

Frequently Asked Questions for Boosters

Q: Who is able to recruit for The George Washington University?

A: Only The George Washington University coaches who have passed the NCAA Recruiting Examination may be involved in the recruitment process for any sport. Therefore, all boosters/athletics representatives who are not employed by the University are prohibited from contacting a prospect or members of the prospect's family by telephone, letter or in person on- or off-campus for the purpose of encouraging participation in GW's athletic program.

Q: What are the basic provisions of the regulation?

A: In Division I, representatives of an institution's athletics interests are prohibited from making in person on- or off-campus recruiting contacts, or written or telephone communications with a prospect of the prospect's relatives or legal guardians.

Q: Is GW responsible for the acts of representatives/booster and booster support groups?

A: Yes. Boosters are governed by the same NCAA and institutional rules as those placed upon all institutional athletics staff members.

Q: Once an individual has been identified as a representative how long does he or she retain this identity?

A: Forever

Q: Can I entertain relatives and friends of a prospect at a site on or off GW's campus?

A: No.

Q: Is the contact rule applicable to established family, friends or neighbors?

A: No. "Established" family relationships with friends and neighbors is permitted. Contacts made with the sons and daughters of family friends are permitted with the understanding that such contacts are **NOT** made for recruiting purposes and are not arranged by members of GW's coaching staff. Essentially, a relationship is "established" if:

- The relationship predates the individual's status as a prospect;
- The relationship predates the athlete's status achieved as a result of his/her athletics ability or reputation; and
- The relationship did not develop as a result of the athlete's participation in athletics or his/her notoriety related thereto.

Q: May I invite a student-athlete or team over to my house for a meal?

A: Yes. However, please note that the invitation to the student-athlete may only be for a special occasion (e.g., birthday) and only you can provide the student-athlete transportation if needed. In addition you may invite a team for dinner or to meet with a group of alumni in a city where they are competing away from home. The NCAA permits student-athletes, as a team, to receive special benefits not permitted as individuals. Please make sure you contact the Compliance Office in the Athletics Department prior to providing such meals.

Q: May I evaluate a prospect on behalf of GW?

A: NCAA legislation does not prohibit a representative from viewing a prospect's contest on his or her initiative. However, this is with the understanding that the representative may not contact the prospect.

Q: May I provide gifts or awards to a student-athlete for his or her athletics performance?

A: No. All awards must conform to NCAA awards legislation and must be approved by the GW athletic department.

Q: May I provide employment to a prospect or enrolled student-athlete?

A: Yes. However, the prospect must have signed a National Letter of Intent or institutional financial aid agreement and cannot commence the employment until s/he has completed their senior year in high school. An enrolled student-athlete must receive prior written approval from the Department prior to commencing employment. In both cases, prospects and enrolled student-athletes must be paid for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with the going rate for similar service in the community and your own business.

Q: May I contact high school coaches or guidance counselors directly regarding a prospect?

A: No. Such contact would involve specific athletic recruiting and not general institutional recruiting. Further, representatives are prohibited from visiting a prospect's educational institution to pick up game films or transcripts pertaining to a prospect.

Q: May I accompany the coach during his or her "home" visit with the prospect?

A: No. This would constitute your direct involvement in the athletic recruitment of a prospect.

Q: May I drive a prospect to a secondary school's reception in my local area?

A: No, unless such arrangements are made for all students in attendance. Otherwise, providing such transportation would be considered an "extra benefit and would render the prospect ineligible to play if he or she enrolled at The George Washington University.

Q: What if a prospect calls an athletics representative?

A: An athletics representative may have a telephone conversation with a prospect ONLY if the prospect initiates the call. Such a call may not be prearranged by an institutional staff member and the athletics representative may NOT have a recruiting conversation, but may exhibit normal civility. The athletics representative must refer any questions about the University's athletic program to the GW Athletics Department.

Q: What if a prospect knows that an athletics representative is a GW graduate and contacts him/her to ask questions about GW?

A: If a prospect contacts an athletics representative, s/he may answer questions regarding various aspects of GW as long as NO discussion takes place regarding the GW athletic program. If a prospect asks about GW athletics, refer him/her to the appropriate coaching staff.

Q: What if unavoidable incidental contact is made with a prospect by an athletics representative?

A: An unavoidable incidental contact with a prospect is permissible provided the contact is not prearranged by the athletics representative or an athletic staff member, does not take place at the prospect's educational institution or at the sites of organized competition and practice involving the prospect, is not made for the purpose of recruitment of the prospect, and involves only normal civility.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to telephone a prospect once the prospect has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent and congratulate them?

A: No. Even if the purpose of the call is only to congratulate the prospect, s/he is still a prospect and the same contact rules apply after committing or signing that applied before. Do not contact a prospect without first checking with the Compliance Office, unless the prospect is a relative.

Q: During recruitment, or prior to an individual's enrollment, can an athletics representative be involved directly or indirectly in making arrangements for a prospect, the prospect's relative, or friends to receive money, financial aid, or equivalent inducements?

A: No. Furthermore, it would not be permissible to make such arrangements for current student-athletes at GW.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to bring to GW's attention outstanding prospects from the representative's local area?

A: Yes, and we would encourage you to do so. An athletics representative may not, however, get involved in the actual evaluation of the talent of a prospect. In other words, an athletics representative may not contact a prospect's coach, principal, or counselor nor visit the prospect's educational institution to pick up film or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's athletic or academic abilities. In addition, an athletics representative cannot contact the prospect for purposes of soliciting the prospect's enrollment at GW and ultimate participation in athletics.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to reimburse the coach of a prospect for expenses incurred in transporting a prospect to visit campus?

A: No.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to entertain high school, preparatory, or junior college coaches at any location?

A: No. However, GW may provide two complimentary admissions to the coaches to home athletic contests.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to provide transportation to or from campus or free admission to an athletics event on or off GW's campus to prospects, their friends or relatives?

A: No. Only the GW Athletics Department can provide complimentary admissions and only to home athletic events for those coaches.

Q: What are considered other types of inducements?

A: Other types of inducements that are prohibited include, but are not limited to the following: cash or loans; promise of employment after college education; special discounts or payment arrangements on loans; employment of relatives or friends of a prospect; involvement in arrangement for free or reduced charges for professional or personal services, purchases or charges; signing or co-signing a note for a loan; the loan or gift of money or other tangible items (e.g., clothes, cars, jewelry); purchase of items or services from a prospect or prospect's family at inflated prices; and providing directly or indirectly transportation to enroll in classes at the University.

Please Note: The George Washington University encourages all representatives of GW athletic interests to contact the Athletic Department if there is doubt concerning their contact with potential or enrolled student-athletes. Please feel free to contact Chandra V. Bierwirth, Assistant Athletics Director/Compliance directly at 202.994.6282 or cbwirth@gwu.edu.