

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics:

A Guide to NCAA Rules and Regulations

This brochure is published by the Miami University Compliance Office as an educational tool to assist alumni, friends and boosters of Miami University Athletics in understanding NCAA rules and regulations. Please direct all questions to the Athletic Compliance Office (513) 529-3113.

What You Need to Know!

Institutional Control and Responsibility as an NCAA principle requires that each member institution control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. This includes managing the conduct of its staff members and the actions of other individuals or organizations which promote the athletic interests of the institution.

How does this affect you? An institution's "responsibility" for the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics program shall include responsibility for the acts of individuals considered as "representatives of the institution's athletics interests," including alumni, fans and boosters. You are a "Representative of Miami Athletics" if you:

- Have participated in an organization promoting Miami athletics, or as a student-athlete
- Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of Miami (Miami Student Aid Association, Blue Line Club, Sixth Man Club, and FastBreak Club)
- Have assisted in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes
- Have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes (summer employment)

It is important to note that once you are identified as a representative of Miami athletics interests, you retain that identity forever, even if you no longer contribute to the athletics department.

Participation in any non-permissible activities outlined by the NCAA could result in any of the following:

- A prospect declared ineligible to represent Miami University
- A student-athlete declared ineligible to compete
- An entire team declared ineligible to compete in conference or NCAA competition
- Your involvement with the athletics program being restricted or revoked

Contact with a Prospective Student-Athlete (PSA)

Who is a Prospective Student-Athlete?

A prospect is defined as a student who has started classes for the ninth grade, or an individual who has not started classes for the ninth grade but has received any benefits from the university such as free camp enrollment. A prospect remains a prospect even after having signed a National Letter of Intent.

Can you assist in recruiting a PSA?

You may **NOT** make in-person on or off-campus recruiting contacts or write or telephone a prospect for his/her parents on behalf of Miami University.

In addition, you may **NOT**, DIRECTLY or INDIRECTLY:

- Give cash or other tangible items such as clothes, jewelry, or equipment to a prospect
- Co-sign a loan of any kind, or provide a loan to a prospect's relatives or friends

- Provide use of an automobile
- Employ or entertain relatives or friends of a prospect
- Arrange for free or reduced charges for professional or personal services
- Promise employment after college
- Provide transportation of any kind
- Provide free or reduced-cost services, rentals, purchases or housing
- Arrange for use of the institution's athletics equipment (i.e. for high school all-star game)

Questions Frequently Asked About Prospective Student-Athletes...

As a booster can I...

- Entertain relatives or friends of a prospect at any site? **NO**
- Make contact with a prospect and his/her parents during an official visit to the campus? **NO**
- Visit a prospect's school to pick up a transcript or film to evaluate a prospect? **NO**
- Write or telephone prospects, their relatives, or legal guardians? **NO**
- Make an in-person, on or off-campus recruiting contact with a prospect or his/her family? **NO**
- Reimburse the coach of a prospect for expenses incurred in transporting a prospect to visit the campus? **NO**
- Entertain high school, prep school or junior college coaches at any location? **NO**
- Pay in whole or in part registration fees associated with summer sports camp for a specific prospect? **NO**
- Provide cash or the use of a vehicle to the prospect or student-host on his/her official visit to campus? **NO**
- Be involved in the on-campus entertainment of a prospect and his/her parents during an official visit? **NO**
- Continue established family relationships with friends and neighbors who have prospective student-athletes in their family? **YES**, provided you engage in normal activities with these friends and do not attempt to recruit the prospect.
- Offer assistance to members of the athletic staff who are recruiting in your community? **YES**
- Discuss summer employment arrangements with a prospect after s/he has signed a National Letter of Intent? **YES**

Contacts with Enrolled Student-Athletes

Boosters may not provide "extra benefits" to enrolled student athletes. This term includes anything not available to the general student body or making special arrangements for student-athletes, or their friends or family members.

What are some examples of "extra benefits?"

- A special discount
- Credit on a purchase
- A loan of money in any amount
- The use of an automobile
- Providing holiday or birthday gifts
- Providing free or reduced rent or housing
- Providing for the use and pay of long distance telephone calls
- Providing professional services at less than normal or at no expense to the student-athlete.
- Providing a gift or award to a student-athlete for his/her athletics performance
- Providing expenses for friends or family members to visit an enrolled student-athlete

Is there anything a booster can provide for an enrolled student-athlete? YES, you may:

- Employ enrolled student-athletes for legitimate work during the academic year provided the student-athlete meets the requirements for such employment, paid commensurate with experience and job description and the required written statement is signed by both the student-athlete and the employer.
- Invite a student-athlete or a team for an occasional meal at your home (as opposed to a restaurant); reasonable local transportation may be provided by the representative whose home is being used for the function.

NCAA regulations strictly govern the benefits a student-athlete may receive. Before you provide any student-athlete with a meal, a ride, or any other benefit not available to all students, please contact the head coach of that sport or the Athletic Compliance Office.

Who Is Able to Recruit for Miami University?

Only Miami University athletic department staff members may be involved in the recruiting process and only coaches who have passed the NCAA Coaches Certification Exam may recruit off-campus for the institution.

How are the following groups treated?

Faculty

Faculty members are not permitted to recruit off-campus except for a luncheon, dinner, or brunch at the home of a faculty member during a prospect's visit to campus; they may have on-campus contact with prospects in all sports and may write letters to prospects.

Student-Athletes

Student-athletes are not considered to be boosters as long as any recruiting contact with a prospect is incidental and does not occur at the direction of a member of the athletics department; student-athletes are permitted to serve as student hosts during an official visit.

Students who are Non-Athletes

College students are not considered to be boosters unless they make recruiting contacts at the direction of a member of the athletics department.

Athletics Department Personnel

Athletic Department staff members (non-coaches) are not permitted to recruit off-campus, however they may have contact with prospects on campus and write letters to prospects.

Due to the complexity of NCAA rules, this brochure should not be relied upon exclusively. Compliance with NCAA regulations is of the highest priority for our athletic programs. We need your help in the maintenance of NCAA rules. If you have any questions please contact the compliance office at Miami.

(513) 529-3113