

# NCAA Rules

## Quick Reference Guide

For Boosters, Alumni, Friends and  
Supporters of CSU Athletics



Colorado  
State  
University

*Prepared by the Department of Athletics  
Office of Compliance as an educational guide to  
NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association)  
rules and regulations*

April 2013

### Need additional information?

If you have questions concerning NCAA regulations,  
please direct your inquiries to:

#### Compliance Office

Colorado State University  
Department of Athletics  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-0120  
Phone: 970-491-6170  
Fax: 970-491-3226

Email: [ath\\_compliance@mail.colostate.edu](mailto:ath_compliance@mail.colostate.edu)

Or visit the Official Web site of the  
National Collegiate Athletic Association at  
[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)



### Are you a representative of athletics interests?

#### YES, if you...

- Have ever participated in or are currently a member of the Colorado State Ram Club or any organization promoting Colorado State's athletic programs including sport support clubs such as the Touchdown Club, Roundball Club, etc.
- Have ever made a donation to Colorado State's men's or women's athletic programs (including gifts of cash, goods or services);
- Have provided or are providing employment for student-athletes at the request of an Athletics Department staff member;
- Have ever participated as a student-athlete at Colorado State University;
- Have assisted or been requested to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes (e.g., former coach or faculty member); or
- Have otherwise been involved in promoting Colorado State's athletic programs.

Once an individual has been identified as a representative of athletics interests (booster), he/she retains that identity forever, even if the individual subsequently discontinues contributions to or involvement with the athletic programs.

Colorado State University is ultimately responsible for the acts of all "representatives of athletics interests" in relation to NCAA rules and regulations.

### What is an extra benefit?

An extra benefit is any special arrangement to provide student-athletes or prospective student-athletes or their family members, relatives or friends with a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation or not available to the institution's general student body.

### Who is a prospective student-athlete?

A prospective student-athlete (also referred to as a prospect or a recruit) is defined as any student who has started classes for the ninth grade regardless of whether or not the student participates in athletics. It is also possible for younger students to be considered prospects if they receive a benefit from the institution. Students attending two-year colleges are also considered prospects. A prospective student-athlete remains a prospect for purposes of NCAA legislation even after he/she signs a National Letter of Intent. Further, a student remains a prospect until he/she reports for regular squad practice or attends the first day of classes at Colorado State University.

### Your involvement with prospects

NCAA legislation prohibits representatives of athletics interests from being involved in any recruiting activities on or off the institution's campus. Only authorized institutional staff members may be involved in the recruiting process.

#### Legislation specifically prohibits:

- Any contact with a prospect or family member at any time whether in person, by mail, by telephone or by any electronic means, including social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter);
- Any contact with a prospect's coach, principal or counselor to gain information that would assist in evaluating the prospect either athletically or academically, including visiting the prospect's educational institution to pick up film or transcripts;
- Any involvement, directly or indirectly, in making arrangements for or giving any financial aid or benefits to a prospect or his/her family, relatives or friends (such as gifts, transportation, loans, employment, free or reduced rent or housing, etc.);

*Additional information continued on reverse side*

### Legislation specifically prohibits:

- Sending or providing anything to a prospect including letters, cards, newspaper clippings, game programs, post cards, e-mails, etc.;
- Any contact with enrolled student-athletes at other two-year or four-year colleges or universities for the purpose of exploring their interest in transferring to Colorado State University. If a student-athlete enrolled at another institution contacts you, do not discuss transfer with him/her. Refer him/her to the Athletics Department's Compliance Office.

### Limited contact is permissible, such as:

- Contacts made with a prospect who is an established family friend, relative or neighbor as long as the contact is not arranged by a Colorado State staff member and is not made for recruiting purposes;
- Casual contacts at Colorado State's athletic events, if incidental;
- An unavoidable, incidental contact with a prospect provided recruiting does not take place, only normal civility is involved and the contact is not pre-arranged;
- An unavoidable, incidental contact with a prospect provided recruiting does not take place, and only an exchange of greetings occurs
- Contacts about summer employment only after the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent; or, in the case of a junior college prospect, only after the prospect has graduated or officially left the junior college;
- Contact involved in a normal working relationship (i.e., booster who is a doctor or dentist who treats a prospect professionally) provided no recruiting is involved;
- Viewing a prospect's game at your own initiative (must not involve contact with the prospect)

## Your involvement with current student-athletes

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Representatives of athletics interests are limited in their involvement with enrolled student-athletes (students at Colorado State University who are members of any intercollegiate athletics team) and must be careful not to provide an extra benefit to a student-athlete that would render him/her ineligible for athletics participation. It is important to note that once a student-athlete, always a student-athlete. At no time can extra benefits be provided to current or former Colorado State student-athletes.

### Prohibited benefits for student-athletes or their family, relatives and friends specifically include:

- Room, board or transportation costs for friends or family of a student-athlete to visit campus or attend an away game;
- Loan of an automobile to a student-athlete for any reason or provision of any type of transportation (except in conjunction with an occasional home meal);
- Provision of free or reduced room and/or board for a student-athlete;
- Use of telephones or credit cards without charge or at a reduced rate;
- Cash or special discounts, payment arrangements or credit on purchases or services;
- Expenditure of funds to provide any type of entertainment;
- Provision of typing, photocopying or other services associated with school projects or reports;
- Loan of money in any amount including signing or co-signing a note to arrange a loan;
- Guarantee of bond;
- Provision of meals or services at commercial establishments;

- Tickets to athletic, university or community events (including professional sports contests);
- Use of personal property (ski condos, summer homes, cars, stereos, equipment, etc.);
- Gifts for Christmas, birthdays, weddings, graduations, etc.;
- Free or reduced-cost services or goods (dry-cleaning, movies, haircuts, legal fees, financial planning services, etc.);
- Serving as a "sponsor family" or "home-away-from-home family";
- Use of a student-athlete's name, picture or personal appearance to promote a commercial product, service or business;
- Honorariums for speaking engagements;
- Use of a student-athlete's name, picture or personal appearance to promote an educational or charitable cause without the express written permission of the Compliance Office.

### Permissible activities by representatives of athletics interests include:

**Student-Athlete Employment:** Representatives of athletics interests may employ a student-athlete provided

- Employment is approved in advance by the Athletics Department's Compliance Office;
- Payment is based on actual work performed;
- Rate of pay is comparable to the going rate for similar work;
- Student-athlete and employer sign a written statement before work begins agreeing to abide by NCAA employment regulations and earnings limitations.

**Hosting Meals:** Representatives of athletics interests may provide an occasional meal (including transportation) with advance approval from the Compliance Office to a student-athlete:

- In the representative's home or on campus at a facility that is regularly used for home competition;
- On an infrequent and special occasion (such as Thanksgiving or Christmas);
- Or at an away-from-home contest provided all team members are included.

### Speaking Engagements by Student-Athletes:

Representatives of athletics interests may invite a student-athlete to speak to a youth, educational or charitable group provided

- Appearance is approved in advance by the Athletics Department's Compliance Office;
- Student-athlete does not receive an honorarium;
- Student-athlete does not miss class.

## NCAA penalty

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In conformity with NCAA regulations, any individual who enters into an agreement with Colorado State University that results in a special athletics benefit or privilege may have that benefit or privilege withheld if the individual engages in any conduct that is determined to be in violation of NCAA regulations. In addition, representatives of athletics interests may be disassociated from any involvement with the University on a temporary or permanent basis for actions determined to be in violation of NCAA regulations.

## NCAA position on gambling

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The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. The NCAA has adopted specific rules prohibiting athletics department staff members and student-athletes from engaging in gambling activities related to intercollegiate and professional sporting events.