

**Sacramento State
Athletics Department**





INTRODUCTION

“Institutional control” of athletics is a fundamental requirement of the NCAA legislation. Therefore Sacramento State is responsible for ensuring that members of the faculty, staff, coaches, student-athletes, alumni, donors, boosters and friends comply with all NCAA rules. The Sacramento State athletics department provides this guide to you to answer any questions you may have regarding the recruitment of prospective student-athletes and contact with currently enrolled student-athletes.

We ask that you take the time to read the following information. As you may expect, all applicable situations cannot be covered in this guide. Therefore we encourage our boosters and fans to “**Ask Before You Act!**”

If you have any specific questions and/or situations regarding “prospective” or “current” student-athletes, please direct your inquiry to:

Office of Athletic Compliance Sacramento State Athletics

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ARE YOU A BOOSTER?

You are considered a “representative of the University’s interest” (i.e. booster) if one or more of the following applies to you. If you:

- Are or have been a member of any organization promoting Sacramento State athletics (i.e., HAF, Stingers, etc.);
- Have ever made a donation to any of the Sacramento State athletics programs;
- Have ever provided benefits to current student-athletes or their families or to prospective student-athletes or their families;
- Have ever helped to arrange or have provided employment for a current student-athlete, or their families or to prospective student-athletes or their families;
- Have ever promoted the Sacramento State athletics program in any way.

Please know that some of these actions above that would make you a representative of the University’s athletics interest (i.e. providing benefits to prospects or current student-athletes) are violations of NCAA rules.

Once you become identified as a booster you retain this status **INDEFINITELY!**

As a representative of the University’s athletics interests, you are bound by NCAA, Conference and Sacramento State rules. Therefore Sacramento State is RESPONSIBLE for your actions!

KEY WORDS THAT ANY ALUMNI OR FRIEND SHOULD KNOW

Prospective Student-Athlete (Prospect)

A prospective student-athlete is *any student* who has started classes in the ninth grade. It is important to remember that a prospect remains a prospect even after they have signed their National Letter of Intent or accepts an offer for Financial Aid at Sacramento State. The prospect remains a prospect until the first day of classes for a regular term or until the first organized practice session – whichever comes first.

Student-Athlete

A student-athlete is a student who has reported for an intercollegiate squad that is under the jurisdiction of the athletics department.

Recruiting

Recruiting involves any solicitation of a prospect (or family members) by the Sacramento State Athletics staff to encourage him/her to enroll at Sacramento State and participate in the intercollegiate athletics program. Only Sacramento State coaches who have passed the NCAA Recruiting Certification Exam may be involved in the recruiting process. Boosters are prohibited from becoming involved in recruiting activities.

Contact

A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or a prospect's parent or legal guardian, and a Sacramento State staff member or Representative of Athletics Interests during which any dialogue occurs in excess of a greeting. The number of contacts a prospect may have with Sacramento State representatives is limited. Therefore, it is imperative you limit your contacts with the prospect.

Evaluation

A visit to a prospect's high school, preparatory school or two year college, or an evaluation at any site that occurs during a contact period shall constitute a contact for that particular week even if no contact is made with a prospect.

Quiet Period

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

Dead Period

A period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the member institution's campus or to permit official or unofficial visits by prospects to the institution's campus. The provision of complimentary admissions to a prospect during a dead period is prohibited, except as provided for a prospect who visits an institution as part of a group. During such a dead period, a coaching staff member may not serve as a speaker at or attend a meeting or banquet at which prospects are in attendance, and may not visit the prospect's educational institutions. It remains permissible, however, for an institutional staff member to write or telephone prospects during such a dead period.

For reference to specific rules and regulation listed above, please see: www.ncaa.org.

AGENTS AND GAMBLING

Agents

It is not permissible for student-athletes to make a written or verbal agreement with an agent prior to the exhaustion of their eligibility. Further, student-athletes may not receive benefits including meals, clothing or transportation from an agent or a representative of an agent. If any of the above situations arises, the student-athlete will lose their amateur status and shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition.

Gambling

Collegiate sports gambling is a national problem. As such, Sacramento State has taken a stance against gambling of any kind. NCAA Bylaw 10.3 specifically prohibits sports gambling by student-athletes or intercollegiate athletics staff members on any sporting event, amateur or professional, in which the NCAA sponsors a championship. It is a violation of Federal Law to affect, or attempt to affect, the outcome of a collegiate contest.

RULES REGARDING PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

A Booster MAY NOT:

- Contact a prospect in person either on the Sacramento State campus or at any other location for a recruiting purpose.
- Communicate with a prospect or a member of the prospect's family by any means (e.g., phone, in person, e-mail).
- Make arrangements for a prospect or the prospect's relatives or friends to receive money, financial aid or financial benefits of any kind.
- Provide transportation for a prospect or the prospect's relative or friends to visit the Sacramento State campus.
- Provide free or reduced-cost tickets for a prospect or a prospect's relatives or friends to attend a Sacramento State athletics event.
- Entertain high school, preparatory school or community college coaches.

A Booster MAY:

- Notify Sacramento State coaches about prospects in your area that may be strong additions to our athletics teams.
- Attend high school or two-year college athletics contests or other events in which prospects may compete, provided no recruiting contact occurs with the prospect or the prospect's relatives.
- Continue existing friendships with families of prospects, provided the booster does not attempt to recruit the prospect on behalf of Sacramento State.
- Employ a prospect after he or she has completed their senior year in high school or the requirements for graduation at a two-year college.

What If A Prospect Initiates Contact With Me?

If a prospective student-athlete initiates contact with you either in person, by phone or by mail, you are obligated to refer all questions regarding the University and its athletics programs to the athletic department staff. You should also inform the student-athlete that NCAA rules prohibit recruiting contacts with anyone other than the athletic department staff.

WHAT KINDS OF BENEFITS FOR PROSPECTS ARE PROHIBITED?

DO NOT provide any of the following inducements or benefits to prospective student-athletes, their families, or their high school or junior college coaches:

- Cash, loans or gifts (e.g. clothes, electronics, cars, etc.).
- The promise of employment after graduation.
- Special discounts or payment arrangements on loans.
- Employment of relatives or friends.
- Use of an automobile or boat.
- Free or reduced-cost housing.
- Payment of transportation for relatives or friends of the prospect.
- Involvement in arranging for free or reduced charges for professional or personal services.

WHAT ABOUT PROSPECTS AT ALUMNI EVENTS?

DO NOT invite selected high school or junior college student-athletes to alumni events. NCAA rules prohibit contact between alumni and friends at both on-campus and off-campus sites. However, the Alumni association CAN entertain prospects under certain conditions that does not give athletics special treatment. For example, it would be permissible to invite all high school seniors who have been accepted at the University to an alumni function.

DO NOT bring your son or daughter or any other guests to an alumni gathering if he/she is participating in athletics on the high school or junior college level and is therefore a prospect.

DO tell athletic department staff invited to speak at alumni functions if prospective student-athletes will be in attendance. There are certain time periods when coaches are prohibited from any contact with prospects off campus. It is important for coaches to know ahead of time if prospects will be in attendance.

WHAT ABOUT COACHES OF PROSPECTS?

DO NOT entertain provide tickets, gifts or other benefits to junior or senior high school, preparatory school, or junior college coaches at any time. The athletic department is permitted to provide high school, prep school and junior college coaches a limited number of complimentary tickets to home athletic events (via a pass list), but representatives of the University's athletics interest are not.

RULES REGARDING CONTACT WITH CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

You MAY NOT provide a student-athlete any benefit or special arrangement that would not be offered to the rest of the student population. Such a benefit may cause a student-athlete to lose his or her eligibility. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- You may not entertain student-athletes, their friends or family.
- You may not use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to advertise, recommend or promote any product or service of any kind.
- You may not provide awards or gifts to a student-athlete.
- You may not allow a student-athlete to use your telephone to make free calls, or allow use of a free or discounted automobile.

You can however, invite an enrolled student-athlete to your home for an occasional home cooked meal, but you may not take a student-athlete to a restaurant. Any contact or planned activity with an enrolled student-athlete should be cleared by the Compliance Office.

WHAT ABOUT STUDENT-ATHLETES APPEARANCES & PROMOTIONS?

DO NOT use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete directly or indirectly to advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of commercial product or services of any kind. Doing so will render the student-athlete ineligible for competition.

All charitable, educational and nonprofit promotional activities involving student-athletes must have prior approval from the athletics department. Please contact the Office of Athletic Compliance at (916) 278-4537.

DO NOT mail items to student-athletes to sign and return to you. All student-athletes autographs must be obtained on fan day or after athletic events.

DO NOT use any item (i.e. poster, ball, etc.) signed by a Sacramento State coach, student-athlete or staff member in an auction, raffle or any other type of fundraising activity to raise money for any local high school group.

THANK YOU

This guide should give you a clear understanding of what you can and cannot do as a loyal Sacramento State athletics supporter. We appreciate your enthusiastic support and cooperation to ensure that we fully comply with NCAA and Conference rules and regulations.

Your support is instrumental in the success of the coaches and student-athletes who represent Sacramento State both on and off the field. If you have any questions, please **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!**