

Booster Club UIL regulations --

http://www.uil.utexas.edu/policy/booster_clubs.html

The following are excerpts from the University Interscholastic League 2009-10 Regulations for Off Season and Non-School Participation. <http://www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/pdf/offseason-nonschool-part.pdf>

ATHLETIC AMATEUR RULE

Student-athletes shall be in compliance with the Athletic Amateur Rule from the first day of attendance in the ninth grade through their last day of UIL athletic competition in grade twelve. This includes during school and during non-school time and applies to all UIL competition and to non-school participation in the same sports sponsored by the UIL. (For instance, a race of six miles or longer is not considered to be a cross country meet, so the Amateur Rule is not applicable to students participating in this type of race.)

Student-athletes in grades 9-12 shall not:

1. Accept any valuable consideration as an award for winning/placing in an athletic contest. Valuable consideration is defined as anything wearable, usable or salable, and includes such items as tee-shirts, hamburger coupons, free or reduced rate tennis racquets, etc.
2. Accept valuable consideration for teaching or coaching any UIL sport, except beginning swimming or lifesaving lessons.
3. Accept valuable consideration for allowing their name to be used for advertisement of a product, plan or service.

4. Accept any special service or benefit offered only to athletes or members of an athletic team. The penalty for violation of the Amateur Rule is forfeiture of varsity eligibility in the involved sport for at least one year from the date of the violation. The Athletic Amateur Rule is sport specific, so that a violation in one sport would make the student ineligible only in that sport, not in all UIL athletic activities.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Student athletes in grades 9-12 may only accept symbolic awards for participation in school related activities. Symbolic awards student athletes may accept include medals, trophies, plaques, certificates, etc.. Student athletes may not accept t-shirts, gift certificates, equipment or other valuable consideration for participation in school sponsored athletic activities. Participation in activities not sponsored by the UIL (bowling, rodeo, archery, gymnastics, etc.) is not subject to the UIL Athletic Amateur Rule.

Non SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Does the UIL Athletic Amateur Rule apply to non-school participation for students in grades 9-12? Student-athletes shall be in compliance with the Athletic Amateur Rule from the first day of attendance in the ninth grade through their last day of UIL athletic competition in grade twelve. This includes during school and during non-school time and applies to all UIL competition and to nonschool participation in the same sports sponsored by the UIL. Participation in activities not sponsored by the UIL (bowling, rodeo, archery, gymnastics, etc.) is not subject to the UIL Athletic Amateur Rule.

SYMBOLIC AWARDS

May athletes accept symbolic awards? Students may accept a medal, trophy, patch, or other symbolic award for participating in competitions, if the award is given by the organization conducting the competition. May non-school entities give a student a certificate in recognition of participation in a school activity? Not directly, the certificate should be given to the school.

ALL-STAR CONTESTS

Are athletes permitted to play in all-star contests? Students may participate in all-star contests provided they do not receive any valuable consideration. Students who are selected for all-star teams based on non-school competition may have lodging, meals and transportation provided by the non-school league for subsequent all-star team participation. Team coaches or league sponsors should disburse funds for these allowable expenses. All non-school groups should be structured to protect the amateur status of students in grades 9-12. Financial records should be maintained. UIL member schools may not participate in sponsoring all-star contests.

EQUIPMENT USED IN NON-SCHOOL EVENTS OR PROVIDED AS PART OF CAMP FEE

If an athlete receives a scholarship for an activity or collects donations to go, can that athlete receive a tee-shirt or pair of shoes given to all who participate in that activity? Yes. The rule is not intended to cause athletes to be treated any differently than other students whose parents have paid their expenses. If the sponsor of the activity provides an athlete with apparel for use in the camp, league, etc., may the athlete keep the used apparel after the activity? Yes, provided all participants in the activity will keep the clothing, and provided that the apparel is nothing more than individual player uniforms, shoes, etc. The receipt of additional items of clothing, balls, gloves, bats, etc., not used by the individual during the activity could be deemed a violation.

BOOSTER CLUB DONATIONS

Can schools or school booster clubs contribute to an athlete's expenses, transportation, etc. for a non-school activity? No. Schools and booster clubs are limited to providing assistance for school activities and items for use in school competitions.

LOCAL BUSINESS DONATIONS

Can a local business contribute to a student's expense? Yes, a local business could donate money to cover expenses for a non-school activity.

DONATIONS BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Can coaches or school employees contribute to a student's non-school fundraiser? Yes, provided the contributions are from their own personal funds and not from booster funds, activity accounts, school soft drink machines, etc.

DONATED EQUIPMENT

Can an equipment company give shoes directly to members of a school team? No, but a school may accept donations of money or equipment, and the equipment may in turn be used by student-athletes. These items should be presented with the principal's knowledge (or the athletic director's knowledge in multiple-high school district). All equipment becomes school property to be used accordingly.

PRIZES IN GOLF

Can a student-athlete play in a golf scramble and receive merchandise or money for placing or winning? No. The other members of the team may receive the prizes, but the student is limited to traditional symbolic awards (i.e., trophies, medals, etc.).

FREE EQUIPMENT TO RANKED STUDENT ATHLETES

Can student-athletes be provided with equipment by non-school organizations? For example, equipment companies that provide tennis rackets or apparel to athletes who are ranked in their sport. Yes. The receipt of these items is based on rankings and not specifically on winning or placing in a competition. It would be a violation for an athlete to accept merchandise for winning or placing in a specific tournament or competition.

BOOSTER CLUBS, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Booster clubs cannot give any item of valuable consideration to students, including awards, favors, etc.

School administrators must give prior approval to any banquet or get-together given for students.

Student-athletes are prohibited from accepting valuable consideration for participation in school athletics (anything that is not given or offered to the entire student body on the same basis that it is given or offered to an athlete). Valuable consideration is defined as tangible or intangible property or service, including anything that is wearable, usable or salable.

Money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the school to use at its discretion. Homemade "spirit signs" made from paper and normal supplies a student purchases for school use may be placed on students' lockers or in their yards. Trinkets and food items cannot be attached. Yard signs made of commercial quality wood, plastic, etc., must be purchased or made by the individual player's parents.

For purposes of competing in an athletic contest the school may provide meals for contests held away from the home school. If the school does not pay for meals, then individual parents need to purchase their own child's food. Parents may purchase anything they wish for their own child, but may not provide food or other items of valuable consideration for their child's teammates. Parties for athletes are governed by the following State Executive Committee Interpretation of Section 441:

Valuable Consideration School Teams and Athletes May Accept:

1. Pre-Season. School athletic teams may be given no more than one pre-season meal, per sport, per school year, such as a fish fry, ice cream supper, etc., provided it is approved by the school and given by a non-profit organization (usually the booster club) before the team plays in its first contest. It may be given after a scrimmage.
2. Post-Season. School athletic teams are limited to no more than one post-season meal or banquet per sport, per school year, and it must be given by a non-profit organization and approved by the school. Banquet favors or gifts are considered valuable consideration and are a violation if they are given to a student-athlete at any time.
3. Other. At any time school athletic teams and athletes may be invited to and may attend functions where free admission is offered, or where refreshments and/or meals are served, provided all students from that high school are invited to attend for the same fee and on the same basis as the athletes or the athletic team. Athletes or athletic teams may be recognized at these functions, but may not accept anything that is not given to all other students.

Valuable Consideration School Teams and Athletes Cannot Accept:

Parties provided by parents or other students strictly for an athletic team, or anything that is not given, or offered, to the entire student body on the same basis that it is given to or offered to an athlete.

Local school district superintendents have the discretion to allow student athletes to accept, from their fellow students, small 'goodie bags' that contain candy, cookies or other items that have no intrinsic value and are not considered valuable consideration. Gatherings of school athletes at parents' or patrons' homes require each athlete to contribute equally to any food or refreshment. The burden of proof will be on the athletes if these occasions are questioned. Certainly, no sports instruction or practice is permitted during these gatherings.

Booster Club Scholarships. With school district approval, school booster clubs are allowed to give scholarships to student athletes. Such scholarships may not be awarded until the athlete has exhausted all remaining UIL eligibility. Additionally, it is recommended that any monies be given directly to the institution the student is to attend rather than to the student.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BOOSTER CLUBS, CONSULT THE UIL BOOSTER CLUB GUIDELINES ON THE ATHLETICS PAGE OF THE UIL WEBSITE (www.uil.utexas.edu).

COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY TRYOUTS AND RECRUITING VISITS

Complimentary copies of the NCAA recruiting regulations may be obtained on the NCAA website (www.ncaa.org) or by calling the NCAA at (317) 917-6222 to request the brochure: Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete.

RECRUITING VISITS

May senior athletes take paid recruiting visits to colleges and universities?

Yes. (See the conditions listed below.)

1. NCAA Regulations: A prospective student-athlete must present an ACT, SAT, or PSAT score prior to receipt of expense-paid visit.
2. Seniors may sign a letter of intent or scholarship agreement which contains the conditions of a scholarship with a post-secondary institution without jeopardizing eligibility.
3. Seniors may also take other trips to a college, which are completely financed by themselves or their family. With school district approval, schools or school coaches may provide transportation to college tryouts and visits for students who have no remaining high school eligibility in that sport.

If there are questions concerning non-school participation, whom do I call? Consult the UIL website (www.uil.utexas.edu) or call the UIL office at (512) 471-5883 and ask for an athletic director. If no one is available, leave your number with the receptionist, and a League representative will return your call. Do not rely on any opinions other than written or faxed communications from the UIL office.

