benefit to be classified as a booster from that point forward:

- 1) The relationship between the athlete (or parents of the athlete) and the individual providing the benefits developed as a result of the athlete's participation in athletics or their reputation as an athlete; or
- 2) The relationship began only after the athlete became a prospect; or
- 3) The relationships began only after the athlete had achieved notoriety due to his or her athletic ability or reputation; or
- 4) The pattern of giving and/or frequency of giving increased after the athlete attained notoriety as a skilled athlete (e.g., purchased small gifts in the past and now purchases a television or other large gift, bought fast food meals and not buys a meal at a much more expensive restaurant.)

For example, if you have known an athlete since the athlete was seven years old and the relationship began through church, your neighborhood or some activity other than athletics, then it is probably not a violation for you to provide benefits to an athlete or his/her relatives or friends.

As you can see, this is a difficult standard to meet. Please contact the compliance office before you provide any benefits to our student-athletes.

## CONSEQUENCES TO BOOSTERS FOR NCAA VIOLATIONS

Boosters are a vital contributor to the success of UC athletics. As such, it is important that you assist us by adhering to all NCAA rules. Even though your intent may be to always help promote UC athletics, please be sure your actions do not violate NCAA rules. If a violation occurs, it may:

- Jeopardize a student-athlete's eligibility for intercollegiate competition.
- Jeopardize UC's membership status with the NCAA.
- Cause you to lose your access to all booster benefits.
- Cause you to be disassociated from the athletic program