

Alumni and Friends,

The Department of Athletics wants to thank you for your continued support and loyalty to the University of Virginia and its athletics programs. Without our tremendous alumni and fan base, we could not offer the University's unique mix of academic and athletic excellence. Most importantly, we want to maintain our reputation as an outstanding athletics program that operates with the highest integrity.



Under NCAA rules, we are responsible for monitoring compliance of our student-athletes, coaches, staff, and our fan base and alumni. That is why we have developed this Guide to NCAA Rules. We want to ensure that you will be knowledgeable of NCAA, ACC, and University legislation that governs how the University and its alumni and fan base can interact with its student-athletes and prospective student-athletes. The most critical thing for you to know as a supporter of the University's athletics programs is to "Ask Before You Act".

Your support of our athletics program by following the rules is greatly appreciated by the University and the Department of Athletics. Not only does it aid UVA in avoiding NCAA sanctions, it allows the University to provide the healthiest atmosphere possible for its student-athletes. It also ensures that the eligibility and future of these hard-working student-athletes are not jeopardized.

Again, thank you for your continued interest and support. Without your help, we could not offer an outstanding educational and athletic opportunity to each student-athlete.

Craig Littlepage
Director of Athletics



Definitions

Booster: (Donor/Representative of Athletic Interest)
Any individual/entity who:

- Is a member of any organization that promotes UVA Athletics, or has promoted the athletics program in any way.
- Has made a financial contribution to UVA Athletics or its booster organization (VAF).
- Has assisted in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes for UVA.
- Has provided benefits (e.g., occasional family meals or employment) to enrolled student-athletes.
- Is or has ever been a UVA employee.
- Has ever purchased season tickets for any of UVA's athletics programs.
- Is the spouse of a UVA Athletics employee.

Once you become a booster, you remain a booster indefinitely.

Prospect: (Prospective Student-Athlete/Recruit) Any individual who has started classes for the 9th grade (7th grade for men's basketball), including students in prep schools, junior colleges and individuals who have officially withdrawn from four-year institutions. The status of prospect applies regardless of whether UVA is recruiting that individual.

Student-Athlete: A student who participates in the intercollegiate athletics program. This includes those who were recruited by athletics staff and walk-ons.

Recruiting: Any solicitation of a prospect (or family members) by an institution's athletics staff to encourage him/her to enroll at that institution and participate in its intercollegiate athletic programs.

Extra Benefit: Any special arrangement by an institutional employee or booster to provide a student-athlete, his/her friends or family, a benefit not authorized by the NCAA.



University of Virginia
Athletics Compliance
P.O. Box 400830
Charlottesville, VA 22904
434.982.5018

athleticscompliance@virginia.edu

Rules for Boosters Regarding PROSPECTS

A BOOSTER MAY:

- Continue contact with a prospect as long as the booster has an established relationship with him/her prior to the student being a prospect; and as long as there is no effort made to recruit the prospect.
- Forward information about a prospect to the appropriate coaching staff members.
- View a prospect's athletic contest, provided that you do not contact the prospect or his/her family, coaches, school principal, or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the academic or athletic abilities of the prospect.
- Speak to a prospect on the phone **ONLY** if the prospect initiates the call. The call cannot be arranged or initiated by UVA coaching staff members, and you may **NOT** have a recruiting conversation. You must refer all questions regarding the athletics program to coaching staff.
- Provide funding to benefit a local high school (in the area where the booster lives) athletics program, provided the booster acts independently of UVA, the funds are distributed through proper channels, and the funds are not earmarked for prospects.

A BOOSTER MAY NOT:

- Contact a prospect or his/her family by phone, text message, mail, email, chat room, instant message, video chat, or any social media site (e.g., Twitter, Facebook), etc. (unless he/she has signed a National Letter of Intent & approved by coaching staff).
- Assist UVA coaches by picking up transcripts, films, or any other information pertaining to a prospect's ability from the prospect's school.
- Engage/communicate with student-athletes from institutions other than UVA, for the purpose of recruiting.
- Provide a prospect or his/her family and friends with any benefits like clothing, special discounts, lodging, meals, transportation, tickets, or loans.
- Make contact with a prospect or his/her family when he/she is on Grounds for an official or unofficial visit.
- Provide transportation or arrange payment for transportation for a prospect or his/her family or friends to visit UVA Grounds.
- Earmark funds for specific prospects to attend UVA summer camps.
- Employ or arrange for employment of a prospect before the completion of his/her senior year in high school or official withdrawal/graduation from junior college or prep school. Also, you may only do so if the compensation is for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with experience; and the going rate for similar services in that locale.

Rules for Boosters Regarding Current STUDENT-ATHLETES

A BOOSTER MAY:

- Employ/arrange for the employment of current student-athletes during the academic year and summer if, and **ONLY** if:
 - The compensation does not place any value on the student-athlete's publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following due to his/her athletic ability.
 - Compensation is only for work actually performed.
 - Compensation is at a rate commensurate with the going rate for similar services in that locale.
 - The student-athlete contacts the UVA Athletics Compliance Office prior to beginning employment.

A BOOSTER MAY NOT:

- Pay for /arrange for payment of room, board, or any type of transportation **AT ANY TIME** for current student-athletes, their families, or friends.
- Provide student-athletes or their family/friends with any extra benefit (any benefit that is not available to the general student population at UVA).
- Provide student-athletes with any special discounts, payment arrangements, credits on purchases, or services.
- Provide awards or gifts to student-athletes for any reason. This also prohibits honorariums for speaking engagements.
- Entertain student-athletes or their family or friends. The only exception is the provision of an occasional meal for a student-athlete at the booster's home. You must first notify the appropriate coach and receive prior approval from the UVA Athletics Compliance Office.
- Involve student-athletes with the advertisement, recommendation or promotion of commercial products or services. There are certain instances where the student is permitted to be involved with charitable, education or nonprofit promotions.

If you have questions about material in this guide, or about any UVA, ACC, or NCAA rules, please contact the Athletics Compliance Office.

What happens if a booster violates NCAA rules?

Under NCAA rules, UVA is responsible for all actions of its boosters. Therefore, it is our responsibility to inform you of the consequences for violating the rules contained in this guide, and any other NCAA rules relating to boosters. Any individual, who has engaged in conduct that is determined either by UVA, the ACC, or the NCAA to be in violation of rules and results in the handling down of sanctions, can be subject to revocation of ticket privileges and disassociation from the institution.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is Institutional Control?

A: Institutional Control of the athletics program is a fundamental requirement of NCAA rules. It is the institution's responsibility for controlling its athletics program, monitoring its program and ensuring that members of the staff, student-athletes, and other individuals or groups representing the University's athletics interest comply with all NCAA rules.

Q: What extra benefits are prohibited for current student-athletes, prospects, their families and friends?

A: Prohibited extra benefits include, but are not limited to, the following: cash, loans, promise of employment after graduation, special discounts, employment of family/friends of the prospect, use of any type of vehicle, providing transportation to or from a summer job or other site, co-signing a loan, a loan or gift of money or any tangible item, free or reduced costs housing arrangements, entertainment costs on or off Grounds, educational expenses, camp fees.

Q: Can boosters contact prospects to encourage them to attend UVA?

A: No. Any such contact could result in the prospect being declared ineligible to participate for UVA athletics. Recruiting contact must only be made by countable coaches.

Q: Is it okay to email or post messages on a prospect's social networking page(s) (e.g., Twitter)?

A: No, unless he/she has signed a National Letter of Intent and it is approved by the coaching staff.

Q: May a booster attend a public event at which prospects are present (e.g., high school awards banquets)?

A: Yes, as long as you do not make contact with the prospect, or his/her family, and do not attempt to recruit him/her. The event must be open to the general public.

Q: Is it okay for a booster to reimburse the coach of a prospect for transportation expenses incurred while taking the prospect to visit a campus/UVA Grounds?

A: No. This is an extra benefit and may not be provided.

Q: Is it okay for a booster to provide transportation to or from Grounds or free admission to an athletics event (on or off Grounds) to prospects, their friends, or families?

A: No. This is an extra benefit and would jeopardize the prospect's eligibility; even if the prospect reimburses the cost of the transportation.

Q: Is it okay for a booster to entertain high school, preparatory, or junior college coaches at any location?

A: No. However, UVA may provide two (2) complimentary tickets to a coach for home athletics contests.

Q: Is it okay to donate money or fundraise to send a student-athlete's parents to an athletics contest?

A: No. This is an extra benefit and would jeopardize the student-athlete's eligibility.

Q: Is a prospect still considered a prospect even after he/she commits or signs a National Letter of Intent (NLI)?

A: Yes. A prospect remains a prospect even after committing to UVA and/or signing an NLI and continues to hold that status until he/she reports for regular squad practice, or until he/she attends classes full-time.

