

NCAA Benefits Do's and Don'ts for APU Athletic Boosters, Alumni & Friends

Azusa Pacific University
Athletics Department

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The following provides Azusa Pacific alumni and friends with a basic understanding of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules and regulations for benefits to student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics program. While this does not include all applicable provisions, it does include the most common situations encountered by alumni and friends.

Compliance with NCAA rules is of the highest priority of the Azusa Pacific athletics program and institution. As a member of the NCAA, Azusa Pacific is responsible for the actions of its alumni and fans. If you have any question -- ask! Contact the Compliance Office or the Athletics Director at 626-815-5087.

Azusa Pacific is pleased to have the loyal support of and continued interest in its athletic programs by our alumni and friends. As we strive for excellence, we must always seek the highest standard of ethical conduct. With your assistance and cooperation, we believe we can accomplish both goals.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE *(NCAA Bylaw 6.01)*

Institutional Control of athletics is a fundamental requirement of NCAA Legislation. Specifically, the NCAA Constitution provides that each institution shall be responsible for:

- Controlling its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the NCAA.
- Monitoring its program to insure compliance, identifying and reporting to the NCAA any instances in which compliance has not been achieved and taking appropriate corrective actions.
- Insuring that members of the institution's staff, student-athletes and other individuals or groups representing the institutions athletics interests comply with NCAA rules.

REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTEREST *(NCAA Bylaw 13.02.10)*

A Representative of Athletics Interest -- commonly referred to as a booster -- is anyone who is known (or should be known) by a member of Azusa Pacific's executive or athletic administration to:

- Participate in or have been a member of a sport support group or booster club.
- Provide or have helped arrange employment for student-athletes.
- Have been involved in the promotion of Azusa Pacific's athletics program.
- Participated as a student-athlete at Azusa Pacific.
- Make or have made a donation to the Cougar athletic program and/or sport(s).

Once an individual is identified as a Representative of the Institution's Athletics Interest, the person retains that identity forever.

RULES GOVERNING RECRUITMENT OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES (NCAA Bylaw 13)

- A prospective student-athlete (PSA) is defined by the NCAA as any person who has begun classes in the ninth grade.
- A PSA remains a prospect even after he/she has signed a National Letter of Intent or accepts an offer of financial aid to attend Azusa Pacific.
- The prospect remains classified as a prospect until he/she reports for the first day of classes for a regular term (fall or spring), or participates in practice (whichever occurs first).
- Only coaches and athletic department staff members can be involved in the recruiting process off-campus.
- Representatives of an institution's athletic interests are prohibited from recruiting a prospective student-athlete.
- In general, all representatives of the institution's athletics interest who are not employed by Azusa Pacific are prohibited from contacting off-campus a prospect or prospect's family to encourage the prospect to participate in intercollegiate athletics at Azusa Pacific.
 - A contact is defined as any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect's parent or legal guardians during which time any dialogue in excess of an exchange of a greeting occurs.

As a representative of Azusa Pacific's athletics interest, for recruiting purposes:

You can ...

- ✓ Notify Azusa Pacific coaches about prospects in your area that may be strong additions to our teams.
- ✓ Attend as a fan high school or two-year college athletic contests or other events where prospects may compete; however, you may not contact the prospect or the prospect's relatives.
- ✓ Continue already existing friendships with families of prospects, but you may not attempt to recruit the prospect.

You cannot ...

- ✗ Contact a prospect (or their family member) in person on or off our campus (there are limited on-campus exceptions when the prospect is visiting).
- ✗ Write or telephone a prospect or a member of the prospect's family.
- ✗ Make arrangements for a prospect or the prospect's relatives or friends, to receive money or financial assistance of any kind.
- ✗ Provide transportation for a prospect or the prospect's relatives or friends to visit our campus.
- ✗ Provide free tickets or tickets at a reduced cost for prospects or the prospects relatives or friends to attend an athletic event.
- ✗ Take any action to encourage high school, prep school or community college coaches to direct their prospects to APU.

RULES GOVERNING CONTACTS AND BENEFITS FOR CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES

In addition to regulating contact of our representatives of athletics interest with prospects, the NCAA also regulates contacts representatives have with current Azusa Pacific student-athletes, as well as their relatives and friends.

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of athletics interest to provide a student-athlete, or their relatives or friends a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. In general, you may not provide a benefit that is not authorized by NCAA legislation or make special arrangements for student-athletes that are not available to the general student population.

As a representative of Azusa Pacific's athletics interest, for current Cougar student-athletes:

You can ...

- ✓ Invite a student-athlete into your home for an occasional meal, but please coordinate such activity with the athletics director and the respective head coach.
- ✓ Provide summer employment for enrolled student-athletes (see information regarding employment below).

You cannot ...

- ✗ Provide cash or loans in any amount, or sign or co-sign for a loan.
- ✗ Provide gifts of any kind, including birthday or holiday cards/gifts.
- ✗ Provide special discounts for goods and services (e.g. car repairs, legal services, meals).
- ✗ Provide free rent or reduced rent, or any type of housing.
- ✗ Purchase complimentary admissions from a student-athlete.
- ✗ Provide an honorarium to a student-athlete for a speaking engagement.

(Note: even the offer of such benefit, even if not accepted, is considered a violation.)

RULES GOVERNING STUDENT-ATHLETE EMPLOYMENT

Student-athletes are permitted to be employed at any time of year, as long as the employment does not interfere with their academic or athletic commitments.

The following rules are applicable to student-athlete employment:

- The student-athlete is compensated only for work actually performed at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services.
- The student-athlete must be treated as any other employee performing the same job. For example, the student-athlete may not be provided with transportation to the job site unless transportation is provided for other employees.
- The student-athlete has not been hired based on his or her athletics ability, reputation, or public recognition that might result in increased business for the employer.

RULES GOVERNING PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

All charitable, educational, and nonprofit promotional activities involving student-athletes must have prior approval from the Athletics Director. Student-athletes are not permitted to be involved in the advertisement, recommendation, or promotion of sales or use of a commercial product or service of any kind.

RULES GOVERNING AGENTS AND AMATEURISM

A student-athlete loses his/her amateur status and shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if:

- The student-athlete or family member negotiates, signs, or enters into any written or oral agreement with an agent.
- The student-athlete or family member accepts or receives any extra benefits from an agent or anyone who wishes to represent the student-athlete.
- The student-athlete competes with a professional sports team or competes as a professional in an individual sport and receives any compensation for participation.
- The student-athlete uses his or her skills for pay or promise of pay.

RULES GOVERNING GAMBLING *(NCAA Bylaw 10.3)*

A student-athlete, coach and/or employee of the Azusa Pacific Athletic Department may not provide information to individuals involved in any type of organized gambling concerning sporting events. In addition, student-athletes, coaches and staff of the Azusa Pacific Athletics Department may not solicit or accept any wager on any intercollegiate or professional athletics contest. These rules also prohibit their participation in such activities as "Final Four" office pools or Fantasy Leagues if there is a fee to participate and/or the possibility of receipt of a prize.

Consequences to Boosters for NCAA Violations

Institutions are required by the NCAA to notify those with athletics interests of consequences regarding rules violations. Anyone found in violation of NCAA rules is subject to losing benefits and privileges. The NCAA Committee on Infractions has processed cases in which penalties have included loss of privileges and in some cases the disassociation from the institution.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can an athletics representative be involved in any way when a prospect is on an official or unofficial visit to our campus?

A: Yes, in limited circumstances. The Athletics Representative may have contact only on campus during the student's official or unofficial visit to campus and only on campus property. Off-campus contact is prohibited.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to provide summer employment for student-athletes?

A: Yes. Please remember that compensation must be paid only for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services. Refer to the section titled Rules Governing Student-Athlete Employment.

Q: May a student-athlete's name or picture be used to directly or indirectly advertise, recommend, or promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service?

A: No. Such activity would jeopardize the eligibility of the student-athlete. The NCAA membership has always maintained that student-athletes may not be involved in the promotion of a commercial product. Their involvement in the promotion of charitable or non-profit activities or organizations is permissible, however, within stipulated guidelines and limitations.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to reimburse a coach for expenses incurred in transporting a prospect to visit the campus?

A: No.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to pay in whole, or in part, registration fees associated with a prospect's attendance at sport camps or clinics?

A: No.

Q: Is the rule prohibiting off-campus contact with prospects or their family members applicable to an athletics representative established family, friends, and neighbors?

A: No. However, it must be understood that such contacts may not be made for recruiting purposes and are not initiated by a member of the institution's coaching staff.

Q: May an athletics representative attend a public event (e.g., high school awards banquet or dinner) at which prospects are in attendance?

A: Yes. Please remember that contact with a prospect may not be prearranged by an athletics department staff member, and no attempt may be made to recruit the prospect.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to provide enrolled student-athletes a home-cooked meal?

A: Yes. Provided it is on an "occasional" basis and any such meal is not at a restaurant. Please note: All such occasional meals must be requested and receive prior approval from the athletics department.

Q: Is Azusa Pacific responsible for the acts of support groups?

A: Yes. Support Groups (aka boosters) are governed by the same NCAA and institutional rules and regulations as those placed upon all institutional athletics staff members.

Q: When is a prospect considered a student-athlete?

A: A prospect is considered a student-athlete when he or she reports for regular squad practice or attends classes in any term at the college as a full-time student.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to provide an enrolled student-athlete with professional services free of charge or at a reduced rate (for which a fee would normally be charged) for personal reasons?

A: No. Professional services provided at a fee less than the normal rate or at no expense to a student-athlete are considered extra benefits.

Q: May a student-athlete make a public appearance at a business establishment for any purpose such as signing autographs etc.?

A: No. Such appearances can be construed as a direct or indirect endorsement of the commercial establishment, thus jeopardizing the eligibility of the student-athlete. It should be noted that student-athletes may make appearances at schools, hospitals, or other nonprofit or charitable organizations provided they do not receive compensation (other than expenses) and such activities are approved in advance by the athletics department.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to provide gifts or awards to a student-athlete for his or her athletics performance?

A: No. All awards must conform to NCAA awards legislation and must be approved by Azusa Pacific.