

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can a booster be involved when a prospect is on an official or unofficial visit?

A: Yes, but the booster may have contact only on campus during the prospective student-athletes visit. Off campus contact is prohibited.

Q: May boosters entertain relatives and friends of a prospective student-athlete at any site off-campus?

A: No

Q: Is it permissible for a booster to reimburse the coach of a prospect for expenses incurred in transporting a prospect to visit the campus?

A: No

Q: May a booster attend a public event (high school awards banquet) at which prospects are in attendance?

A: Yes, however contact with prospective student-athletes or their families may not occur, and no attempt can be made to recruit the prospect.

Q: Can a prospective student-athlete call a booster?

A: A booster may have a telephone conversation with a prospect ONLY if the prospect initiates the call and the call is not prearranged by an institutional staff member. All athletically related questions must be referred to the athletics department.

Q: As a booster, if I attend a prospect's athletic event, may I talk to the prospect's coach after the event?

A: No. A booster may not contact the coach, the prospect, the prospect's family members, the principal, or the guidance counselor in an attempt to evaluate a prospect.

Q: As a booster, is it permissible to purchase a wedding gift for an enrolled student-athlete who is getting married?

A: No. It is not permissible to purchase a wedding gift for a student-athlete unless there was a pre-established relationship.

PRE-EXISTING RELATIONSHIP FOUR-PART TEST

1. Did the relationship between the athlete (or athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) develop as a result of the athlete's participation in athletics or notoriety related thereto?

2. Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) predate the athlete's status as a prospective student-athlete?

3. Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) predate the athlete's status achieved as a result of his or her athletic ability and reputation?

4. Was the pattern of benefits provided by the individual to the athlete (or athlete's parents) prior to the athlete attaining notoriety as a skilled athlete similar in nature to those provided after attaining such stature?

If you answered NO to questions 1, and YES to questions 2, 3, 4 then there is an established relationship with the athlete.

However, if you answer differently for any of the four questions, then by NCAA rules, there is NO pre-existing relationship and thus it is impermissible for you to provide any preferential treatment, benefits, or services to that athlete.

RULES OF EMPLOYMENT

Boosters are allowed to employ or assist in securing the employment of current student-athletes. However, the student-athletes must complete paperwork with the compliance office prior to beginning work because there are financial restrictions to consider, and money earned must be for actual work performed and at the same rate that any non-student-athlete would earn.

It is required that you contact the compliance office prior to employing a prospective student-athlete.



Booster Guide

NCAA RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF
TAMU ATHLETICS

Texas A&M International University
Office of Athletics Compliance
5201 University Blvd. Laredo, Texas 78041
Henry Miller 956-326-2732
henry.miller@tamiu.edu
James Bonnette 956-326-2731
james.bonnette@tamiu.edu

Thank you for supporting TAMIU athletics and taking time to read this guide. Your help in preventing violations is vital and is appreciated as much as any other part you play in supporting TAMIU's athletics program.

ARE YOU A REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETIC INTEREST (BOOSTER)?

You are a representative of TAMIU Athletics Interest (also known as a Booster) if any of the following applies:

- You have participated in or are a member of an agency or organization, including corporate entities (e.g., apparel and equipment companies), promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program;
- You have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of that institution;
- You assist or have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes;
- You assist or have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families;
- You have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletics program;

Once an individual is identified as such a representative, the person retains that identity indefinitely.

BOOSTERS CAN

- Participate with prospects in organized institutional community engagement activities when prospects reside within 100-mile radius of location.
- Observe a prospect's athletic contest, provided there is no contact with the prospect or the prospect's parents and relatives.
- Notify TAMIU coaching staff of outstanding prospects in the area.
- Continue to have normal contact with any neighbor, relative, or family friend that might be a high school prospect as long as you do not engage in the recruitment process.

- Refer any and all recruiting questions to an athletic department staff member.

BOOSTERS CANNOT

- Write, call, or make in-person recruiting contacts with a high school prospect or his legal guardians.
- Contact a coach, principal, and or counselor to evaluate a high school prospect.
- Visit a prospect's school to pick up a transcript or video to evaluate the prospect's academic or athletic ability or to provide it to an athletics department staff member.
- Sponsor or arrange an awards banquet for a high school, prep school, or 2-year college prospect.
- Provide extra benefits to high school prospects, enrolled college student-athletes, or their relatives and friends. Types of inducements that are prohibited include, but are not limited to: cash or tangible items, the use of an automobile, signing or cosigning a note for a loan, the promise of employment after college, the promise of financial aid for post graduate education.

TERMS TO KNOW

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE

A student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution provides such an individual (or the individual's relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally. An individual remains a prospective student-athlete until they enroll and attend classes or practice with a TAMIU athletic team.

EXTRA BENEFIT:

Any special gift or arrangement provided to an enrolled student-athlete, prospect, or their relatives or friends, which is not available to the general student body.

CONTACT:

Any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or a prospect's parent or legal guardian and a institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of a normal greeting.

RECRUITING:

Any solicitation of a prospective student-athlete or a prospective student-athlete's relatives [or legal guardian(s)] by an institutional staff member or by a representative of the institution's athletics interests for the purpose of securing the prospective student-athlete's enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.

EVALUATION:

Any off-campus activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or athletics ability of a prospective student-athlete, including any visit to a prospective student-athlete's educational institution (during which no contact occurs) or the observation of any practice or competition at any site at which the prospective student-athlete participates.

