Purpose:

- This document outlines the Athlete-Agent Program applicable to all student-athletes at Rutgers University (Rutgers) in order to comply with NCAA bylaw 12.3 (Use of Agents). The following policy is meant to assist student-athletes in dealing with persons who seek to represent them as an “agent” in individual contract negotiations with professional sports teams.

- The Rutgers Athletic Department is committed to provide its student-athletes with the information and resources needed to succeed after leaving the university. Rutgers is equally committed to protecting its student-athletes as well as its institutional interests from impermissible practices of advisors/agents seeking to represent student-athletes. To that end, no student-athlete should ever be influenced to unwillingly or unknowingly endanger his or her amateur status or NCAA eligibility. The Rutgers Agent Program enables sport agents to affirm the paramount importance of student-athlete welfare by working with student-athletes and their families in a rule-abiding and professional manner.

Definitions:

- **Agency Contract** – An oral or written agreement in which a student-athlete authorizes a person to engage in agent activities as defined under NCAA legislation (e.g., have direct contact with a professional sports team on the student-athlete’s behalf) or the rules and regulations of any other appropriate governing body.

- **Agent** – An individual who enters into an agency contract with a student-athlete or, directly or indirectly, recruits or solicits a student-athlete to enter into an agency contract. The term “agent” includes, but is not limited to, an individual who represents to the public that the individual is an agent, a certified contract advisor, a financial advisor, a marketing representative, a brand manager, or anyone who is employed or associated with such persons. For purposes of this policy, the term agent does not include a spouse, parent, sibling, grandparent, or legal guardian or individual acting solely on behalf of a professional sports team or organization or educational institution unless that individual offers, solicits for himself or herself, or solicits on the student-athlete’s behalf or on behalf of the student-athlete’s family or friends any form of financial benefit or gift not allowed under NCAA or other governing legislation.

- **Contact** – Any direct or indirect communication between an agent and a student-athlete intended to recruit or solicit the student-athlete to enter into an agency contract.

- **Registration** – Registration as an agent pursuant to this policy and process.

- **Student-Athlete** – An individual who engages in or is eligible to engage in an intercollegiate sport.

Applicable rules and regulations:

- **NCAA Bylaw 12.3.1 General Rule** – An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if he or she ever has agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation in that sport. Further, an agency contract not specifically limited in writing to a sport or particular sports shall be deemed applicable to all sports, and the individual shall be ineligible to participate in any sport.

- **NCAA Bylaw 12.3.1.1 Representation For Future Negotiations** – An individual shall be ineligible per Bylaw 12.3.1 if he or she enters into a verbal or written agreement with an agent for representation in future professional sports negotiations that are to take place after the individual has completed his or her eligibility in that sport.

- **NCAA Bylaw 12.3.1.2 Benefits From Prospective Agents** – An individual shall be ineligible per Bylaw 12.3.1 if he or she (or his or her relatives or friends) accepts transportation or other benefits from: (a) Any person who represents any individual in the marketing of his or her athletics ability. The receipt of such expenses constitutes compensation based on athletics skill and is an extra benefit not available to the student body in general; or (b) An agent, even if the
agent has indicated that he or she has no interest in representing the student-athlete in the marketing of his or her athletics ability or reputation and does not represent individuals in the student-athlete’s sport.

Agent Registration Requirements:

- Prior to a sports agent or sports agency contacting a Rutgers student-athlete, the agent or agency must complete the Rutgers Agent Registration paperwork. The registration process is an opportunity for agents to provide comprehensive information about themselves to the Office of Athletics Compliance (OAC). In addition, only registered agents will be listed in the Rutgers agent database and invited to participate in on-campus agent events. **Registrations should be renewed every three years.**

- In the event that an applicant is denied Registration by Rutgers pursuant to this Section, Rutgers will take appropriate action to discourage contact between its student-athletes and the applicant concerning matters of agent representation. In addition, the applicant will not be permitted to enter the property of Rutgers for the purpose of seeking to represent one of its student-athletes as an agent.

- Rutgers may, in its discretion, authorize, subject to revocation, any person who has filed an Application for Registration to make contact with a specific student-athlete pending the granting or denial of Registration or denial of Registration in the event that such action is deemed to be in the best interests of the student-athlete.

Benefits of Registration:

- An agent registered under this policy will be:
  
  - Identified as a registered agent with Rutgers in materials that are available to student-athletes and their families. Allowed to submit materials indicating the agent’s credentials, background, and services which will be retained in the OAC.
  
  - At the request of the student-athlete or at an appropriate time, as determined by the head coach and the OAC, Rutgers will provide the student-athlete with a list of all Rutgers registered agents seeking to represent the student-athlete, along with any information an agent has submitted to the OAC.
  
  - Eligible to communicate with student-athletes under the terms of this policy and process (or relevant sport-specific contact timeline supplement) and in accordance with NCAA, Big Ten, and relevant player association rules and regulations.
  
  - Student-athletes, their family members or friends are not permitted to receive any benefits from an agent (or anyone employed by or acting on behalf of an agent).
  
  - Rutgers staff members are not permitted to receive any benefits from an agent (or anyone employed by or acting on behalf of an agent) for the purpose of influencing or providing access to a Rutgers student-athlete (or his or her family, friends).

Agent Contact and Communications with Student-Athletes:

- Certain Rutgers teams and coaches have set additional contact limitations. Agents that identify those sports on their registrations will be notified of additional sport-specific rules. Along with those additional contact limitations, Rutgers expects every agent to comply with the contact regulations as follows:

  - Contacts between student-athlete and agents will only be permitted, if at all, with agents who are properly registered with Rutgers under this policy and process.
  
  - In-person contacts must take place at on campus and approved through the OAC beforehand. The OAC may require that a OAC staff member be at the meeting.
In-person, off-campus contact is not permitted with the student-athlete, or his family, without prior authorization from the OAC, who will confer with the head coach. In these cases, the OAC may require additional education, monitoring, or other safeguards.

Before any other contact or communication occurs (e.g., telephone, email, text, DM), the agent must notify the OAC prior to contacting a student-athlete.

All recruiting materials intended for student-athletes must be sent to the OAC. The OAC will inspect and approve materials prior to distribution to the student-athlete when approved by the Head Coach.

If a student-athlete initiates in-person or telephone contact with an agent, the agent may continue that contact, but must inform the OAC within 1 business day and describe the nature of the contact;

Agents must provide written notice to the OAC within 48 hours of signing a contract with a Rutgers student-athlete.

Amateurism Violations

- The following actions are deemed to be in violation of NCAA rules and will immediately jeopardize a current student-athlete’s collegiate eligibility:
  - Providing benefits to a current student-athlete and his or her family;
  - Offering or agreeing to a verbal or written contract to represent a student-athlete;
  - Negotiating on behalf of a student-athlete with a professional sports team or business.

- Failure to follow these rules, or any conduct that jeopardizes a Rutgers student-athlete’s amateurism, may lead to a suspension of the agent’s Rutgers registration.

Professional League Draft Requirements

- NBA: Turn 19 in the year of the draft AND be 1 year after HS graduation.
- WNBA: Graduate from college OR turn 22 in the year of the draft OR be 4 years after HS graduation.
- NFL: Wait for 3 college football seasons to pass after HS graduation.
- MLS: Participate in the MLS Combine OR Sign with Generation Adidas OR Nominated by MLS Team.
- MLB: College players, from four-year colleges who have either completed their junior or senior years or are at least 21 years old.

For more information or questions on the Rutgers Agent Program, contact:

Andrew Kappers
Associate Athletic Director of Compliance
akappers@scarletknights.com
732-445-8339