



Who are Raven Boosters?

"Booster" is the common term for individuals the NCAA defines as "Representatives of Athletics Interests."

You are considered a "booster" if:

you belong to an athletic support group for a member institution,

contribute to a members athletic program in any way,

are involved in the recruitment of prospects for a member institution,

are involved in any manner in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families (e.g., summer jobs),

are involved in promoting a member institution's athletics program.

As a booster, the institution is responsible for anything you do relating to recruits, student-athletes, and their friends or families, whether it be by accident or on purpose. Once you become a booster you remain so indefinitely!

For this reason, the Franklin Pierce University Athletic Department has provided the following information so that you are aware of your responsibilities as a Representative of Triton Athletics Interests.

If you have any questions or comments relating to NCAA rules as they apply to you, please do not hesitate to call any of the following individuals and they will be more than happy to help:

Identifying Prospects

A prospective student-athlete or "prospect" is any student who has started classes for the ninth grade, however, it is also possible for a younger student to be considered a prospect so it is best to treat ALL student-athletes as prospects. A prospect remains a prospect even after signing a Letter of Intent to attend a particular institution or enrolling in a preparatory school or junior college. In addition, any student enrolled in a four-year college who has been given a release to transfer is considered a prospect and all applicable NCAA legislation applies.

An individual remains a prospect and all NCAA legislation regarding prospects applies until: (a) the individual reports for regular squad practice, (b) the registrar or director of admissions certifies that the individual is officially registered and enrolled at the institution on the opening day of classes, or (c) the prospect attends a class or classes in any regular term.

Definition of Contact

Contact is any "face to face" encounter between a prospect and/or a prospect's parents or legal guardian by an institutional staff member or representative of athletics interests during which any dialogue in excess of an exchange of greeting occurs. Any such face-to-face encounter that is prearranged or takes place on the grounds of the prospect's educational institution or at the site of organized competition involving the prospect or the prospect's high school, preparatory school, junior college, or all-star team shall be considered a contact regardless of the conversation that occurs.

General Rule For Contacts Between Boosters and Prospects

Representatives of athletics interests (boosters) may NOT contact a prospect or a member of a prospect's family/guardians by telephone, letter, or in-person on- or off-campus. Only coaches and athletic department staff members may be involved in the recruiting process.

How NCAA legislation regarding contacting prospects applies to various groups:

Faculty: A faculty member is not permitted to recruit off-campus except for a luncheon, dinner or brunch at the home of the faculty member during a prospect's official visit. A faculty member may have on-campus contact with a prospect in all sports and may write to a prospect.

Student-Athletes: A student-athlete is not considered to be a booster so long as any recruiting contact with a prospect is incidental and does not occur at the direction of an athletic department staff member.

Students who are not Athletes: Students in general are not considered boosters unless they make recruiting contacts at the direction of a member of the athletics department.

Athletic Department Personnel: Athletic department staff members are not permitted to recruit off-campus but they may have on-campus contact with prospects.

Established Family Friends and Neighbors: A

family friend or neighbor is not covered under the contact rules so long as such contact is not made for recruiting purposes and is not initiated by a caching staff member.

Alumni who Enroll for a Course and are Considered Students: Part-time attendance in college by a booster does not allow that person to avoid application of the contact rules regarding prospects and boosters.

Permissible Booster Contacts

Contacting the athletic department or coach of a member institution about a prospect who you know through your child who attends the same school.

Contacting a coach about a prospect you feel may help your institution's athletic program, providing the coach with names of people regarding a prospect, and/or sending newspaper clippings about a prospect to a coach.

Bringing your son or daughter to hear a coach speak at an alumni event, however it is in your best interest not to introduce yourself or your child to the coach because it could produce an awkward situation if the time period is not one in which a coach may have contact with prospects.

Attending a public event (i.e., high school awards banquet or dinner) at which prospects will be in attendance as long as any contact between you and prospects is not prearranged by the athletic department and no attempt is made to recruit the prospect.

Continuing to maintain friendships developed previously even if it involves a prospect, as long as you do not encourage the prospect to attend your institution or provide extra benefits to the prospect and his or her family and friends.

Attending a prospect's competition, provided you do not have any contact with the prospect or the prospect's family.

FOULS!

Illegal Contacts/Recruiting Activities Associated with Prospects include, but are not limited to, the following:

Discussing a member institution for whom you are considered a booster with a prospect you know through your child who attends the same school.

Contacting prospects, including those who have been admitted to "your" institution, either by telephone or in writing, to encourage them to attend your institution. This includes contacting prospects as part of a program in which all admitted students are contacted.

Limited Exception: You can have a telephone conversation with a prospect only if the prospect initiates the call, the call is not prearranged by an institutional staff member, and you do not have a recruiting conversation (any questions about the institution's athletic program are referred to the athletics department staff).

Making contact with a prospect or a prospect's parents on an official visit.

Contacting a prospect's coach, principle or counselor in an attempt to evaluate a prospect.

Visiting a prospect's educational institution to pick up film or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's academic or athletics ability.

Entertaining a high school, preparatory school or two-year college coach at any location.

Providing tickets or transportation to a prospect's coach. (Only the institution's athletic department may provide a coach with complimentary admissions to home events.)

Reimbursing a prospect's coach for expenses incurred in transporting a prospect to an institution's campus.

Extra Benefits

An "extra benefit" is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution's athletic interests to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's relatives or friends a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. You cannot provide an extra benefit or special arrangement to a prospect or an enrolled student-athlete. Simply put, you cannot treat an athlete any different than a nonathlete. You may provide benefits or services that are demonstrated to be available on the same basis to the entire student body. However, you may not make arrangements for a prospect to receive money, financial aid, or equivalent inducements even if arrangements are similar to students and parents in general.

Permissible Benefits

A booster club, civic organization or alumni club of which you are a member may award a scholarship to a prospect. NOTE: Some restrictions apply - contact your institution's athletic department.

Have a student-athlete attend a charity event in which you are involved. NOTE: Some restrictions apply -contact your institution's athletic department.

Provide summer employment to a student-athlete, provided compensation is only for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services, or notifying a coach of job possibilities for student-athletes.

Inviting a team for dinner or to meet with a group of alumni in a city where they are playing.

FOULS!

Illegal benefits provided to prospects or enrolled student-athletes include, but are not limited to the following:

Providing cash or other tangible items (e.g., clothes, cars, jewelry, shoes) to a prospect/student-athlete or his/her family or friends.

Providing the use of an automobile (including on official visits to student hosts) or any free or reduced cost services (e.g., laundry, car repair, haircuts) to a prospect/student-athlete or his/her family or friends.

Purchasing items or services from a prospect/student-athlete's family at inflated prices.

Providing a loan, cosigning a loan or guaranteeing a bond for a prospect/student-athlete.

Providing tickets to an athletic, institutional or community event, or free admission to an institution's away-from-home contests for a prospect/student-athlete or his/her family or friends.

Providing financial aid to a prospect other than that which is administered by the institution.

Promising employment after graduation or promising financial aid for postgraduate education.

Paying or arranging for the payment of transportation costs incurred by a prospect/student-athlete's family or friends to visit the institution's campus or elsewhere.

Entertaining relatives or friends of a prospect/student-athlete including at your home **or** another facility (e.g., restaurant).

> Employing relatives or friends of prospects as an inducement for enrollment.

> Providing any summer expenses or competition entrance fees.

> Providing an honorarium to a student-athlete for a speaking engagement. (Only necessary travel expenses may be provided and this must be approved by the institution in advance.)

Penalties

Violations of recruiting rules or the provision of extra benefits will result in the ineligibility of the involved prospect/student-athlete at your institution. In addition, multiple violations can jeopardize

an entire program. Provisions of extra benefits can result in the institution being placed on probation, forfeiture of games, revenues and championships. Remember, when in doubt, ask first! You may be jeopardizing the career of a young person and the reputation of your institution.

As a booster, you may be given certain benefits or privileges associated with your contributions. It is required by the NCAA that you be made aware that any such benefits or privileges may be withheld from you, (or any other party who may be entitled to a benefit or privilege under the terms of your contribution agreement), if you engage in conduct that is determined to be a violation of NCAA legislation.

The NCAA Constitution provides that each institution is responsible for 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 legislation.