

Ram Rules

Extra Benefits:

Continuing Relationships with Prospects and/or Student-Athletes

The UNC compliance staff often fields questions regarding the permissibility of boosters continuing relationships with prospects that originated prior to the individual reaching prospect status (e.g. enrolled in grades 9-12, preparatory school, or junior college). While the intentions of the boosters are always sincere, it is possible that their actions could violate NCAA extra benefit regulations. Accordingly, the NCAA has established the following guidelines for any situation in which a student-athlete or prospect has received benefits prior to or during collegiate enrollment from someone other than a family member, legal guardian, or relative.

1. Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents, legal guardian, or relative) and the individual providing the benefit(s) develop as a result of the athlete's participation in athletics or notoriety related to athletics?
2. Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents, legal guardian, or relative) and the individual providing the benefit(s) predate the athlete's status as a prospective student-athlete?
3. Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents, legal guardian, or relative) and the individual providing the benefit(s) predate the athlete's status achieved as a result of his or her athletics ability or reputation?
4. Was the pattern of benefits provided by the individual to the athlete (or the athlete's parents, legal guardian, or relative) prior to the athlete attaining notoriety as a skilled athlete similar in nature to those provided after attaining such stature?

The NCAA noted that the origin and duration of a relationship and the consistency of benefits provided are key factors in determining whether the benefits provided are contrary to the spirit and intent of the rule.

Because of the possible ramifications that could result from violations of the extra benefit legislation, **the above four questions should be discussed with a compliance staff member before a booster provides any benefits to prospects or student-athletes.** Please contact the Compliance Office at 962-6000 or compliance@unca.unc.edu if you have any questions. The UNC Department of Athletics appreciates your support!