

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Play By The Rules

The University of Tennessee
Athletics Departments
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Knoxville, TN 37901-5016
Men's: (865) 974-3871
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www.VolsPlayByTheRules.com

Message from The Directors of Athletics

Dear Volunteers and Lady Volunteers Fans:

As a member of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), The University of Tennessee is committed to following established rules and regulations governing its intercollegiate athletic programs. The NCAA has explicit guidelines for its "representatives of athletics interests."

This handbook is a quick reference guide designed to provide you with a basic understanding of NCAA rules and regulations that you must be aware of as someone who cares about Tennessee Athletics. The Athletics Departments appreciate your interest and support, but remind you that any inappropriate, even inadvertent, action on your part can jeopardize the eligibility of our prospective or current student-athletes.

We are proud of your loyal support of UT Athletics and ask that you assist us by following NCAA rules.

Sincerely,



Mike Hamilton
Director of Men's Athletics



Joan Cronan
Director of Women's Athletics

Compliance with NCAA rules is one of the highest priorities for The University of Tennessee and our athletics departments. As a member of the NCAA, The University of Tennessee is responsible for the actions of its boosters and fans. Even the best intended actions on your part may be a violation of NCAA rules. This guide cannot address every situation or question that might arise, so if you are unable to find the answers you need, contact the Compliance Office. We need your help in the maintenance of all SEC and NCAA rules. Therefore, we encourage our boosters and fans to "Ask Before You Act."

Men's Athletics
(865) 974-3871
www.UTsports.com

Women's Athletics
(865) 974-4275
www.UTladyvols.com

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Institutional Control and Compliance

Institutional control of athletics is a fundamental requirement of NCAA legislation. Specifically, the NCAA constitution provides that each institution shall be responsible for:

1. Controlling its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association.
2. Monitoring its program to ensure compliance with identifying and reporting to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved and taking appropriate corrective action.
3. Ensuring that members of the institution's staff, student-athletes and other individuals or groups representing the institution's athletics interests comply with all applicable Association rules.



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Representatives of Athletics Interests

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

1. Be a member of or have participated in any organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program (i.e., booster club);
2. Have made any financial contribution to the institution's intercollegiate athletics program or to an athletic booster organization;
3. Have provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes;
4. Have assisted in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes; or
5. Have been involved, in any way, in the promotion of the University's athletics program.

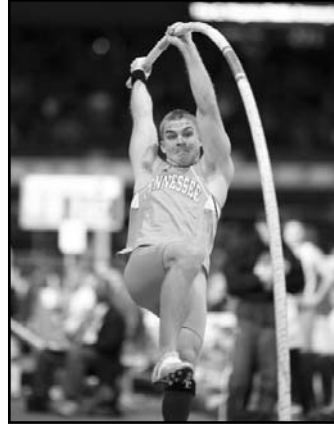


Note: Once an individual is identified as a representative of an institution's athletics interests, the person retains that identity indefinitely.

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Rules Governing Recruiting and Extra Benefits

1. Only coaches and athletics department staff members can be involved in the recruiting process. All "athletics representatives" who are not employees of The University of Tennessee are prohibited from contacting a prospective student-athlete by telephone, letter or in-person, on- or off-campus, for the purpose of encouraging participation in athletics at The University of Tennessee.



Courtesy: Errol Anderson, The Sporting Image

2. It is not permissible for prospects, student-athletes or their relatives and friends to receive any extra benefits or special arrangements. Examples of extra benefits that you cannot provide to these individuals include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Cash or loans in any amount;
 - b. Cosigning or arranging a loan;
 - c. Providing gifts of any kind (e.g., clothing, airline tickets, or holiday cards);
 - d. Providing special discount for goods and services;
 - e. Use of an automobile.
3. As an athletics representative, you may continue friendships that preexisted prior to an individual becoming a prospective student-athlete. You simply cannot encourage a prospect's participation in UT athletics or provide benefits to a student-athlete.
4. Do not purchase complimentary admissions to UT athletics events from current UT student-athletes.

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Rules Governing Contacts with Prospects

Note: A prospect is a person who has started classes for the ninth grade.

1. Do not telephone, write (including chat rooms and e-mails), or make in-person contact (either on- or off-campus) with a prospect for the purpose of soliciting his or her participation in the athletics program.
2. 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.
3. Do not provide any transportation to prospects, including transportation to campus to attend athletics events.
4. Do not contact a prospective student-athlete's coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the prospect, and do not visit the prospect's educational institution to pick up films or transcripts.
5. Do not provide free tickets or tickets at a reduced cost to any UT home or away events to prospects, their relatives or friends.
6. Do not pay or offer to pay registration fees for summer sports camps for a prospect.
7. Do feel free to attend high school and community college athletic events that you would usually attend. You simply cannot have any contact with the prospect or relatives of the prospect. Should the parents or a prospect ask you questions, please direct their questions to the appropriate coach at UT.



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Rules Governing Student-Athlete Employment

1. Do not use the name or picture of a student-athlete to directly or indirectly advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of a commercial product of any kind.
2. Do not provide an honorarium to a student-athlete for a speaking engagement. When an athlete speaks to educational and charitable groups, actual and necessary travel expenses may be provided if UT grants approval.
3. Do not provide gifts or awards to a student-athlete for his or her performance. All awards must conform with NCAA award restrictions and must be approved by The University of Tennessee's Compliance Office.
4. **NCAA rules stipulate that compensation may be paid to a student-athlete only for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar service.**
5. Compensation may not include any remuneration for value or utility that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of publicity, reputation and fame or personal following that he or she has obtained because of athletic ability.
6. The Compliance Office must keep written records verifying all student-athlete employment.
7. Student-athletes must receive written permission from the Compliance Office prior to starting employment.



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Gambling

A student-athlete, coach and/or employee of The University of Tennessee may not provide information to individuals involved in any type of organized gambling activities concerning sporting events. In addition, student-athletes, coaches and employees of The University of Tennessee may not solicit or accept any wager on any intercollegiate or professional athletic contest.

Agents and Amateurism

A student-athlete loses his or her amateur status and shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if:

1. One signs or enters into any written or oral agreement with an agent.
2. One accepts or receives any extra benefits (including family members) from an agent or anyone who wishes to represent the student-athlete.
3. Athletic skills are used for pay or promise of pay.
4. One competes on a professional sports team.
5. One permits another individual to negotiate on their behalf with a professional team.



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Supplementing Staff Salaries

An outside source (includes donors and Board of Trustees members) is prohibited from paying or regularly supplementing an athletics department staff member's annual salary.

Any honorariums for speaking engagements must be approved by the athletics director in advance of the staff member's appearance.

Consequences of NCAA Violations

Institutions are required by the NCAA to notify boosters of consequences regarding rules violations. Booster participation in non-permissible activities outlined by the NCAA could result in any of the following:

1. A prospect being declared ineligible to represent The University of Tennessee.
2. A student-athlete being declared ineligible to compete for The University of Tennessee.
3. An entire team being declared ineligible to compete in SEC or NCAA competition.
4. Disassociation of booster with the institution and the loss of season ticket privileges.



Courtesy: Shauna Bittle

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Most Commonly Asked Questions

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

A Yes, but contact with a prospect may not be prearranged by an athletics department staff member, and no attempt may be made to recruit the prospect.

Q Is it permissible for a booster to employ or use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to directly or indirectly advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind?

A No.

Q Is it permissible for a booster to provide an enrolled student-athlete with professional services (for which a fee would normally be charged)?

A No. Professional services provided at a fee less than the normal rate or at no expense to a student-athlete are considered extra benefits.

Q When does a prospect become a student-athlete?

A A prospect becomes a student-athlete when he or she reports for regular squad practice or attends classes in any term at The University of Tennessee.

Q Is it permissible for a booster to provide an enrolled student-athlete a home-cooked meal?

A Yes. Provided it is on an "occasional" basis and any such meal is not at a restaurant. Please note that all requests must receive prior approval from the Compliance Office.

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Most Commonly Asked Questions

Q Is The University of Tennessee responsible for the acts of boosters and booster support groups?

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

Q May a student-athlete make a public appearance at a business establishment for purposes of signing autographs?

A No. It should be noted that student-athletes may make appearances at schools, hospitals, or other non-profit charitable organizations provided they do not receive compensation and such activities are authorized by the athletic department.

Q Is it permissible for a booster to provide gifts or awards to a student-athlete for his athletic performance?

A No. All awards must conform to NCAA awards legislation and must be approved by The University of Tennessee.

Q Can boosters fund-raise or donate money to send a student-athlete's parents to an athletic contest?

A No. Under NCAA rules, such activity may jeopardize the student-athlete's eligibility.

Q What action should an athletics representative take if he/she becomes aware of a potential rules violation?

A The athletics representative should contact the Compliance Office immediately. If the representative wishes to remain anonymous, he/she may provide the information without giving a name. The information will be reviewed and processed as necessary.

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How to Get in Contact With The Compliance Office

Men's Athletics

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University of Tennessee Athletics Vision Statement

To be recognized as a model program nationally. Expect to win!

The student-athlete is at the focus of everything we do. As a result,
our **five core values** are:

- We will abide by all SEC and NCAA rules.
- We will compete for SEC and national championships.
- We will operate a financially sound athletics department.
- We will graduate student-athletes and prepare them for real-world experiences.
- We will represent the University, the community and the state in a positive manner.

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