Recruiting Philosophy and Official Visit Policy

RECRUITING PHILOSOPHY

Consistent with the University, the Athletics Department is committed to the quest for excellence in all areas and to the highest standards of integrity, ethics and honesty. Boston College will conduct all recruiting activities in accordance and in compliance with all conference, University, NCAA, state and federal rules and regulations.

Prospective student-athletes and their families should be able to fairly and ethically assess their opportunities for academic and athletic success at Boston College. The Athletics Department personnel should be afforded the opportunity to fairly and reasonably evaluate a prospective student-athlete for admission and participation in the University’s intercollegiate program.

To guide the staff, coaches, student hosts, and visiting prospective student-athletes, the Athletics Department has established the following policy to clearly state the University’s expectations for recruiting visits, and to provide a meaningful framework for a prospective student-athlete and the University to make an informed decision about the prospective student-athlete’s attendance and participation in the athletics program. This policy has been developed to articulate procedures for staff and students to report concerns about recruiting practices, to state Boston College’s intention to deal with any inappropriate recruiting activities, and to establish education and training in relevant areas to assist staff and students to adhere to these high standards.

The Director of Athletics, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator and Associate Athletic Director for Compliance reviewed the mission of both the University and of the Boston College Athletics Department prior to developing such policies. Once the policies were developed, the President of Boston College reviewed and gave final approval prior to implementation. Further, the President of Boston College will approve any changes made to this policy. Once approved, the revised document will be forwarded to the Conference Office.

ACTIVITIES DURING OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL VISITS

- Coaches are responsible to select student hosts who will follow official visit policies and provide a positive experience for a prospective student-athlete.
- Coaches are responsible to instruct their assistant coaches and student hosts about what types of behavior and activities are appropriate and inappropriate. While good judgment is expected of all student-athletes, and all possibilities cannot be listed, the following are some examples of appropriate and inappropriate activities:

  **Appropriate activities:**
  - Take the prospective student-athlete out for a snack
  - Take the prospective student-athlete to the movies
  - Take the prospective student-athlete to an on campus athletic or student event
  - Take the prospective student-athlete to an on or off campus party
  - Take the prospective student-athlete to play pool
  - Take the prospective student-athlete to engage in recreational activities (e.g., swimming, bowling)

  **Inappropriate Activities:**
  - Attendance at adult entertainment facilities
  - Excessive meals and transportation
  - Providing alcohol to under-aged prospective student-athletes
  - Excessive transportation, such as limousines
  - Use of escort services, exotic dancers, or any other similar services
  - Participation in any unethical or illegal activity, that violates criminal law or NCAA rules such as the use of drugs, or participation in gambling activities
  - Activities at any location that may cause a perception of impropriety

- Prior to the visit, coaches are responsible to ask the student host what activities are planned for the prospective student-athlete, and following the visit to ask what activities occurred.
Coaches are responsible for notifying the student host that they may not provide alcohol or drugs to prospective student-athletes.

Coaches are not permitted to use student groups or students other than student-athletes on that particular team for planned activities with prospective student-athletes without prior approval of the Director of Athletics or Associate Athletic Director for Compliance.

During a prospective student-athletes visit to campus, he/she shall have the opportunity to visit with Learning Resources for Student-Athletes and/or an academic official within their anticipated degree program.

During a prospective student-athletes visit to campus, he/she shall have the opportunity to visit with the Compliance Office to discuss initial-eligibility standards.

Although there is no formal departmental curfew policy; a coach and/or Director of Athletics may impose a curfew.

TRAVEL, MEALS, LODGING, RECRUITING AIDS, PROSPECT, AND STUDENT HOST FORMS

Prospective student-athletes utilizing air transportation to visit campus will use standard, coach-class, commercial flights.

On campus transportation of prospective student-athletes shall only be by vehicles normally used by the Office of Admission to transport prospective students-athletes during visits, personal vehicles of student-athletes, or personal vehicles of coaches. (ANY EXCEPTIONS ARE TO BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR COMPLIANCE.)

All prospective student-athletes and their parents/guardians will be housed in standard lodging available to all guests at that hotel.

All meals provided to prospective student-athletes and their parents/guardians will be comparable to meals provided to student-athletes during the academic year.

No personalized recruiting aids (such as personalized jerseys, personalized audio or video scoreboard presentations) or game day simulations are permitted.

Prospective student-athletes are required to read and sign the Prospective Student-Athlete Instructions and Agreement Form prior to initiating the visit.

Student-athlete hosts are required to read and sign a Student-Athlete Host Instruction and Agreement Form prior to receiving host money.

Host money may be used to entertain the prospective student-athlete in the appropriate manner as outlined within these guidelines.

The student-athlete host shall ensure that the prospective student-athlete returns to appropriate persons or lodging as requested by coach.

Student-athlete hosts shall inform the head or assistant coach of the entertainment activities that occurred during the visit.

Prospective student-athletes and hosts may, at the request of the Compliance Office staff or Director of Athletics, be required to document the details of the visit, including expense receipts if requested.

OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND ENFORCEMENT

While the control of the Athletics Department rests with the President and the Director of Athletics, others at the University have important roles to play in preventing and reporting recruiting abuses. Those include, but are not limited to, the following:

Head coaches are responsible for evaluating a prospective student-athlete’s character and citizenship, and for recruiting individuals who will share the University’s commitment to the highest standards of behavior and citizenship.

Head coaches are expected to communicate to prospective student-athletes and their parents or guardians, the expectations of behavior prior to the official visit.

If any coach receives information that a prospective student-athlete has any potentially embarrassing incidents, arrests or citations that would indicate a lack of character in his/her background, the coach is to make the Director of Athletics aware of those issues so that a joint decision can be made on whether or not to continue recruitment.
• The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance will ensure that the coaches have reviewed these policies and that they have reviewed them with their respective teams.

• The Assistant Director for Compliance and Recruiting will collect the following forms for each official visit:
  o Official Visit Pre-Approval Form (including transcript, test score, and flight itinerary);
  o Student-Athlete Host Instructions and Agreement form;
  o Prospective Student-Athlete Instructions and Agreement form;
  o Boston College Business Office Expense Report (if applicable);
  o Prospect Receipt Form (if applicable).

• Staff, coaches and student-athletes will be informed that any concerns about the recruiting process should be reported to the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, who will in turn inform the Director of Athletics, so that appropriate action can be taken. An annual report of all recruiting violations shall be filed with the Conference.

• Staff, coaches or student-athletes found to be in violation of these policies may face disciplinary action.

EDUCATION

For these guidelines to be effective, they must be well understood and widely distributed.

• The Director of Athletics will reinforce these policies with the coaching staff periodically throughout the year.

• The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance will arrange for annual recruiting policy review sessions for all coaches and for each team.

• The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance will review the University’s expectations with student-athletes at the annual team meeting for each sport.

• This recruiting policy will be included in the annual NCAA rules review sessions for all coaches, in the New Staff Compliance Orientation, in the Student Athlete Handbook, Compliance Manual, Athletics Department Policy and Procedures Manual.

RECRUITING POLICY REVIEW PROCEDURES

These policies have been formulated based on input from the NCAA, Conference Office, Faculty Athletics Representative, members of the University’s Athletics Department, and staff members including the Director of Athletics.

The Recruiting Philosophy and Official Visit Policy will undergo annual review by the Athletics Department’s compliance committee and by an outside entity every four years.