

### **Representative of Athletics Interests**

(commonly referred to as a booster)

A "representative of the institution's athletics interests" is an individual, independent agency, corporate entity (e.g., apparel or equipment manufacturer) or other organization who is known (or who should have been known) by a member of the institution's executive or athletics administration to:

- (a) Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program;
- (b) Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of that institution;
- (c) Be assisting or to have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospects;
- (d) Be assisting or to have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families; or
- (e) Have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletics program.

Some examples of representative of athletics interests are: fans, undergraduate students, graduate students, all university faculty, staff and other employees and alumni. (This is not an exhaustive list.) Once identified as a booster, the individual or business retains that identity for life.

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### **Extra Benefit**

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a booster to provide a student-athlete, or his/her friends or relatives, a benefit not authorized by the NCAA. The benefits a student-athlete may NOT receive include, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- money,
  - special discount,
  - payment arrangement or credit on a purchase (airline ticket, clothes) or service (laundry, typing);
  - free or reduced-cost professional services not available on the same basis to the general student body;
  - use of a telephone, pager or credit card for personal reasons without charge or at a reduced rate;
  - entertainment services (movie tickets, dinners, use of car) from commercial agencies (theaters, restaurants, car dealers) without charge or at reduced rates, or free or reduced-cost admission to professional athletics contests from professional sports organizations, unless such services are available to the student body in general;
  - guarantee of bond;
  - signing or cosigning a note with an outside agency to arrange a loan;
  - preferential treatment, benefits or services based on his/her athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a future professional;
  - free or reduced-cost athletics equipment, supplies or clothing directly from a manufacturer or commercial enterprise;
  - free or reduced cost room and/or board;
  - payment or other compensation for work not performed or at unreasonable levels for the work performed;
  - employment arrangements for a student-athlete or prospect's relatives or friends;
  - payment of registration fees or other expenses to attend UF sports camp or clinic;
  - use of personal property (boats, summer homes, cars, computers, stereos);
  - holiday or birthday presents;
  - promise of employment after college graduation;
  - purchase of items or services from a prospect/student-athlete or their relatives at inflated prices; and
  - payment or arrangements for payment of transportation costs incurred by a student-athlete or prospect's relatives or friends; or
  - anything given because an individual is a student-athlete.
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### **Recruiting**

Any solicitation of a prospect or his/her family by an institutional staff member or by a representative of the institution's athletics interests for the purpose of securing the prospect's enrollment and participation in the institution's athletics program.

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### **Activities Constituting Recruitment**

Some of the activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- providing transportation to the prospect to visit the campus
  - entertaining the prospect in any way on campus. However, the institution may provide a complimentary admission to an on-campus athletic contest when the prospect is visiting as a member of a group tour that is unrelated to athletic recruitment
  - initiating or arranging telephone contact with the prospect or his on more than one occasion family for the purpose of recruitment
  - an arranged, off-campus encounter with a prospect or any members of their family for the purpose of recruitment
  - entertaining the family members of a prospect on campus
  - sending correspondence to a prospect, other than a generic letter that requests general information
  - the arrangement of meals, housing, transportation or academic interviews during an unofficial visit.
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### **Prospect**

An individual who has either started classes for the ninth grade OR who has received any benefit from UF or a booster. Actions taken by athletic staff that cause an individual to become a prospective student-athlete include:

- providing a prospect an expense-paid visit to a collegiate institution;
  - having an arranged in-person encounter with the individual;
  - initiating or arranging telephone contact with the individual or a member of his/her family; or
  - providing an individual (or his/her relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally (i.e. tickets to an athletic competition)
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### **Contact**

Any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or their parents, relatives or legal guardian(s) and an institutional staff member or an athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. A meeting that is prearranged or takes place at the prospect's school, competition site or practice site is considered a contact regardless of the conversation that occurs.

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### **Evaluation**

Any off-campus activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or the athletic ability of a prospect. This includes any visit to a prospect's school (during which no contact with the prospect occurs) or watching a practice or competition at any site where the prospect participates.

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### **Contact Period**

Period of time when it is permissible for authorized athletics department staff to make in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts with and/or evaluations of a prospect.

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### **Evaluation Period**

Period of time when authorized athletics department staff may be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess the academic qualifications and athletic ability of prospects. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts shall be made with the prospect during an evaluation period.

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**Quiet Period**

Period of time when it is permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on the institution's campus. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts or evaluations may be made during a quiet period.

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**Dead Period**

Period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off campus. In addition, there can be no official or unofficial visits to the campus by a prospect. However, it is permissible for a staff member to write or phone a prospect during this period.

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**Official Visit**

A visit financed in whole or in part by the institution.

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**Unofficial Visit**

A visit made at the prospect's own expense. The institution may provide only limited benefits to the prospect during his visit. These benefits include complimentary admissions to an on-campus athletics event in which the institution's team competes and transportation to view off-campus practice or competition sites within a 30-mile radius of the institution's campus when accompanied by a staff member. The provision of any other expenses or entertainment shall require the visit to become an official visit.

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**Amateurism**

A student shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if the student-athlete (or parents/relatives):

- negotiates, signs or enters into any written or oral agreement with an agent;
- accepts or receives any extra benefits from an agent or anyone who wishes to represent the student-athlete;
- uses their athletic skill for pay, or for the promise of pay; competes with a professional sports team or receives any compensation from a professional sports team; or
- receives an extra benefit that is not available to the general student population

## Principles of Institutional Control

Institutional control of athletics is a fundamental requirement of NCAA legislation. Specifically, the NCAA constitution provides that each institution shall be responsible for:

- Controlling its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association.

A key indicator of an institution's commitment to compliance and institutional control is the extent to which each sports program (regardless of its visibility or potential for producing income) is subject to the same operating procedures and standards in terms of rules compliance

Regular personnel assessment is a crucial element of institutional accountability. By appropriately rewarding or penalizing individuals based on an assessment of their compliance performance, the institution explicitly demonstrates its control and commitment.

- Monitoring its programs to ensure compliance, identifying and reporting to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved and taking appropriate corrective actions.

To support compliance monitoring and oversight programs, institutions are required to establish procedures for investigating alleged violations and self-reporting discovered violations.

Evaluation of an institution's compliance program and administrative systems through self-study and external review provides important opportunities to gauge overall efforts to effect rules compliance and institutional control.

- Ensuring that members of the institution's staff, student-athletes and other individuals or groups representing the institution's athletics interests comply with all applicable Association rules.

Rules compliance must be a collective institutional responsibility. Certainly, the compliance responsibilities of the athletics department are substantial, but the institution must recognize the important role that other departments and administrators play throughout the institution.

The Committee on Infractions has placed the burden of proof on institutions to demonstrate control of their athletics program. The committee has stated that problems related to institutional control may exist if:

- Coaching staff members are aware of violations and do nothing.
- Administrative staff members should have been aware of violations but were not.
- A pattern of reoccurring violations is evident.

## **Recruitment of Prospective Student-Athletes**

A prospective student-athlete is defined by the NCAA as any person who has begun classes for the ninth grade.

A prospective student-athlete remains a prospect even after he or she has signed a National Letter of Intent or accepts an offer of financial aid to attend the University of Florida.

The prospective student-athlete remains a prospect until they report for the first day of classes for regular term (fall or spring).

## **Contact with Prospective Student-Athletes**

All in-person, on- and off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospect or the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s) shall be made only by authorized institutional coaches or staff members. A coach is not permitted to recruit off-campus until he or she has been certified on an annual basis as to knowledge of applicable recruiting rules.

A contact is defined as any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s) during which time any dialogue in excess of an exchange of a greeting occurs. Boosters are prohibited from contacting a prospect or the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s) to encourage the prospect to participate in intercollegiate athletics at the University of Florida.

### **Legislation specifically prohibits:**

- Any contact with a prospect at any time whether in person, by mail or by telephone;
- Any contact with a prospect's coach, principal or counselor to gain information that would assist in evaluating the prospect either athletically or academically, including visiting the prospect's educational institution to pick up film or transcripts;
- Any involvement, directly or indirectly, in making arrangements for or giving any financial aid or other benefits to a prospect or his/her family, relatives or friends (such as gifts, awards, loans, employment, transportation, free or reduced rent or housing, etc.);
- Providing entertainment during the prospect's official visit.
- Sending anything to a prospect including letters, cards, newspaper clippings, game programs, post cards, e-mails, etc. (the type of materials that may be sent and who may distribute such materials is strictly regulated by the NCAA);
- Any contact with enrolled student-athletes at other four-year colleges or universities for the purpose of exploring their interest in transferring to the University of Florida. If a student-athlete enrolled at another institution contacts you, do not discuss the possibility of transferring with the athlete. Immediately tell the athlete to contact a University of Florida Compliance Department staff member.

### **Limited contact is permissible, such as:**

- Contacts made with a prospect who is an established family friend, relative or neighbor so long as the contact is not arranged by a University of Florida staff member and is not made for recruiting purposes;
- An unavoidable, incidental contact with a prospect provided recruiting does not take place, only normal civility is involved and the contact is not pre-arranged;
- Casual contacts at University of Florida athletic events, if incidental; Contacts about summer employment only after the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent or, in the case of a junior college prospect, only after the prospect has graduated or officially left the junior college;
- Contact involved in a normal working relationship (i.e., booster who is a doctor or dentist who treats a prospect professionally) provided no recruiting is involved;
- Viewing a prospect's game at your own initiative (must not involve contact with the prospect).

## Contact with Current Student-Athletes

Receipt by a student-athlete of an award, benefit or expenses allowance, not authorized by the NCAA renders the student-athlete ineligible for athletics competition.

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institutions athletics interest to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's relative or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.

In general, boosters may not provide anything or make special arrangement for student-athletes (and prospective student-athletes) that are not available to the general student population. Examples of extra benefits not allowed by NCAA rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing cash or loans in any amount, or signing or co-signing for a loan.
- Providing gifts of any kind, including birthday cards and holiday gifts.
- Providing special discounts for goods and services (e.g. movie tickets, car repair, legal services, clothing, haircuts, dinners).
- Providing the use of an automobile, telephone, etc.
- Providing free or reduced rent or housing.
- Providing honorariums for speaking engagements.
- Providing student-athletes money for the exchange of complimentary tickets.

**\* Please note this is not an exhaustive list. Ask before you Act!**

As a representative of the institution's athletics interest, you are permitted to:

- Provide only actual and necessary travel expenses to student-athletes for speaking to educational or charitable groups. All speaking engagements and charitable work must be approved in advance by the Compliance Office.
- Invite an enrolled student-athlete or an entire team in a sport to his or her home for an occasional home meal under the following conditions:
  - The meal must be provided in an individual's home (as opposed to a restaurant) and may be catered.
  - Meals must be restricted to infrequent and special occasions (i.e., birthdays, holidays).
  - Institutional staff members may provide transportation to a student-athlete to attend such meals.
  - This occasional home meal must be approved in advance by the Compliance Office.
- Meet with and receive autographs from student-athletes during University of Florida sponsored pre-season events (e.g. Fan Photo Day or Meet the Team). Please be aware it is not permissible for you to sell the autographs or use the autographs to raise money for a special project.

## **Employing Enrolled or Prospective Student-Athletes**

The University Athletic Association is permitted to arrange employment for prospective student-athletes during the summer prior to their enrollment as freshmen and enrolled student-athletes.

Student-athletes receiving grants-in-aid will be eligible for employment during the regular academic year as well as during the University's official vacation periods (Christmas, Spring Break, and the summer).

**Please note: It is not permissible for a student-athlete to receive compensation related to his or her speaking/lecturing at an institutional athletics booster club function.**

The Compliance Office must keep written records verifying all student-athlete employment records. The following rules are applicable to student-athlete employment:

- Employers must receive prior approval before hiring any student-athletes.
- The student-athlete is compensated only for work actually performed at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services.
- The student-athlete has not been hired based on his or her athletics ability.
- The student-athlete's name, picture, or likeness cannot be used to advertise, recommend or promote sales or use of a commercial product or service of any kind.
- Transportation to work for student-athletes is not provided unless transportation is provided for all other employees.

## **Autograph Requests**

The University of Florida Athletic Association, its coaches and student-athletes receive numerous autograph requests each year. We regret that we are unable to fill each request. Requests can not be accepted by Gator Boosters, Marketing, Communications, Ticket Office, individual sport offices or any other department entity. Items will be returned if sent to departments or individual sport offices.

Urban Meyer replica-autographed footballs and Billy Donovan replica-autographed basketballs are now available in the Gator SportShop at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, and also via the Gator SportShop's online store (Click Here: [Urban Meyer Football | Billy Donovan Basketball](#)). Autographs may also be obtained at selected annual Gator Club Gatherings and annual team Fan Appreciation Days.

We appreciate your adherence to this policy as the change is essential to the continued success of our coaches and student-athletes.

## **Requesting Autographs of Current Student - Athletes**

The UAA does not allow current student-athletes to provide autographs, other than on Fan Day. Check [GatorZone.com](#) for dates and times.

## **Update Regarding Florida Football Team**

University of Florida football student-athletes have continued to be inundated with requests for autographs. The UAA is strongly asking Florida fans to allow the players' focus to be on their rigorous schedules as successful student-athletes.

With this in mind, the UAA is asking fans not to come to the practice field or attempt to have materials signed by members of the Florida football team. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we seek to ensure the team's continued success at the University of Florida.



## **Promotional Activities of Student-Athletes**

An individual shall not be eligible for participation in intercollegiate athletics if the individual accepts any remuneration for or permits the use of his or her name or picture to advertise, recommend or promote directly the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind.

If a student-athlete's name or picture appears on commercial items (e.g. t-shirts, playing cards, posters, photographs) or is used to promote a commercial product without the student-athlete's knowledge or permission, the student-athlete and the institution are required to take steps to stop such an activity in order to retain the student-athlete's eligibility.

All charitable, educational and non-profit promotional activities involving student-athlete must have prior approval from the University Athletic Association. All such events are coordinated through the Goodwill Gator Program.

For more information, please call (352) 375-4683 x5871.

## **Gambling Activities**

Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. The NCAA membership has adopted specific rules prohibiting athletics department staff members and student-athletes from engaging in gambling activities as they relate to intercollegiate or professional sporting events.

A student-athlete, coach and/or employee of the University Athletic Association shall not knowingly:

- Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;
- Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate or professional athletics contest;
- Accept a bet on any team representing the institution;
- Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g. cash, T-shirt, dinner) that has tangible value;
- Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card, or any other method employed by organized gambling.

The following activities are violations of federal law and can result in a fine, imprisonment or both.

- It is a federal offense to influence or attempt to influence in any way, a sporting contest by bribery. This statute covers not only the outright "throwing" of contests but also "point shaving" and not only to the maker of the bribe, but also the recipient of the bribe.
- It is a federal offense to make use of interstate facilities, including the telephone or mail, for the placing of illegal bets.
- A violation may result in a fine up to \$10,000 or imprisonment up to five years or both.

Furthermore, in accordance with NCAA Policies:

- A student-athlete who is involved in sports wagering on the student-athlete's institution shall permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.
- A student-athlete who is involved in any sports wagering activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling, shall be ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition for a minimum of one year.

Please refer to NCAA Bylaw 10.3 ([link to bylaw](#)) and the NCAA website on Sports Wagering ([link to website](#)) for a comprehensive look at rules regarding gambling.