



**National Collegiate Athletic Association**  
**P.O. Box 6222**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222**  
**(317) 917-6222**

Thank you for caring about ISU 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 ISU's Athletics program.

If you become aware of any violation or potential violation of NCAA rules, or if you have any questions about what you may and may not do, please contact us.

**ISU Compliance Office**  
**Arena, Room 110C**  
**Terre Haute, IN 47809**  
**(812) 237-4086**

Additional information is available at:

[www.gosycamores.com](http://www.gosycamores.com)  
[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)  
[www.mvc-sports.com](http://www.mvc-sports.com)



## **PLAYING BY THE RULES**

### *A Guide to NCAA Rules for Alumni and Friends of Sycamore Athletics*



Dear Alumni & Friends,

Indiana State University is proud of its great tradition in intercollegiate athletics. We are committed to achieving in and out of the classroom while abiding by all National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules.

Our athletic program would not be where it is today without the support of loyal alumni and friends like you. Your support is equally important to our compliance effort. As an NCAA member, ISU is responsible for the actions of those whom the NCAA considers "representatives of its athletics interests," traditionally known as boosters.

This guide provides basic information concerning the NCAA rules that apply to future and current student athletes. By assisting ISU in rules compliance, you are helping preserve the integrity of Sycamore Athletics, and protecting the athletic eligibility of our student-athletes. Indeed, if a well-meaning but misguided fan or booster commits a violation, ISU will be held responsible, and the consequences can be severe for not only a recruit and a student athlete, but ISU athletics in general.

Please review the guide and share the information with others who support Sycamore Athletics. The scope and complexity of NCAA rules preclude us from addressing every possible situation in a short guide like this. Contact the Compliance Office with questions.

The University appreciates alumni and friends who strive for the highest level of ethical conduct while supporting the goals of academic and athletic excellence for our student-athletes.

Sincerely,

Ron Prettyman, Director of Athletics

## ***Are You a Representative of ISU's Athletic Interests?***

You are a representative of ISU's athletics interests (commonly known as a "booster") if you have made a donation to the ISU Athletic Department, have ever been a member of a booster organization associated with ISU Athletics, or you have been involved in any way with promoting ISU's athletic programs. Once an individual is identified as an Athletics Representative, the person retains that status forever!

## ***Who is a Prospect?***

A prospect is a student in the ninth grade and above, including students in prep schools, junior colleges, and individuals who have officially withdrawn from four-year schools. In addition, a student who has not yet started ninth grade may become a prospect if ISU or a booster provides the student, or the student's relatives or friends, with financial assistance or benefits not generally provided to other students. An individual remains a prospect until they enroll at ISU full time during the regular academic year (i.e., fall or spring), even if the individual signed a National Letter of Intent.

## ***What is Recruiting?***

Recruiting is any solicitation of a prospect or the prospect's parent/legal guardian by a University staff member for the purpose of securing the prospect's enrollment at ISU and/or participation in ISU's intercollegiate athletics program. Recruiting activities include correspondence, e-mail, faxes, telephone conversations and in-person contacts (both on and off campus).

## ***Who May Recruit?***

Only coaches and Athletic Department staff may be involved in the recruiting process. Boosters cannot engage in recruiting activities. You may not have any contact (i.e., in-person encounter, telephone call, correspondence) with a prospect or the prospect's family, on or off campus. If a prospect approaches you regarding ISU, explain that NCAA rules prevent you from discussing ISU with prospects. This prohibition also applies to prospects making official or unofficial visits to ISU.

You may not contact a prospect's coach, principal or counselor for the purpose of evaluating a prospect's athletic ability or academic record.

You may not talk to a student-athlete at another institution for the purpose of encouraging him or her to transfer to ISU.

## ***What May Boosters Do?***

You may continue to have contact with an established family friend or neighbor who is a prospect. However, such contact may not be for recruiting purposes and may not be initiated by a ISU coaching staff member.

You may bring outstanding prospects to the attention of the ISU coaching staffs. However, you may not be involved in the actual evaluation of talent. All evaluations and contacts are the sole responsibility of the ISU coaching staff.

## ***Common Questions***

Q: The son or daughter of an old friend is being actively recruited by a ISU coach. Do I have to stop having any contact with the prospect and his or her parents?

A: No, you may continue to enjoy the same relationship with the family that you had before. You may not, however, use your relationship to urge that the son or daughter choose ISU, and you may not allow a coach to enlist you in the recruitment process.

Q: What should I do if I encounter a prospect at an ISU athletic event or while watching my son or daughter's high school athletic contest?

A: The NCAA rules prohibit boosters from having in-person contacts with prospects. However, the rules recognize that a booster may inadvertently (without prearrangement) come into contact with a prospect. In this situation, the booster may exchange polite greetings with the prospect, but must then terminate the encounter. The exception DOES NOT apply if the contact occurs at the prospect's school, or at a site where the prospect is competing. In these circumstances, NO contact of any kind is permitted.

Q: May I attend a public event – for example, a community picnic or a high school banquet or awards dinner – if prospects are also in attendance?

A: Yes, you may. However, you may not have any contact with prospects.

## ***Two Reminders:***

1. Please contact the Compliance Office for NCAA rules interpretations.

2. Remember that in most cases: **CONTACT IS PROHIBITED**

## ***Extra Benefits***

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a booster to provide a prospective or current student-athlete (or a student-athlete's relative or friend) a benefit that is not generally available to the public or other ISU students or, is not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Any inappropriate, even inadvertent activity could result in:

- Declaring a prospective or current student-athlete ineligible to participate for ISU.
- Sanctions placed on the University and its athletics programs.
- Restrictions placed upon your involvement with ISU's athletics program.

## ***Examples of Extra Benefits:***

- Anything from an ISU employee or athletics booster (e.g., use of a car, clothing, gifts, money, tickets for any kind of entertainment, payment of long distance telephone calls).
- Free or reduced cost room and/or board or professional services. This includes in Indiana, in the student-athlete's home city or any other location.
- Arranging, providing or co-signing a loan.

## ***What May You Do for Current Student-Athletes?***

- Employ a student-athlete, as long as the individual is paid only for work performed and at the going rate in that locale for similar services.
- If you live within a 30-mile radius of ISU's main campus, you may provide an occasional meal to a student-athlete or a team *at your home*. You **MUST** consult with the student-athlete's coach before arranging any such meal.