NCAA Rules Education
University of Missouri System
Board of Curators
June 10, 2020
Board of Curators – Summary of Topics

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Institutional Responsibility

Chancellor
• Has ultimate responsibility and final authority for the conduct of the athletics program.

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee
• Advises the Chancellor on intercollegiate athletics.
• The Chancellor appoints members of the committee and designates a faculty member as chair.

Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)
• Faculty member, appointed by the Chancellor.
• Serves as one of many official representatives to the conference and the NCAA.
• Provides oversight in the areas of academics, student-athlete welfare, eligibility certification, compliance, and enforcement.
NCAA Institutional Control

- Institution is responsible for conducting its athletics program according to NCAA rules
- Includes actions of staff members and “any other individual or organization engaged in activities promoting the athletics interests of the institution.”
- Hallmarks of Institutional Control, and responsibilities of Compliance Office:
  1. **Prevention**
     - Commitment from Senior Leadership (“Culture of Compliance”)
     - Policies, Processes, & Procedures
     - Staffing & Resources, scaled and tailored for institution’s risk profile
     - Training, Rules Education, Interpretations/Advice/Waivers, and Continued Communication
  2. **Detection**
     - Monitoring & Auditing Department Conduct
     - Documentation (demonstrating compliance)
     - Anonymous Reporting
  3. **Correction**
     - Investigations
     - Discipline, Remediation, & Reporting
Recruiting & Boosters: Definitions

- **Who are Boosters?** ("Representative of Athletics Interests")
  1. Athletics department coaches & staff
  2. Persons with oversight over athletics (including Board of Curators)
  3. Donors & Season Ticket Holders
  4. Former Student-Athletes
     - Once a booster, always a booster. Retain status as “booster” for life, regardless of employment/capacity.

- **Who is a Recruit?** ("Prospective Student-Athlete")
  - A prospect is any individual in grades 9-12, or enrolled at a two-year college (regardless of athletics ability)
  - In many situations (i.e., use of facility, camps), a men’s basketball prospect’s status begins in 7th grade
Recruiting & Boosters: Recruiting

**NCAA Recruiting Rule:** Only authorized people can recruit for the school

- Recruiting = solicitation of a prospect for the purpose of securing enrollment and participation in intercollegiate athletics.
- Athletics supporters who are NOT institutional staff members or coaches are prohibited from contacting a prospect to encourage enrollment by telephone, in person or in writing.
- Institution’s Board of Regents cannot have recruiting contacts (on or off campus) with a prospective student-athlete or their family.
- Boosters may not make offers or provide inducements to prospects.
- Motto: “Leave the recruiting to the coaches.”

**Consequences:**

- Interacting with a prospect (directly or indirect) can result in negative consequences for you, the prospect, and the university
- Could cause violation, ineligibility, loss of recruiting opportunities for team, fines, disassociation
Examples of Prohibited Recruiting

- No in-person contact (on or off campus)
- No outgoing phone calls
- No outgoing text, email, or other direct messages (e.g., Social media)
- No arrangements or inducements
  - Gifts, loans, free or discounted goods or services
  - Transportation or use of a vehicle (even to visit campus)
  - Access to suites, tickets, or non-public areas
  - Arranging for third parties to solicit or provide benefits/arrangements (e.g., Legal fees, laundry, repair services)
  - Entertainment / meals
  - Scholarship offers / promises
  - Employment

- These are all prohibited for the recruit and the recruits friends & family
- Question: Is this benefit / arrangement available to the general public?
Exception #1: Family / Legal Guardian

Exception #2: Established Pre-Existing Relationships
  o Relationship must predate 9th grade.
  o Relationship must be formed on basis unrelated to athletics.
  o Pattern of benefits provided must be consistent with that provided prior to status as an athlete.

Exception #3: Unavoidable, incidental, and unarranged contacts
  o Must take affirmative steps to minimize or end contact.

Exception #4: Responding to Recruit’s communication
  o If a recruit reaches out to a booster, the booster can respond as a courtesy to inform of the NCAA rules and direct the individual to the athletics department.

Exception #5: Admissions Office
Common Recruiting Questions

- Can I attend a high school contest?
  - Yes, but generally cannot communicate with recruit or family.

- What if I notice a good high school athlete?
  - Refer the name/high school to our coaching staffs.

- What if my son/daughter plays sports in high school?
  - Reasonable exceptions for contact in relationships, but cannot solicit on behalf of schools.

- Can I follow a top recruit on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.?
  - Yes, but cannot do outreach to the recruit or comment/reply to social media posts.

- What happens if I see a recruit “commit” on social media?
  - Pause! See if the official athletic department account has published the commitment.
Current Student-Athletes

- **NCAA Rule**: Generally, boosters and businesses cannot provide student-athletes with financial aid, benefits, or awards (similar to prospective student-athletes)
  - Any special arrangement is considered an “extra benefit,” which is a violation
  - A booster may not give game tickets to a student-athlete (or his/her family and friends)
  - A booster may not provide an honorarium to a student-athlete for a speaking arrangement

- **Consequences**:
  - Jeopardizes student-athlete’s remaining eligibility
  - Sport could be penalized
  - Possible disassociation of booster/business from the school’s athletic department

- **Exception**: Is the benefit available to the general public, or to the school’s general student body?
Current Student-Athlete: Exceptions

**Exception #1: Occasional Meals**
- Occasionally, a booster may provide a student-athlete with a meal in the booster’s family home.
- All such meals must be prior approved by the Compliance Office.

**Exceptions #2: Employment**
- A student-athlete may be employed with PRIOR approval from the Athletics Department. All work performed by the student-athlete is governed by, but not limited to, the following rules:
  1. Compensation must be consistent with the going rate in the locality for similar services performed.
  2. The student-athlete may be paid only for work actually performed.
  3. Compensation may not include payment for the value that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following resulting from athletic participation.
- The employer cannot provide transportation for prospects or student-athletes unless transportation is provided for all employees.
- The employer cannot use the student-athlete’s name or picture to advertise or promote a commercial product or service.
Requests

- Complimentary Tickets, Memorabilia, & Other Donation Requests
  - Institutions and boosters cannot, directly or indirectly, assist with fundraising for prospective student-athletes.
  - Boosters cannot provide their complimentary tickets, memorabilia, or other donated items to PSA, PSA’s family, or to high school or club team fundraisers.

- Autographs
  - Individuals and commercial entities cannot use the name, picture, appearance, or likeness of an NCAA student-athlete for promotional purposes, including autographed memorabilia. If this rule is violated it could render a student ineligible.
  - Personalized memorabilia, signatures of multiple student-athletes. Monitor sites like eBay.

- Appearance Requests
  - Businesses cannot use a student-athletes name, image, or likeness to promote a for-profit entity.
  - Student-athlete may promote non-profits, with department approval.
Compliance Office Contact Information

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