

Jaguar Athletics Club

Compliance Newsletter

VOLUME 3; ISSUE 1

FALL 2014—SPRING 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Am I A Booster?
- Who Are Prospects?
- What Am I Allowed to Do to Help IUPUI?
- Booster FAQs
- Compliance Contact Info

Booster Basics

The sports page is nearly always littered with articles about alleged NCAA infractions. Many of the allegations involve “representatives of athletics interests” (commonly called “boosters”) and their alleged involvement with prospective student-athletes (“prospects” or “PSAs”) and/or enrolled student-athletes.

It’s very likely that if you’re reading this newsletter, you’re an IUPUI “booster.” Boosters are **individuals, businesses, or organizations** who: (1) promote or are members of an organization that promotes IUPUI’s athletic programs; (2) have made financial contributions to the athletics department or a related booster organization; (3) assist or have assisted in recruiting prospects; (4) provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families (e.g., someone who employs a student-athlete or his/her parents); or (5) have otherwise been involved in promoting IUPUI Athletics (e.g., local business that purchases advertising space). Once an individual or entity becomes a booster, he/she/it retains that status forever. **NCAA rules hold IUPUI accountable for the actions of our boosters.** In other words, any NCAA violation committed by a booster is charged against IUPUI, including all associated penalties. IUPUI Compliance is here to help... please **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!**

Social Media in Today’s Recruiting World

When a booster injects himself/herself into the recruiting process, NCAA penalties can result. This is true even if the recruiting contact seems innocent, like sending a message to a prospect on Twitter or encouraging him or her on Facebook. Regardless of the medium, NCAA rules explicitly prohibit all IUPUI related communication between prospects and boosters. **Please leave recruiting to our coaches, even online.**

BOOSTER BASICS

Permissible Activities

- Receive phone calls, emails, and other communication with prospective student-athletes, provided the prospect initiated the communication and it is not for recruiting purposes.
 - The communication cannot be pre-arranged by an institutional staff member or another booster.
 - All questions regarding IUPUI must be referred to the appropriate Athletics staff member.
- Attend high school, community college or other events where prospects compete, as long as they do not make contact with prospects or their family members with a recruiting purpose.
- Inform IUPUI coaches of prospects by sending the coach newspaper clippings, web articles or other information regarding the prospect.
- Continue to maintain contact with student-athletes, prospective student-athletes and their families with whom the booster has a *verifiable pre-existing relationship dating prior to the student's status as a prospect*.
 - The booster still may not have recruiting conversations with the prospect.
 - All questions regarding IUPUI must be referred to the appropriate Athletics staff member.
- Continue involvement with local youth sports teams that may include prospects, provided the booster does not attempt to recruit a prospect through his/her involvement with the local sports teams.
- Employ prospects, provided the prospect applied and was hired through normal employment procedures and employment is not arranged by IUPUI. Any compensation is for work actually performed and commensurate with the going rate in the area. "Special benefits" like advance paychecks or transportation to work are impermissible.

Examples of Impermissible Activities

- Contacting prospects or their family, either in-person, by telephone, in writing or social media.
- Encouraging prospective student-athletes with whom you have a verifiable, pre-existing relationship to commit to or attend IUPUI.
- Contacting a prospect's coach, principal, academic counselor, or mentor for recruiting purposes.
- Providing or arranging for the provision of any type of benefit (e.g. money, employment, services, items, discounts) unless the benefit is readily available on a basis unrelated to athletics.
- Obtaining film/videotape or transcripts from a prospect's educational institution in an effort to evaluate the prospect's athletic ability or academic eligibility.
- Buying a tickets from someone on "the pass list" to an IUPUI athletic event.
- Employing or arranging for the employment of a prospect before the completion of the prospect's senior year of high school simply because the student is a prospect. This also applies to providing jobs to family members and friends of prospective student-athletes.

As always, please remember to ASK BEFORE YOU ACT if you have questions!

BOOSTER BASICS:

What about Current Student-Athletes?

Q: I own a local business. Can I employ a student-athlete?

A: Yes, provided the student-athlete is paid only for work actually performed at a rate commensurate with the going rate in the area. Any benefits provided must be identical to those provided to other employees. Student-athletes may not be hired or paid because of the value that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the student-athlete's reputation or fame that he or she has obtained because of his or her athletic ability. Further, employers may not use student-athletes in any form of advertisements. As the employer of a student-athlete, you will receive specialized compliance education from IUPUI Athletics.

Q: Can I provide a meal to my favorite IUPUI team?

A: Yes. Boosters are permitted to provide an "occasional meal" to student-athletes on an infrequent and/or special occasion. The meal must be provided in a private residence, on campus, or at a facility regularly used for home competition. The meal may be catered, and reasonable local transportation may be provided for the student-athletes to attend if it is at a booster's residence. Any "occasional" meal provided to student-athletes must be approved in advance by the Office of Athletics Compliance.

Q: Can I provide an item, service, or discount to a student-athlete in need?

A: Boosters may not provide services, products, or discounts to student-athletes unless the service, product, or discount is regularly available to others based on criteria unrelated to athletics. Examples of impermissible benefits include legal advice, access to vehicles, special financing, the use of cell phones, access to entertainment venues, free meals and beverages, and discounted athletic apparel. This extends to "innocent" small benefits like a cup of coffee, sandwich, or a ride to the airport. When in doubt, call Athletic Compliance or don't do it.

Q: I own a workout facility, and it'd be great to get some athletes in there. Can I give them access?

A: Only if the student-athletes pay for the access at the regular rate. Further, you are not permitted to advertise them as members or publicize their workouts.

Q: I live near an institution that IUPUI plays against frequently. Can I take the team out for dinner?

A: In general, boosters may not provide student-athletes a meal at a restaurant. However, boosters outside the Indianapolis area may provide student-athletes with an occasional meal at their home. Parents of current student-athletes may also provide meals to their child's team at any time, in any location.

Q: I have an item I'd like to donate to my favorite IUPUI team. Can I give it to a student-athlete?

A: Please donate any item directly to the Athletic Department. Giving items, even items like goody bags before a championship, may constitute a violation if the item is given directly to the student-athlete. However, it's very likely that NCAA rules allow institutions the flexibility to provide a donated item to student-athletes, provided the donation goes through the department first.

Q: I live near the location of the next Summit League Championship. Can I provide lodging to the families of student-athletes who are competing?

R: No. Even if you are a parent of a student-athlete, it is impermissible to provide lodging to the families of other student-athletes unless you have a verifiable pre-existing relationship that began prior to your children entering 9th grade (7th grade in men's basketball).

Q: I am a professor on campus. Can I provide tutoring to a student-athlete?

A: Yes, but only with prior approval from the Associate Athletics Director for Academics, who can further instruct you on NCAA legislation related to tutoring student-athletes.



IUPUI Athletic Compliance Office

Karen Metzger and Jared Chasey

Phone: 317-278-4110

Fax: 317-274-0505

E-mail: metzgerk@iupui.edu or

jchasey@iupui.edu

ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!!!!

Who is a Prospect?

A prospective student-athlete is ANY student who has started classes for the ninth grade or above (seventh grade for men's basketball), including students in prep schools and junior colleges as well as students who have officially withdrawn from a four-year institution and plan to transfer to another collegiate institution. This status continues until the student triggers initial enrollment at a four-year institution, or until the individual does not have collegiate eligibility remaining. In addition, students who have not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution or a booster provides the individual or the individual's relatives or friends with any financial assistance or benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students in general.

A good rule of thumb is to treat **ALL STUDENTS** as prospects.

What Happens if I Know of a Violation?

Please contact the Athletics Compliance Department as soon as possible. If you wish to remain anonymous, you may contact the Athletics Compliance Department without giving a name, or provide the information through the IU Anonymous Reporting system. (https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/en/report_custom.asp?clientid=17361). The Athletics Compliance Department will review the information and process it as necessary. It's always better to report potential violations in advance or as soon as possible after they occur.

Remember... it's always best to **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!**