

The Ram Rules

FAQs – Regulations Regarding Prospects Who Have Signed National Letters of Intent

As the February National Letter of Intent signing period approaches, please be aware of the following information concerning prospective student-athletes that have signed an NLI:

Q. How long is a prospective student-athlete considered to be a prospect?

A. A prospective student-athlete remains a prospect even after signing a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement to attend UNC. The prospect, the University, and boosters are all governed by the recruiting regulations until the prospect reports for regular season practice or attends his/her first day of classes in any regular term (i.e., fall or spring).

Q. Is it permissible for boosters to contact a prospect who has signed an NLI?

A. No. Only coaching staff members can make recruiting contact with a prospective student-athlete, including those who have signed an NLI to attend UNC. This prohibits boosters from having any in-person contact (either on- or off-campus), telephone contact, or written/electronic correspondence (e.g., email, social networking sites, chat rooms, etc.) with prospects, even after they have signed an NLI.

Q. Is it permissible for a booster to employ a prospect who has signed an NLI?

A. Yes. NCAA rules permit prospective student-athletes who have signed an NLI to be employed by boosters during the summer following their graduation from high school, prep school, or junior college. Prior to employing prospects, however, boosters must check with the coaching staff and the compliance office to make sure all regulations are being followed.

Q. Is it permissible for a booster to arrange summer housing for a prospect who has signed an NLI?

A. No. NCAA rules prohibit boosters from making housing arrangements for student-athletes or prospects, even if they have signed an NLI to attend UNC. For example, it is not permissible to offer reduced-rate rental opportunities to prospects.

Q. Is it permissible for a booster to assist a prospect who has signed an NLI with pre-college expenses?

A. No. Neither UNC nor its boosters are permitted to offer, provide, or arrange financial assistance to cover a prospect's expenses (educational or otherwise) for any period prior to his or her enrollment. This applies even to those prospects who have signed an NLI or financial agreement to attend UNC.

Please remember that the same prohibitions against the provision of extra benefits to currently-enrolled student-athletes also extend to all prospects.

If you have any questions about NCAA regulations pertaining to prospects who have signed an NLI, please do not hesitate to contact the Compliance Office at (919) 962-6000 or compliance@unca.unc.edu. The UNC Department of Athletics appreciates your efforts to comply with NCAA regulations.