

## NCAA COMPLIANCE INFORMATION DONORS/PSC MEMBERS

### INTERACTION WITH PROSPECTS

The NCAA defines a “prospective student-athlete” (i.e., prospect) as any student who has either begun classes in the ninth grade or who has accepted benefits from a booster. This definition includes junior college student-athletes as well as high school students who don’t play a varsity sport.

#### 1. No Contact with Prospects or their Families:

Boosters may not have ANY contact with prospects or their families, including (but not limited to):

- Calling a prospect or a family member of a prospect.
- Writing to a prospect or a family member of a prospect.
- Sending a text message to a prospect or a family member of a prospect.
- Having any pre-arranged face-to-face contact with a prospect or a prospect’s family, including wishing good luck or congratulations at games.
- Admitting a prospect or a family member of a prospect to a booster club function.

#### 2. Social Media:

Boosters may not engage prospects on social media. This prohibition includes posting a message on a prospect’s “wall,” “liking” or “favoriting” a prospect’s post/tweet, replying to or “retweeting” a prospect’s “tweet,” sending a direct message to a prospect, and any other means of communicating with a prospect via social media.

#### 3. Attending Competitions:

Boosters may attend high school and junior college competitions provided no contact with prospects or the families of prospects occurs. Additionally, while boosters are permitted to notify our coaches about talented prospects in the area, it is not permissible for boosters to attend high school and junior college competitions at the direction of UNI coaches.

#### 4. Summer Employment of Prospects:

Boosters are permitted to employ incoming prospects, provided the prospect has graduated from high school. The prospect must be paid at the going rate for similar jobs in the area and may only be compensated for work actually performed. Boosters may not provide a prospect free transportation to and from a summer job unless it is an established policy to do so for all employees.

### INTERACTION WITH CURRENT UNI STUDENT-ATHLETES

A prospect becomes a student-athlete on the first day of practice activities with their team or the date of initial collegiate enrollment at a four-year institution, whichever comes first. This triggers a different set of rules pertaining to booster interactions.

#### 1. Employing Student-Athletes:

Boosters may employ a student-athlete provided the student-athlete is paid the going-rate for work actually performed. The student-athlete’s compensation may not include any remuneration for value

or utility the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that he or she obtained because of athletics ability. Providing transportation to work is prohibited unless such transportation is provided to all other employees. The student-athlete may not be involved in any advertisements for the business. Please contact the Compliance Office with any questions regarding employment of student-athletes.

#### 2. Student-Athletes Attending Booster Club Functions:

Student-athletes are permitted to attend booster club functions, provided the activity occurs within 100 miles of campus, no awards are presented to the student-athletes, and the activity is pre-approved by the coaching staff and compliance office. Student-athletes may not be compensated for attending or speaking at such a function.

#### 3. Occasional Meals:

Boosters are allowed to provide an “occasional meal” on infrequent and special occasions to current student-athletes as long as they contact the appropriate UNI coach before the meal and an approval form is completed. The meal may only be provided at the booster’s home, on-campus or at a facility regularly used for home competition. It is not permissible to take a student-athlete out to eat at a restaurant.

#### 4. Autographs:

It is permissible for a booster to ask a student-athlete for an autograph, provided nothing is offered in exchange for the

autograph and the autograph is not displayed in the booster’s place of business.

#### 5. Speaking Fees for Student-Athlete Appearances:

A student-athlete may make promotional appearances at institutional, charitable, educational or non-profit agency events. However, the student-athlete may not receive any type of honorarium for making such appearances; he or she may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and meal expenses only. The charitable, educational or non-profit agency should contact the student-athlete’s coach to make the promotional request, and the coach will seek approval from the Athletic Compliance Office.

### PROHIBITION OF “EXTRA BENEFITS”

Boosters are not permitted to provide enrolled student-athletes and prospective student-athletes, or their relatives/friends, with any “extra benefits.” The NCAA defines an “extra benefit” as any special arrangement which is not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. The following are some (but not all) examples of items considered to be “extra benefits” and thus may not be provided to student-athletes:

- Providing cash or loans in any amount or signing/co-signing for a loan.
- Giving gifts of any kind, including birthday/holiday gifts and “get-well soon” cards.
- Offering free or reduced-cost services such as car repairs, haircuts, dental work, etc.
- Providing the use of an automobile, as well as a ride anywhere.

- Offering free or reduced-cost rent or housing.
- Giving tickets to athletic or community events, even if you received the tickets for free.
- Employing relatives or friends of a prospective student-athlete as an inducement to attend the UNI.
- Providing course supplies, typing or copying costs.
- Entertaining a prospect or enrolled student-athlete or their friends and families.

### PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY BOOSTERS

Under NCAA Bylaw 6.4.2.1, the University of Northern Iowa reserves the right to withhold any benefit or privilege associated with the athletics department from individuals who are involved in an NCAA rules violation, including disassociation from the athletic department or revocation of booster club memberships and ticket privileges.

#### Reporting NCAA Violations:

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

Contact the Athletic Compliance Office at 319-273-6027

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** If a UNI booster is attending a high school game, is it permissible for the booster to discuss recruiting matters with the parents of a prospect as long as the booster refrains from mentioning UNI during the conversation.

**A:** No, this is impermissible. Boosters are prohibited from having any interaction with the parents of prospects other than inadvertent contact, and having any discussion related to recruitment would clearly be in violation of this rule.

**Q:** May booster club members pay to travel on a team charter flight to an away contest?

**A:** Yes, this is permissible.

**Q:** Is it permissible for a booster to send a prospect the link to the booster club’s website to show the prospect how much support the team receives in the community as long as the booster focuses on the details of the booster club and not the university?

**A:** No, this is impermissible. Boosters may not send anything to prospects.

**Q:** A booster owns a local restaurant and wants to pick up the tab when a UNI coach brings in prospects on a recruiting weekend. Is this permissible?

**A:** No. The booster may not directly cover the cost of the meal. The booster may, however, make a donation to the program to cover the cost of recruiting meals.

**Q:** May a booster serve as a “sponsor” or “family” to an international student-athlete attending UNI who is from the booster’s home country?

**A:** No. Individuals or families may not serve as sponsors for any student-athlete. This would be considered an “extra benefit” to the student-athlete.