

ARE YOU A BOOSTER?

Most commonly known as a booster, in the eyes of the NCAA, you are considered a "Representative of Athletics Interest" if you have done the following:

- Made financial contributions to UNF Athletics or any athletics booster organization (i.e. Osprey Club)
- Are a previous or current season ticket holder for any sport
- Participated in promoting UNF Athletics
- Helped arrange employment for UNF student-athletes
- Assisted or been requested to assist in recruiting prospects

Boosters or "Representatives of Athletics Interests" fall in one or more of the following categories:

- Individuals
- Corporate Entities
- Other Organizations

BOOSTER STATUS

Once your status as a booster becomes established, you retain that status forever regardless of when your last contribution was made.

Notice to Persons with Disabilities:

Information in this document can be provided in alternative formats upon request with advance notice. Please call our office at (904) 620-2819, or the Disability Resource Center at (904) 620-2870, or call via Florida Relay at 711 (TTY, ASCII, Voice, VCO-Direct, STS).



ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!

Due to the complexity of the rules, this brochure should not be relied upon exclusively. Compliance with the NCAA and the Atlantic Sun Conference is of the highest priority to the University of North Florida. If you have any questions, please contact the UNF Compliance staff.

REPORTING A VIOLATION

If you become aware of any rules violations, you should contact the UNF Compliance Office or the Director of Athletics and report the information pertinent to the violation.

UNF COMPLIANCE STAFF



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NCAA RULES

A QUICK GUIDE FOR
ALUMNI,
OSPREY CLUB MEMBERS,
FANS AND FRIENDS
OF UNF ATHLETICS



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE
1 UNF DRIVE
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32224

Dear Supporter:

Thank you for your support and interest in University of North Florida athletics. We are proud of our student-athletes, coaches, programs and the tradition of success we have developed over the years. The support of individuals like you plays a huge role in this success and we cannot thank you enough for all you do for Osprey Athletics. Since you are heavily involved in the Osprey community, it is vital that you also comply with the NCAA rules.

The purpose of this guide is to request your cooperation and understanding on a matter of great importance. As you are likely aware, many college and university athletic programs have encountered difficulty through well-meaning actions of supporters and boosters since they are not under the supervision of an institution, yet are bound by the NCAA rules, it can be difficult to manage all booster activities.

NCAA Bylaw 13.01.2 prohibits anyone representing UNF, other than appropriate coaching personnel, from recruiting a prospect or the prospect's relatives or legal guardians. Any violation of this rule (or rules against providing transportation, entertainment, meals or anything else of material value to enrolled student-athletes or their family members), regardless of his/her intentions, may affect the continued eligibility of the student and may result in our athletics program being penalized by the NCAA.

We respectfully request that you please do not make any recruiting contact with prospective student athletes at any time. If you know of a prospect, please inform the appropriate head coach, who would then be responsible for any contact with the prospect. Should you have any questions about what you may or may not do, please contact the Athletic Compliance Office. Remember to please "Ask Before You Act."

We want and need your support, but also need your cooperation to ensure full compliance with NCAA rules. Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Delaney".

John A. Delaney
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Moon".

Lee Moon
Director of Athletics

VIOLETIONS OF NCAA RULES BY ANY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE MAY NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY FOR CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

NCAA Bylaw 6.4.2.1 permits UNF athletics to withhold any benefit or privilege associated with the athletic department (i.e. booster clubs, ticket or parking privileges, etc.) from individuals who are involved in any NCAA rules violation

BOOSTER INTERACTIONS

CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES

An enrolled student-athlete is any student who is enrolled at the University of North Florida and who is presently participating on an athletics team or has completed his/her eligibility but is still enrolled at the university.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Any student-athlete who has started classes for the ninth grade for most sports and started the seventh grade for men’s basketball is considered a prospective student-athlete. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if they, or their relatives, are provided with any financial assistance or other benefits from UNF. An individual remains a prospective student-athlete until they either enroll and attend classes, or practice with a UNF athletic team before the beginning of any term.

Prospective student-athletes includes junior college student-athletes as well as high school students who do no play a varsity sport.

THE SIGNING OF A NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT DOES NOT REMOVE THE STUDENT FROM PROSPECTIVE STATUS!

PRE-EXISTING RELATIONSHIP

Boosters are permitted to maintain a pre-exisiting relationship with prospective student-athletes and his/her family, provided the booster refrains from any form of recruitment.

RECRUITING

Only UNF coaches may be involved in the recruiting process. Boosters **MAY NOT** make any recruiting contacts. This includes:

- 👉 Phone call
- 👉 Text message
- 👉 Email
- 👉 Instant messaging
- 👉 Message Boards
- 👉 Chat rooms

Social media should not be used to directly or indirectly contact a prospect, the prospect’s parent, guardian, or the prospect’s coach.

Please feel free to send UNF coaches any information on talented prospects. They will then make contact with the prospect.

EXTRA BENEFITS

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by a UNF representative to provide a prospect, a current student-athlete or their relatives or friends a benefit not authorized by the NCAA.

The following are **SOME** (but not all) examples of prohibited extra benefits:

- 👉 Cash or loans in any amount
- 👉 Gifts of any kind of value (birthday, holiday) **OR** free services (haircut, etc.)
- 👉 Special discounts for goods or services
- 👉 Use of vehicles
- 👉 Entertain/contact a prospect or his/her family on or off campus
- 👉 Free or reduced cost housing
- 👉 Financial assistance for post-graduate education

A BOOSTER MAY...

- 👉 Notify the UNF coaching staff of outstanding prospects in your area
- 👉 Observe a prospect’s contest, provided there is no contact with the prospect or the prospect’s parents and/or relatives
- 👉 Continue to have normal contact with any neighbor or relative, or family friend that might be a high school prospect so long as you do not engage in the recruiting process
- 👉 Provide an occasional meal to current student-athletes provided that the meal is in your home or on campus. The meal may be catered.
- 👉 Accept a phone call from a prospect, as long as the prospect initiates the call. All questions regarding UNF Athletics should be directed back to a member of the athletics staff

A BOOSTER MAY NOT...

- 👉 Make recruiting contact with a high school or junior college prospect, his/her parents or legal guardians
- 👉 Contact a coach, principal, and/or counselor, to evaluate a high school prospect
- 👉 Visit a high school prospect’s school to pick up a transcript or video to evaluate the prospect’s academic or athletic ability or provide to an athletics department staff member
- 👉 Provide extra benefits to prospective or current student-athletes, their relatives, or friends
- 👉 Use a student-athlete’s name, picture, or appearance to promote sales or advertise the use of a commercial product or service

FAQs

Q. As a booster, if I attend a prospect’s athletic event, may I talk to the prospect’s coach after the event?
A. No. A booster may not contact the coach, the prospect or family members, the principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate or recruit a prospect.

Q. What if a booster attends an athletic event and finds himself/herself sitting next to the parents or relatives of the prospect?
A. A booster may not initiate conversations with relatives of a prospective student-athlete. If conversation is initiated by the relatives, the booster may respond in a friendly and civil manner but may not discuss the UNF athletics program.

Q. Do contact rules for prospective student-athletes apply to family friends or neighbors?
A. A booster may continue to have contact with family friends or neighbors who are prospective student athletes as long as such contacts are not made for recruiting purposes and are not arranged by UNF athletics staff.

Q. May a booster employ an enrolled student-athlete?
A. Boosters may employ enrolled student-athletes as long as they comply with NCAA employment guidelines. The NCAA requires that athlete’s earnings must not be based off their reputation as an athlete, must be for work actually performed, and must be at the going rate for similar services. Boosters interested in employing enrolled student-athletes should first contact the UNF compliance office.

Q. May a booster employ a prospective student-athlete?
A. After a prospective student-athlete has signed a National Letter of Intent, a booster may contact the prospect regarding permissible employment arrangements prior to his/her enrollment at UNF. This employment may not begin until after the prospect has graduated from high school. If you are interested in employing prospective student-athletes, you must first contact the UNF compliance office.