



QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDE TO NCAA RULES FOR BOOSTERS



Rules Governing Booster Conduct

Fairfield University is honored to have your support, dedication, and enthusiasm for our Athletics program. While we strive to strengthen our legacy of competitive excellence, we are also committed to operating our Athletics teams with the utmost integrity and in a manner consistent with the letter and spirit of NCAA, conference, and University rules. As a member of the NCAA, Fairfield is responsible for the actions of its alumni, parents, friends, and fans.

What is a “Representative of Athletics Interest”?

A Representative of Athletics Interest (RAI), sometimes referred to as a booster, is an individual who:

- Promotes the Fairfield Athletics program
- Makes a financial contribution to Fairfield Athletics or its booster organizations
- Assists in the recruitment of prospects for Fairfield
- Participated in or has been a member of an organization promoting the University's Athletics program
- Provides benefits (e.g., career mentorship, occasional meals) to enrolled
- Has purchased season tickets for any Fairfield Athletics program
- Is a Friend of Fairfield Athletics

It is important to remember that once an individual has been identified as a booster, he or she retains that status forever.

What May a Booster Provide?

Below are examples of what boosters may and may not do when supporting enrolled student-athletes.

You may:

- Employ a student-athlete in the same manner as the general public. Compensation must be commensurate with the going rate for similar services and only for work actually performed
- Provide a student-athlete with an occasional meal in your home or on Fairfield's campus. Occasional meals must be pre-approved by the compliance office

You may not:

- Provide gifts, or free or reduced-cost services, including meals, drinks, clothing, laundry, legal fees, or other benefits to student-athletes and/or their relatives or friends
- Provide tickets to any athletic, institutional, or community event for a student-athlete or his or her relatives or friends
- Provide cash, entertainment, use of your home, or other items of value
- Provide the use of an automobile
- Provide free rent or reduced cost housing for any length of time
- Use student-athletes' names, images, or likeness for the purpose of advertising, endorsing, or promoting commercial products or services

Boosters who know of a prospect should forward information to the appropriate coaching staff member. We appreciate your support in helping Fairfield Athletics' provide student-athletes with championship caliber experiences.

For questions about any booster activities, please contact Justin Bell, associate director of Athletics/ Compliance & Recruitment at 203-254-4000, ext. 3466 or jbelle@fairfield.edu.

Extra Benefits

An extra benefit is any gift or special arrangement provided to a prospective or current student-athlete, or their relatives or friends that is not expressly permitted by the NCAA. Student-athletes are full members of the student body, with no special privileges.

Who is a Prospect?

A prospect is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. A prospect remains a prospect even after he or she signs a National Letter of Intent (NLI) or financial aid agreement to attend Fairfield University. Actions taken by Athletics staff that cause an individual to become a prospective student-athlete include:

- Providing a prospect with 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 their family

Only those coaching staff members who have passed the coaches certification exam are permitted to recruit prospective student-athletes.

NCAA Definition of Recruiting

Recruiting is any solicitation of a prospect or the prospect's family (or guardian) by an institutional staff member or by a RAI for the purpose of securing that prospect's enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.

Contacts

Boosters may not make recruiting contacts in person with prospects at any site. A contact is 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.

Communication

Boosters are prohibited from communicating with prospects for recruiting purposes via telephone, letters, e-mail, text, Twitter, Facebook, or in any other manner.

Gifts

The provision of any financial aid or other benefits (e.g., clothing, special discounts, tickets to events, or loans of money, or other items) to prospects or their relatives is prohibited.

Evaluation

A booster may view a prospect's athletics contests on his or her own initiative; however, a booster may not contact the prospect, prospect's coach, principal, or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the prospect. A booster may not secure transcripts or video pertaining to a prospect's academic or athletic ability.

Employment

The employment or arranging of employment for a prospect before his or her graduation from high school is prohibited.

Acceptable ways of showing your support

With the various NCAA rules and regulations regarding benefits to student-athletes, it may seem difficult to be as supportive as you'd like to be with Fairfield's Athletics programs. However, you can show your support in other ways. Athletics representatives may:

- Make contributions to Fairfield Athletics by working with the Athletics Development team
- Attend Fairfield Athletics events and show student-athletes that you support their hard work

Visit fairfieldstags.com to find out more information about Fairfield Athletics.

*The information contained in this document is general and not exhaustive. It should only be used as a quick reference for Athletics representatives. If you have any questions about NCAA, Conference, or Fairfield Athletics policies and/or rules, please contact **Justin Bell, associate director of Athletics/Compliance & Recruitment at 203-254-4000 ext. 3466 or jbelle@fairfield.edu**. Fairfield Athletics appreciates your assistance as we strive to comply with NCAA regulations.*