

Important Definitions

A representative of an institution's athletics interests or "booster" is anyone who:

- Is now, or has previously been, a member of any organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program; or
- Has made a financial contribution to the athletics program or an athletics booster organization; or
- Has helped arrange any employment for a student-athlete; or
- Has been involved in the promotion of the athletics program.

Once a person is identified as a representative of UNCG's athletics interests, the person retains that identity forever.

Prospective Student-Athlete

A prospect is defined by the NCAA as any individual who has begun classes in the ninth grade or seventh grade for men's basketball. This individual remains a prospect until he or she reports for practice or attends class as a full-time student at UNCG. The NCAA permits a prospect to attend summer classes and receive athletics aid prior to his or her initial fall semester enrollment. Though still considered a prospect during enrollment in the summer school term, he or she is treated as a student-athlete in some respects and is permitted access to UNCG's athletics facilities, equipment and academic support staff. In addition, this individual may have contact with athletics staff members.

Student-Athlete

A student-athlete is a student whose enrollment was solicited by a member of the athletics staff or other representative of athletics interests with a view toward the student's participation in UNCG's athletics program.

Recruiting

Recruiting is defined as any solicitation of a prospect, a member of the prospect's family or a prospect's legal guardian for the purposes of securing the prospect's enrollment and participation in the UNCG athletics program.

Contact

A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect, a member of a prospect's family or legal guardian and an institutional staff member (i.e. coach) during which any conversation occurs in excess of a greeting. In addition, a simple exchange of greetings is considered a contact if it is prearranged or takes place:

- On the grounds of the prospect's educational institution, or
- At the site of organized competition or practice involving the prospect or the prospect's high school, preparatory school, two-year college or all-star team.

No Contact With Prospects

Boosters are prohibited from making in-person on or off campus recruiting contacts. They are also prohibited from engaging in written or telephone communications with a prospect or the prospect's parents or relatives. Boosters who find themselves contacted by a prospect via phone, e-mail, in a chat room or in person, must not enter into a recruiting conversation. Under such circumstances, the prospect should be referred to the athletics department. The same is true if a booster is contacted by a prospect's parent, guardian or relative.

No Contact With Prospect's School or Staff

Boosters may NOT contact a prospect's coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate a prospect or visit the prospect's institution to pick up video or transcripts pertaining to a prospect.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: Are former season-ticket holders or former Spartan Club members – who have not attended a game or paid dues in several years – still considered boosters by NCAA legislation?

Answer: Yes. A booster retains that classification for life.

Question 2: Can I give a birthday/holiday card or gift to a student-athlete?

Answer: No. The provision of anything tangible or anything of value (including reduced price products or services) due to an individual's status as an athlete is not permissible.

Question 3: Is the restriction on contacts with prospects and their family members applicable to friends and neighbors that I have known for years?

Answer: No. However, please remember that your contacts with these individuals should not be made for recruiting purposes and should not be initiated or directed by a member of the university's athletics department.

Question 4: Does a prospect remain a prospect (for the purposes of NCAA recruiting legislation) even after he or she signs a National Letter of Intent?

Answer: Yes. The status of a prospect does not change until he or she attends classes for a fall or spring semester, reports for preseason practice or receives athletic aid and attends summer classes before his or her first semester at UNCG.

Question 5: If I meet the parents of a student-athlete, can I purchase soft drinks for them during a game at the Baseball Stadium or the Greensboro Coliseum?

Answer: No. Nothing of value (no matter how small) may be provided by a booster to the family of a student-athlete.

Contact Information:

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Associate AD for Compliance

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Guide to NCAA Rules for Alumni, Boosters, Fans and Friends



Consequences are severe if NCAA rules are broken. Those found in violation of NCAA regulations are subject to losing benefits and privileges, including season tickets.

This brochure should not be relied upon exclusively, as NCAA rules are complex.

Ask permission, not forgiveness!

Contact **Jody Smith** at jody.smith@uncg.edu with any questions or concerns.

Recruiting

Only coaches and athletics department staff members can be involved in the recruiting process. All boosters who are not employees of UNCG are prohibited from contacting a prospect by telephone, in writing or in person for the purpose of encouraging participation in athletics at UNCG.

A booster is not permitted to provide a prospect, a member of a prospect's family, a prospect's legal guardian or a prospect's friend, any special benefits or arrangements. A special benefit or arrangement includes, but is not limited to: cash or loans; co-signing or arranging a loan; gifts of any kind; special discounts for goods and services or use of an automobile.

A booster is not permitted to provide employment to a prospect prior to the completion of the prospect's senior year in high school. No employment should be provided to a prospect without first obtaining approval from the UNCG Compliance Office. A booster is not permitted to entertain high school, prep school or junior college coaches or provide them with tickets to any UNCG contests. A booster is not permitted to pay for a prospect's expenses to attend a UNCG camp or clinic.

What is permitted by the NCAA?

A booster may inform UNCG of prospects in his or her area by contacting a coach. In cases where a pre-established relationship exists between a booster and a prospect, a member of the prospect's family or a prospect's legal guardian, the booster is permitted to continue normal contacts with the understanding that such contacts are not made for recruiting purposes. These contacts cannot be arranged by UNCG athletics department staff members.

The NCAA permits faculty and staff to write or telephone prospects for purposes of recruitment. Faculty and staff should contact the UNCG compliance office directly for information regarding telephone or contact with prospects as time periods and frequency for such calls vary among sports. Faculty and staff are permitted to have an off-campus contact with a prospect during his or her official (paid) visit. This off-campus contact must occur at a site within a thirty-mile radius of the UNCG campus.

Rules That Affect Alumni

It is not permissible to invite selected high school or junior college athletes to alumni events. Alumni are permitted to entertain groups of prospect-age students under certain conditions. When UNCG athletics department staff members are invited to speak at an alumni function, be sure to inform them in advance if any prospects will be in attendance. This is extremely important because there are certain time periods during the year when coaches are prohibited from any contact with a prospect away from campus.

High School or Junior College Events or Banquets

A booster, on his or her initiative, may attend high school or junior-college athletics events or banquets where prospects are in attendance. Contact with the prospect or his or her relatives is not permitted. Please direct inquiries from parents or guardians of a prospect regarding UNCG or its athletics program to the appropriate coach at UNCG.



Impermissible Benefits

The following may NOT be provided to student-athletes:

- Any "extra benefit" or special arrangements, such as:
 - Expense money,
 - Movie passes,
 - Free meals at restaurants, or
 - Reduced-price housing.
- Any preferential treatment or discounted professional services (medical, dental, legal, etc.) because of a student-athlete's athletics reputation or pay-back potential as a professional athlete.
- Any gifts or awards to a student-athlete for his/her athletic accomplishments. All awards from any source must conform to NCAA restrictions and must be approved by the UNCG Compliance Office.
- A booster is not permitted to use the name or picture of a student-athlete to directly advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of a commercial product/service of any kind.
- A booster is not permitted to pay any expenses incurred by student-athletes, their relatives or friends. This includes expenses for a student-athlete to travel home, as well as expenses (transportation, hotels, meals) for family or friends to visit campus or attend an away-from-home event.

Most of the impermissible actions detailed in this brochure will immediately render the involved student-athlete ineligible for competition.

Benefits That Boosters May Provide

- A booster may contribute funds to finance a scholarship for a particular sport or position. However, it is not permissible to finance a scholarship for a particular prospect or student-athlete.
- A booster may provide a student-athlete or an entire team with an occasional meal under the following conditions:
 - The meal may only be provided in an individual's home, on campus or at a facility that is regularly used for home competition and may be catered;
 - The meal must be approved in advance by the compliance office and respective head coach; and
 - These meals must be restricted to infrequent or special occasions.
- A UNCG team that is "on the road" may be invited by a booster for dinner or to meet with alumni/friends in or near the city where the team is competing. Always make arrangements for such activities through the head coach.

Involvement of Boosters

A booster may employ prospective and enrolled student-athletes during the summer. However, the rate of compensation must be consistent with the area rate for like services and the student-athlete may only be compensated for work actually performed. A booster may also employ a student-athlete during the academic year. However, the implications from any employment vary for each student and each sport. Therefore, always contact the UNCG Compliance Office before employing any student-athlete.

A booster may not provide any benefits for employed student-athletes (e.g. transportation) unless the benefits are provided for all other employees. It is not permissible for a student-athlete to receive compensation related to his or her speaking or lecturing at an institutional athletics booster club function.

Student-athletes may be compensated only for work actually performed and must be paid at a rate commensurate with the going rate in the area for similar services.

Involvement of UNCG's Athletics Department

UNCG is permitted to arrange employment for prospective student-athletes during the summer prior to their enrollment as freshmen.



Promotional Activities of Student Athletes

A student-athlete may not be eligible for participation in intercollegiate athletics if he or she accepts any remuneration for or permits the use of his or her name or picture to advertise, recommend or promote 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 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 activity in order to retain the student-athlete's eligibility. Use of a student-athlete's name, picture or appearance to support any charitable, educational or non-profit promotional activities requires prior approval from the UNCG Compliance Office.

