Dear Fans, Friends & Alumni,

As an Ohio University season ticket holder, alumnus, donor or member of the Green & White and Ohio Bobcat Clubs, you are by NCAA definition a representative of Ohio’s athletics interests. Those who actively support Ohio 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 student-athlete, prospect and/or the compliance of the University with the Mid-American Conference and NCAA regulations.

The NCAA has strictly limited the role you, as a Bobcat 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, its does include the most common situations encountered by fans, friends & alumni 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, Ohio 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 Before You Act!”

Ohio appreciates its fans, friends & alumni who strive for the highest level of ethical conduct while supporting the student-athlete’s goals for both academic and athletics success.

We thank you for your support.
**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 assistance 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 Ohio home or away event to prospects, their relatives or friends.
- **DO NOT** mail anything, including newspapers, clippings, posters, programs, etc. to prospects.
- **DO NOT** use Ohio game footage, a student-athlete or photograph of a student-athlete in any commercial advertisements without first contacting Ohio Athletics.
- **DO NOT** attempt to sell a picture of a student-athlete. It may jeopardize their eligibility at Ohio.
- **DO NOT** provide any information pertaining to Ohio’s student-athletes to gambling operations.

**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 student-athlete or the student-athlete’s relative or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.

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

- An employment arrangement for a prospect’s relative
- 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

**Employment**

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 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.

**CONSEQUENCES to BOOSTERS FOR NCAA VIOLATIONS**

Boosters are a vital contributor to the success of Ohio 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 Ohio 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 Ohio’s membership status with the NCAA.
- Cause you to lose your access to all booster benefits.