

Recruiting by Representatives of Athletics Interests

1. Are you a "booster" (representative of the institution's athletics interests)?

Yes, if you:

- **are or have ever been** a member of an agency or organization promoting SMU's Athletics Program;
- **have ever** made a donation to the SMU Athletics Program or to one of the athletics booster organizations (i.e., M Club, Friends of Account donation, Official Fundraising Campaign);
- **are assisting or have ever been** asked by the Athletics staff to assist in recruiting prospects;
- **are assisting or have ever assisted** in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families; or
- **are or have ever** been involved otherwise in the promotion of the SMU Athletics Program. (NCAA Bylaw 13.02.12)

2. Once an individual has been identified as a "booster," how long does he or she retain this identity?

Forever. (NCAA Bylaw 13.02.12.1)

3. Is SMU responsible for the acts of its boosters and booster support groups?

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

4. What is the "booster ban" legislation?

The so-called "booster ban" legislation, NCAA Bylaw 13.01.5.1, applies to Division I and became effective August 1, 1987. It reads as follows:

"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 telephonic communications with a prospect or the prospect's relatives or legal guardians."

5. Who is considered a "prospect" (prospective student-athlete)?

"A prospective student-athlete ("prospect") is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution provides such an individual (or the individual's relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally." (NCAA Bylaw 13.02.10)

6. How long is a prospective student-athlete considered a prospect?

A prospective student-athlete remains a prospect even after signing a National Letter of Intent to attend an institution, and both the institution and the prospect continue to be governed by NCAA recruiting legislation **until**: (a) the prospect reports for regular squad practice; (b) the registrar or director of admissions certifies that the prospect is officially registered and enrolled at the institution on the opening day of classes; or (c) the prospect attends a class or classes in any regular term.

7. What is the definition of a contact?

A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospective student-athlete, the prospect's parents or legal guardian(s), and an institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. Additionally, any face-to-face encounter that is prearranged or that takes place on the grounds of the prospect's educational institution or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the prospect or the team the prospect represents shall be considered a contact, regardless of the conversation which occurs. (NCAA Bylaws 13.02.3, 13.1.7)

8. Is the contact rule applicable to established family friends or neighbors?

No. However, it must be understood that such contacts are not made for recruiting purposes and are not initiated by the institution's coaching staff members. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.3 d)

9. If only SMU coaches and Athletic Department or institutional staff members may recruit a prospect by telephone, in writing, or in person, how may a booster help?

A booster may:

- attend as many athletic contests as you desire to evaluate talent (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.5 c);
- call, write, or send newspaper articles to the SMU coaching staff regarding outstanding student-athletes in his/her area; and
- feel free to offer **assistance to members of the SMU coaching staff** who are recruiting in his/her community.

10. As a booster, if I attend a prospect's athletic event, may I talk to the prospect's coach after the event?

No. A booster may not contact the coach, the prospect or family members, the principal, or counselor in an attempt to evaluate a prospect. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.5 d)

11. As a booster, may I visit the prospect's school to pick up transcripts or videotape/film to send to a college coach?

No. A booster may not visit the prospect's school to pick up transcripts or videotapes/film pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's academic or athletic ability. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.5 e)

12. What if a booster attends an athletic event and finds himself/herself sitting next to the parents of the prospect?

Do not initiate conversation with the relatives. If conversation is initiated with the booster, respond in a civil manner but do not discuss items that would pertain to active athletics recruiting for SMU. If they continue to ask specific questions about the program, remind them that the NCAA prohibits a booster from discussing the program details with them. Encourage the family to contact the SMU Athletic Department directly.

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

Yes, BUT any contact with a prospect **may not be prearranged** by an Athletic Department staff member, and **no attempt may be made to recruit** the prospect.

14. May a booster play a "pick-up" game (i.e., basketball, softball, etc.) with prospects?

Yes, PROVIDED there is **no attempt to recruit** the prospect and the game is **not prearranged** by a member of the Athletic Department staff.

15. May a prospect call a booster?

Yes. A booster may have a telephone conversation with a prospect **only if the prospect initiates the call**. The telephone **call may not be prearranged by an institutional staff member**, and the booster is **not permitted to have an active recruiting conversation with the prospect** but may exhibit normal civility. The booster must refer any specific questions about the institution's athletics program to the athletics department staff. (NCAA Bylaws 13.1.3.5.1.1, 13.1.2.5 a)

16. During the recruitment of a prospect or prior to a prospect's enrollment, may a booster be involved directly or indirectly in making arrangements for a prospect or the prospect's relatives or friends to receive money, financial aid, or equivalent inducements, regardless if similar financial aid, benefits, or arrangements are available to prospective students in general, their relatives, or friends? (NCAA Bylaws 13.2.1, 13.16.1)

No. Other types of inducements that are prohibited include, but are not limited to (NCAA Bylaw 13.2.2):

- the use of an automobile;
- signing or cosigning a note for a loan;
- special discounts or payment arrangements on a loan;
- cash or tangible items (e.g., clothes, cars, jewelry, stereo equipment, even a soft drink);
- the promise of employment after college;
- an employment arrangement for a prospect's relatives or friends;
- purchase of items or services from a prospect or the prospect's family at inflated prices;
- free or reduced-cost housing arrangements;
- free or reduced-cost services or rentals of any type;
- the promise of financial aid for post-graduate education (NCAA Bylaw 13.16.1);
- the promise to pay or arrange payment of transportation costs incurred by relatives or friends of prospective student-athletes (NCAA Bylaw 13.6.2.8);
- the use of SMU's athletic equipment (e.g., for a high school all-star game); or

- sponsorship of or arrangement for an awards banquet for high school, prep school, or two-year college athletes by an institution, boosters, or its alumni groups or booster clubs.

17. May boosters entertain relatives and friends of a prospective student-athlete at any site off campus?

No.

18. May a booster make a contact with a prospect and/or his or her guardian during an official or unofficial visit to campus?

No. (NCAA Bylaw 13.5.1.1)

19. Is it permissible for a booster to be involved in the on-campus entertainment of a prospect and/or his or her guardian during an official or unofficial visit?

No. (NCAA Bylaws 13.5.1.1, 13.7.5.4)

20. Is it permissible for a booster to reimburse the coach of a prospect for expenses incurred in transporting a prospect to visit the campus?

No.

21. Is it permissible for a booster to entertain high school, prep school, or junior college coaches at any location?

No. However, the SMU Athletic Department may provide coaches with complimentary tickets to home athletic contests. (NCAA Bylaw 13.9.1)

22. Is it permissible for a booster to employ or arrange for the employment of a prospect before the completion of his/her senior year in high school?

Not quite. However, NCAA Bylaw 13.2.4.1 permits an institution to arrange employment for a prospect that begins after the prospect's senior year in high school. Subsequent to a prospect's signing a National Letter of Intent, it is permissible for a booster to contact the prospect by telephone, in writing, or face to face concerning summer employment arrangements.

23. Is it permissible for a booster to provide free admission to SMU's away contests to prospects, their relatives, or friends?

No. (NCAA Bylaw 13.2.1)

24. What if a booster hears that a junior college athlete or an athlete enrolled in another four-year institution is unhappy and would like to transfer?

A booster **may not contact** an enrolled student-athlete at another institution for the purpose of encouraging transfer to SMU University and participation in our athletic program. The booster **may** give this information to the appropriate SMU coaching staff.

25. How may faculty members, either boosters or non-boosters, be involved in the recruiting process of a prospect?

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 official visit to campus. Faculty may have on-campus contact with prospects. At the request of a coach, faculty may telephone prospects in accordance with the applicable one-per-week limitation and the dates an institution may place telephone calls to prospects. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.4 a, 13.1.1.1, 13.1.3.1, 13.1.3.1.2)

26. Are boosters prohibited from any contact with prospects?

The NCAA Interpretations Committee has determined that this regulation was not intended to relate to an unavoidable contact between a prospect and a booster, it being understood that such a contact (a) is not prearranged by the booster or an athletic department staff member; (b) does not take place on the grounds of the prospect's educational institution or at the sites of organized practice or competition involving the prospect or the prospect's team; (c) is not for the purpose of recruiting the prospect, and (d) involves only normal civility. Contacts between a prospect and booster relating to summer employment subsequent to the prospect's signing of the National Letter of Intent are the exception. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.3 g)