



# **Booster Regulations**



The University of Arkansas's responsibilities related to NCAA and SEC regulations extend beyond entities within the athletics department. In addition to its coaches, staff and student-athletes, UA is also responsible for the actions and education of its fans and boosters.

## **Important Reminders:**

- 1)** Do not provide anything to prospective or enrolled student-athletes (or their families) without prior approval from the UA Compliance Office. If a student-athlete or his or her family accepts any benefits or special consideration (e.g., transportation, meals, money, etc.) based on his or her athletic skill, the student-athlete will lose all remaining eligibility and UA will be subject to NCAA penalties.  
*(NCAA Bylaws: 13.2.1.1/13.6.7.8/13.12.1.7.2/16.11.2.2/16.11.2.3)*
- 2)** Boosters are prohibited from any involvement in recruiting activities. UA coaches and athletic department staff members are the only individuals permitted to be involved in the recruiting process. *(NCAA Bylaws: 13.01.1/13.01.2)*
- 3)** Boosters may NOT make contact with UA prospects or their relatives, coaches, teachers or school administrators for the purpose of recruiting. Boosters may only speak with prospects (or their families) if it is unavoidable incidental contact, and the discussion does not include anything related to UA athletics. *(NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.1)*
- 4)** A prospect does not lose his or her prospect status until the start of classes at UA or the beginning of official team practice prior to the start of classes, at which time they become an enrolled student-athlete. *(NCAA Bylaw 13.1.5.8/13.1.5.8.1)*
- 5)** Boosters are permitted to host occasional meals for student-athletes at their home, on campus, or at a facility that is regularly used for home competition, but these meals must be pre-approved by the UA Compliance Office through the team's head coach. Boosters may provide transportation to the meal only if it takes place at their home.  
*(NCAA Bylaw 16.11.1.5)*
- 6)** Once identified as a booster, an individual remains a booster for life. *(NCAA Bylaw 6.4.2.2)*

## NCAA Bylaws governing booster relations with prospects and student-athletes

**6.4.2.2—Retention of Identity as “Representative.”** Any individual participating in the activities set forth in Constitution 6.4.2 shall be considered a "representative of the institution's athletics interests," and once so identified as a representative, it is presumed the person retains that identity.

**13.01.1—Eligibility Effects of Recruiting Violation.** The recruitment of a student-athlete by a member institution or any representative of its athletics interests in violation of the Association's legislation, as acknowledged by the institution or established through the Association's enforcement procedures, shall result in the student-athlete becoming ineligible to represent that institution in intercollegiate athletics. The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement may restore the eligibility of a student involved in such a violation only when circumstances clearly warrant restoration. A student is responsible for his or her involvement in a violation of NCAA regulations during the student's recruitment, and involvement in a major violation (see Bylaw 19.02.2.2) may cause the student to become permanently ineligible for intercollegiate athletics competition at that institution.

**13.01.2—Institutional Responsibility in Recruitment.** A member of an institution's athletics staff or a representative of its athletics interests shall not recruit a prospective student-athlete except as permitted by this Association, the institution and the member conference, if any.

**13.1.2.1—General Rule.** All in-person, on- and off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardians shall be made only by authorized institutional staff members. Such contact, as well as correspondence and telephone calls, by representatives of an institution's athletics interests is prohibited except as otherwise permitted in this section. Violations of this bylaw involving individuals other than a representative of an institution's athletics interests shall be considered institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1; however, such violations shall not affect the prospective student-athlete's eligibility. *(Revised: 8/5/04)*

**13.1.5.8—Contacts After Commitment.** There shall be no limit on the number of contacts by the institution with a prospective student-athlete (or the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardians) beginning the calendar day after one of the following events occurs: **[D]** *(Revised: 1/16/93, 1/11/94, 4/28/05 effective 8/1/05, 4/27/06, 1/14/08 effective 8/1/08, 4/24/08 effective 8/1/08, 1/15/11 effective 8/1/11)*

- (a) The prospective student-athlete signs a National Letter of Intent (NLI) or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid; or
- (b) The institution receives a financial deposit in response to the institution's offer of admission.

**13.2.1—General Regulations.** An institution's staff member or any representative of its athletics interests shall not be involved, directly or indirectly, in making arrangements for or giving or offering to give any financial aid or other benefits to a prospective student-athlete or his or her relatives or friends, other than expressly permitted by NCAA regulations. Receipt of a benefit by a prospective student-athlete or his or her relatives or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is determined that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's prospective students or their relatives or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability. **[R]** *(Revised: 10/28/97, 11/1/00, 3/24/05)*

**13.2.1.1—Specific Prohibitions.** Specifically prohibited financial aid, benefits and arrangements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) An employment arrangement for a prospective student-athlete's relatives;
- (b) Gift of clothing or equipment;
- (c) Co-signing of loans;
- (d) Providing loans to a prospective student-athlete's relatives or friends;
- (e) Cash or like items;
- (f) Any tangible items, including merchandise;
- (g) Free or reduced-cost services, rentals or purchases of any type;

- (h) Free or reduced-cost housing;
- (i) Use of an institution's athletics equipment (e.g., for a high school all-star game);
- (j) Sponsorship of or arrangement for an awards banquet for high school, preparatory school or two-year-college athletes by an institution, representatives of its athletics interests or its alumni groups or booster clubs; and
- (k) Expenses for academic services (e.g., tutoring, test preparation) to assist in the completion of initial-eligibility or transfer-eligibility requirements or improvement of the prospective student-athlete's academic profile in conjunction with a waiver request. *(Adopted: 4/23/08)*

**13.6.7.8—Normal Retail Cost.** If a boat, snowmobile, recreational vehicle or similar recreational equipment (including those provided by an institutional staff member or a representative of the institution's athletics interests) is used to entertain a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's parents (or legal guardians) and spouse, the normal retail cost of the use of such equipment shall be assessed against the \$40-per-day entertainment figure; further, if such normal retail costs exceeds the \$40-per-day entertainment allowance, such entertainment may not be provided. **[R]** *(Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03, 4/17/12 effective 8/1/12)*

**13.12.1.7.2—Payment of Expenses.** A representative of an institution's athletics interests may not pay a prospective student-athlete's expenses to attend a member institution's sports camp or clinic. **[R]**

**16.11.1.5—Occasional Meals.** A student-athlete or the entire team in a sport may receive an occasional meal in the locale of the institution on infrequent and special occasions from an institutional staff member. An institutional staff member may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend such meals. A student-athlete or the entire team in a sport may receive an occasional meal from a representative of athletics interests on infrequent and special occasions under the following conditions: **[R]** *(Revised: 1/10/92, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/29/10)*

- (a) The meal may only be provided in an individual's home, on campus or at a facility that is regularly used for home competition and may be catered; and *(Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/29/10);*
- (b) A representative of the institution's athletics interests may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend the meal function only if the meal function is at the home of that representative. *(Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02)*

**16.11.2.2—Discounts and Credits.** A student-athlete may not receive a special discount, payment arrangement or credit on a purchase (e.g., airline ticket, clothing) or a service (e.g., laundry, dry cleaning) from an institutional employee or a representative of its athletics interests. **[R]**

**16.11.2.3—Other Prohibited Benefits.** An institutional employee or representative of the institution's athletics interests may not provide a student-athlete with extra benefits or services, including, but not limited to: **[R]**

- (a) A loan of money;
- (b) A guarantee of bond;
- (c) An automobile or the use of an automobile;
- (d) Transportation (e.g., a ride home with a coach), except as permitted in Bylaw 16.91-(e), even if the student-athlete reimburses the institution or the staff member for the appropriate amount of the gas or expense; or
- (e) Signing or co-signing a note with an outside agency to arrange a loan.

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Student-Athlete Employment

### **Q: What should I do if I want to employ a student-athlete?**

**A:** Contact the Compliance Office to ensure that the student-athlete has received approval to work from his/her head coach and the proper form provided by the student-athlete. The student-athlete is responsible for returning the form to the Compliance Office.

### **Q: When can I employ a student-athlete?**

**A:** A student-athlete may work at any time provided he/she has received approval from the Compliance Office, in addition to his/ her head coach. A student-athlete may work as many hours as his/her schedule allows, but he/she may not miss class for work under any circumstance.

### **Q: May I employ multiple student-athletes?**

**A:** Yes.

### **Q: Do I have to complete a separate form for each student-athlete that I employ?**

**A:** Yes.

### **Q: How much can I pay a student-athlete?**

**A:** You may pay a student-athlete only at a rate commensurate with that of other employees performing similar tasks. If a student-athlete works as a cashier and your cashiers earn \$8/hour, you may only pay the student-athlete \$8/hour. Additionally, a student-athlete may only be paid for work actually performed.

### **Q: Can I provide transportation for the student-athlete to and from work?**

**A:** No. You may only provide a student-athlete with a benefit if you make that benefit available to all employees. Therefore, you may only provide transportation if you offer transportation to all of your employees.

### **Q: Should I keep track of the student-athletes work hours?**

**A:** Yes. You should record all work hours, in addition to maintaining pay stubs. The Compliance Office may request these records to verify employment details.

### **Q: What should I do if I have any further questions or concerns?**

**A:** Contact the Compliance Office immediately if you have any further questions, concerns or there are any changes in the student-athlete's employment status (e.g., wages, termination, etc.).