

XAVIER UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
BOOSTER NEWSLETTER
BOOSTER INTERACTION WITH CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES AND
PROSPECTS
February 2006

Below find information addressing booster interaction with student-athletes and prospects who have signed NLI's. It is imperative that anytime a booster is involved with a Xavier Student-Athlete or Prospect who has signed a NLI, that the Booster contact the Xavier University Compliance Office at (513) 745-3727 to ensure the Booster's actions will not result in a NCAA violation.

Extra Benefits

Recently, a student-athlete at a Division I university was suspended for nine games for violating the NCAA extra-benefits rule. This student-athlete received \$5,000 worth of transportation, meals, lodging, gifts and a personal loan from a University booster. These benefits were given to the student-athlete between during the previous three years, which included time before his collegiate enrollment. He must repay the full value of the benefits before his eligibility expires.

The University indicated that they were not aware of a relationship between the student-athlete and the booster during the recruiting process. While the intentions of the booster may have been sincere and in the best interests of the student-athlete and his family, they were against NCAA rules. The University has severed its relationship with the booster, which means he has had his season tickets revoked and is not allowed to make contributions to the athletics department.

While the booster may have believed he was not breaking any rules because of his prior relationship with the student-athlete, he did not contact the University's athletics department or the NCAA to determine whether the provision of benefits would violate any rules. 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 or legal guardian:

1. Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefits(s) develop as a result of the athlete's participation in athletics or notoriety related thereto?
2. Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefits(s) predate the athlete's status as a prospective student-athlete?
3. Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents) 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) 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. **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 (513) 745-3727 with any questions.

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

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 Xavier University. The prospect, the University, and boosters are all governed by the recruiting regulations until the prospect reports for practice or attends his/her first day of classes in any regular term (i.e., fall or spring).

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

A. Only coaching staff members can make recruiting calls to a prospective student-athlete including those who have signed an NLI to attend Xavier University. No on-campus or off-campus contact (including written or electronic correspondence and telephone calls) may be made by boosters, with the exception of making arrangement for summer employment following the prospect's graduation from high school.

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 NLI's to be employed by boosters during the summer following their graduation from high school, prep school, or junior college.

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 house arrangements for student-athletes or prospects, even if they have signed an NLI to attend Xavier University. Additionally, 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 Xavier University 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 Xavier University.

Please remember that the same prohibitions against the provision of extra benefits that apply 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 (513) 745-3727. The Xavier University Department of Athletics appreciates your efforts to comply with NCAA regulations.