ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

Extra Benefits to Enrolled Student-Athletes

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or athletics representative to provide a student-athlete (or his/her relatives, guardians or friends) a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by a student-athlete (his/her relatives, guardians or friends) is not considered a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution’s students (or relatives, guardians or friends) not on a basis related to athletic ability. Extra benefits include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Cash or loans in any amount;
- b. Co-signing or arranging a loan;
- c. Gifts or free services (for example: airline tickets, cash, restaurant meals, summer storage space);
- d. Use of a vehicle;
- e. Rent-free or reduced-cost housing;
- f. Money for, or guarantee of, bail or bond;
- g. Employment of a student-athlete at a higher rate than wages paid for similar work;
- h. Payment to a student-athlete for work not performed;
- i. Transportation (aside from transportation related to an occasional home meal);
- j. Tickets to an athletics, institutional or community event;
- k. Financial aid for a post-graduate education;
- l. Promise of employment after college graduation;
- m. Invitations to your home or summer home for the purposes other than an occasional meal.

As a representative of athletics’ interests, YOU MAY...

- Provide an occasional meal in your home to a student-athlete or an entire team. “Occasional” is defined as two or three times per semester, maximum, in order to be eligible to provide an occasional meal, please notify the coaching staff and KSU Compliance to fill out the appropriate documentation.
- Provide transportation to your home for a student-athlete who will be receiving an occasional meal there.
- Provide a job to a student-athlete during the academic year as long as you and the student-athlete sign an Employment Verification Form (available in the Athletic Department at Kent State University) prior to the commencement of the employment. The Employment Verification Form indicates that you agree to compensate the student-athlete at a normal rate of pay and not based on his/her value or utility because of his/her reputation or fame, and the student-athlete is paid for work actually performed. Please contact the Compliance Office to secure a copy of the Employment Verification Form.
- Provide a summer job to a student-athlete as long as it is at a normal rate of pay for that position and the student-athlete is paid for work actually performed. Please remember to check with the Compliance Office at Kent State University before employing any student-athlete. Student-athletes are required to complete an Employment Verification Form before beginning any employment opportunity.

Possible Penalties for Improper Actions

Violations of NCAA rules are a serious matter. There are many penalties the NCAA may impose upon a student-athlete (prospective student-athlete or enrolled student-athlete), an institution, a coach, or a representative of athletics’ interests. In some instances, the NCAA may impose penalties on an institution even if the student-athlete involved in the violation has no eligibility remaining or is no longer attending the school. Some penalties the NCAA may impose on an institution include:

- a. Ceasing recruitment of the prospective student-athlete;
- b. Loss of eligibility of an enrolled student-athlete;
- c. Forfeiture of competitions;
- d. Prohibiting a coach from recruiting off-campus for a period of time (enrolled student-athletes);
- e. Institutional fines;
- f. Suspension of a coach for one or more competitions;
- g. Reduction in the number of scholarships an institution may award in a sport(s);
- h. Reduction in the number of expense-paid recruiting visits that an institution may provide;
- i. Prohibiting a team from participating in post-season competition;
- j. Institutional probation; or
- k. Complete disassociation of relations with a representative of athletics’ interests for a specified period of time.

Still Have Questions?

This information does not contain, or explain, every NCAA rule. Also, NCAA rules change on an on-going basis. Please do not do something that may jeopardize Kent State University Athletics, its student-athletes, coaches, administrators, or prospective student-athletes. The athletics staff is available to answer any questions you may have, and in the process, avoid the risk of penalties or loss of eligibility. Please feel free to contact the Compliance Office at Kent State University if you are still wondering if you should or shouldn’t be doing something. Complimentary copies of our Intercollegiate Athletics Donor Guide are available upon request.

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IMPORTANT: ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A "REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS' INTERESTS," YOU WILL ALWAYS RETAIN THAT IDENTITY.

Introduction
As a member of the Mid-American Conference (MAC) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Kent State University must abide by the rules and regulations established by the Conference and Association as they apply to all aspects of its athletics program. In addition to ensuring that all of its coaches, administrators, University faculty and staff, and student-athletes are aware of and following the NCAA rules, Kent State University is responsible for the actions of any individual who is a member of any of its intercollegiate athletics booster groups, or meets the definition of a "representative of athletics' interests" (please refer to the definition below).

It would be nearly impossible to communicate all of the NCAA rules and regulations in a quick reference list or brochure. The information below is an attempt to provide you with basic definitions and identify commonly known "dos" and "don’ts." If, after reviewing the information available on http://kentstatesports.com under the "department" tab, you have additional questions or concerns about the rules and regulations in a quick reference list or brochure. The information below is an attempt to provide you with basic definitions and identify commonly known "dos" and "don’ts." If, after reviewing the information available on http://kentstatesports.com under the "department" tab, you have additional questions or concerns about the rules and regulations in a quick reference list or brochure.

Definitions
The NCAA refers to a booster as a “representative of athletics’ interests.” A “representative of athletics’ interests” is an individual who is known (or who should have been known) by the institution’s staff to:

a. Be a member of or have participated in activities of an agency or organization promoting any part of the Kent State University intercollegiate athletics programs (for example, Golden Flashes Club, Varsity "K"); or
b. Have made financial contributions to the intercollegiate Athletics Department or any athletics “booster” organization of Kent State University; or
c. Be assisting, or to have been requested, (by a staff member of the Kent State University Athletic Department) to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes; or
d. Be assisting, or to have assisted, in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families (for example, helping to arrange summer and/or vacation employment for a student-athlete); or
e. Have been involved otherwise in promoting Kent State University intercollegiate athletics.

Prospective Student-Athlete (Prospect, PSA, Recruit)
A prospective student-athlete (or prospect, PSA, "recruit") is any student (not just students who are athletes) who has started classes for the ninth grade (seventh grade for men’s basketball). Also, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospect if the institution provides such an individual (or his/her relatives or friends) with any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to other prospective students generally.

A prospect remains a prospect until he/she begins classes as a full-employment and attends official presentation team practice at Kent State University. Signing a national letter of intent to attend Kent State University does not remove the status of "prospect."

Junior College Prospects
The same recruiting rules that apply to high school prospects also apply to junior college prospects.

Four-Year College Prospects
An athletics Department staff member may not have contact with any student of another four-year college, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining written permission from the first institution’s Athletics Director, regardless of who makes the initial contact. The first institution is not required to grant, and may in fact deny, such permission. The recruiting rules that apply to high school prospects also apply to four-year college prospects, if permission is granted to have contact.

Recruiting
Recruiting is any intentional effort to solicit (for the purpose of securing the enrollment and ultimately the athletic participation in the institution’s Intercollegiate Athletics Program) a prospect (or the prospect’s family or legal guardian) by a member of an institution’s staff or by a representative of athletics’ interests.

A prospective student-athlete becomes a recruited prospect when an institution’s staff member(s) or an athletics representative does any of the following:

a. Provide the prospect with an official (expense paid) visit to the institution, or
b. Have arranged an in-person, off-campus, face-to-face encounter with the prospect (or his/her parents or legal guardians); or
c. Initiate or arranges more than one telephone call with the prospect (or family members or guardians).

Offers and Inducements
Institutional staff members or representatives of athletics’ interests may not directly or indirectly provide, arrange for the provision of, or offer any financial aid or other benefits to a prospect (or the prospect’s relatives, legal guardians or friends) other than expressly permitted by the NCAA regulations. This shall apply regardless of whether similar financial aid benefits or arrangements are available to prospective students in general.

Specifically prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

a. Arranging employment for a prospect’s relatives;
   b. A gift of clothing or equipment;
   c. Co-signing of a loan;
   d. Providing a loan to a prospect’s relatives and 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); or
j. Sponsorship of, or arrangement for, an awards banquet for high school, preparatory school or two-year college athletes by an institution, its athletics representatives, or its alumni groups or booster groups.

Other Recruiting Rules for Athletic Representatives

You may speak to a prospect via telephone only if the prospect initiates the phone call and the call is not for recruiting purposes. Any inquiry regarding the Kent State University Athletics Program must be referred to the Kent State University Athletic Department.

You may observe a prospect’s athletics contest on your own initiative but you may not contact a prospect on any such occasion.

You may not contact a prospect’s coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to gain information that would allow you to “evaluate” the prospect’s value to the Intercollegiate Athletics Program.

You may not visit a prospect’s educational institution to pick-up film/video or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect’s academic or athletic eligibility.

Unavoidable incidental contact made with a prospect by an athletics representative is permitted, provided:

a. The contact is not prearranged by the athletics representative or Athletics Department staff member;

b. The contact does not take place on the grounds of the prospect’s educational institution or at practice or competition sites involving the prospect or his/her team;

c. The contact is not made for the purpose of recruitment of the prospect; and

d. The contact only involves normal civility.

You may make a financial donation to a high school athletics program in your hometown’s immediate locale provided:

a. You make a donation of your own accord;

b. Your donation is distributed through the normal channels established by the high school; and

c. Your donation is not earmarked for a specific prospect.

Alumni Organizations
Prospective student-athletes may attend luncheons or dinners in their immediate locale that are sponsored by bona fide alumni organizations of an institution. These alumni organizations must meet specific criteria to be considered as such. Please contact the Compliance Office for more information regarding specific criteria and permissible events.

You may send KSU coaching staff information (for example: newspaper clippings) about prospects you think may be of interest.