FIVE BASIC RULES TO REMEMBER

1. Do not provide anything for a prospective student-athlete, or an enrolled student-athlete, without permission from Kent State University Athletic Department.

2. Only coaches and Kent State University Athletic Department staff members may begin recruiting in the recruiting process. Alumni, friends and other athletic representatives who are not employed by the institution may not contact any prospect (or his/her family or guardian) via written correspondence, telephone, or in-person (either on- or off-campus) for the purpose of soliciting their enrollment and ultimately their participation in the institution and its Intercollegiate Athletic Program.

3. A prospective student-athlete remains a prospective student-athlete until he/she enrolls (e.g., begins classes) full-time at Kent State University, or until he/she begins official team practice immediately prior to the start of classes—even if the prospect signs a national letter of intent or other commitment to attend the University.

4. An enrolled student-athlete risks losing his/her athletic eligibility if he/she accepts any benefit based on his/her athletic skill, or a benefit not generally afforded to other students.

5. NCAA rules applicable to enrolled student-athletes are not only applicable during the academic year, but are also applicable during the summer months. Enrolled student-athletes are bound by NCAA rules until the end of the academic year in which their athletic eligibility is completed. And, even then, some actions, including providing a benefit to such an individual, may cause an NCAA violation.

ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

Extra Benefits to Enrolled Student-Athletes
An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or athletics representative to provide a student-athlete (or his/her relatives, guardians or friends) a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by a student-athlete (his/her relatives, guardians or friends) is not considered a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution’s students (or relatives, guardians or friends) not on a basis related to athletic ability. Extra benefits include, but are not limited to the following:

a. Cash or loans in any amount;
b. Co-signing or arranging a loan;
c. Gifts or free services (for example: airline tickets, cash, restaurant meals, summer storage space);
d. Use of an automobile;
e. Rent-free or reduced-cost housing;
f. Money for, or guarantee of, bail or bond;
g. Employment of a student-athlete at a higher rate than wages paid for similar work;
h. Payment to a student-athlete for work not performed;
i. Transportation (aside from transportation related to an occasional home meal);
j. Tickets to an athletics, institutional or community event;
k. Financial aid for a post-graduate education;
l. Promise of employment after college graduation;
m. Invitations to your home or summer home for the purposes other than an occasional meal.

As a representative of athletics’ interests, YOU MAY...

► Provide a summer job to a student-athlete as long as it is at a normal rate of pay for that position and the student-athlete is paid for work actually performed. Please remember to check with the Compliance Office at Kent State University before employing any student-athlete. Student-athletes are required to complete an Employment Verification Form before beginning any employment opportunity.

Possible Penalties for Improper Actions
Violations of NCAA rules are a serious matter. There are many penalties the NCAA may impose on a student-athlete (prospective student-athlete or enrolled student-athlete), an institution, a coach, or a representative of athletics’ interests. In some instances, the NCAA may impose penalties on an institution even if the student-athlete involved in the violation has no eligibility remaining or is no longer attending the school. Some penalties the NCAA may impose on an institution include:

a. Ceasing recruitment of the prospective student-athlete; Loss of eligibility of an enrolled student-athlete;
b. Having to sit out competition for a limited period of time (enrolled student-athletes);
c. Forfeiture of competitions;
d. Prohibiting a coach from recruiting off-campus for a period of time;
e. Institutional fines;
f. Suspension of a coach for one or more competitions;
g. Reduction in the number of scholarships an institution may award in a sport(s);
h. Reduction in the number of expense-paid recruiting visits that an institution may provide;
i. Prohibiting a team from participating in post-season competition;
j. Institutional probation; or
k. Complete disassociation of relations with a representative of athletics’ interests for a specified period of time.
**Prospective Student-Athlete (Prospect, PSA, Recruit)**

A prospective student-athlete (or prospect, PSA, "recruit") is any student (not just students who are athletes) who has started classes for the ninth grade (seventh grade for men’s basketball & softball). Also, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospect if the institution provides such an individual (or his/her relatives or friends) with any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to other prospective students generally.

A prospect remains a prospect until he/she begins classes as a full student and ultimately the athletic participation in the institution's athletic program.

**Four-Year College Prospects**

An Athletics Department staff member may not have contact with any student of another four-year college, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining written permission from the first institution’s Athletics Director, regardless of who makes the initial contact. The first institution is not required to grant, and may in fact deny, such permission. The recruiting rules that apply to high school prospects also apply to four-year college prospects, if permission is granted to have contact.

**Junior College Prospects**

The same recruiting rules that apply to high school prospects also apply to junior college prospects.

**Other Recruiting Rules for Athletic Representatives**

- You may speak to a prospect via telephone only if the prospect initiates the phone call and the call is not for recruiting purposes. Any inquiry regarding the Kent State University Athletics Program must be referred to the Kent State University Athletic Department.
- You may observe a prospect’s athletics contest on your own initiative but you may not contact a prospect on any such occasion.
- You may not contact a prospect’s coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to gain information that would allow you to “evaluate” the prospect’s value to the Intercollegiate Athletics Program.
- You may not visit a prospect’s educational institution to pick-up film/video or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's academic or athletic eligibility.

**Offers and Inducements**

Institutional staff members or representatives of athletics’ interests may not directly or indirectly provide, arrange for the provision of, or offer any financial aid or other benefits to a prospect (or the prospect’s relatives, legal guardians or friends) other than expressly permitted by the NCAA regulations. This shall apply regardless of whether similar financial aid benefits or arrangements are available to prospective students in general.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Prohibited Items</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arranging employment for a prospect’s relatives;</td>
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<td>A gift of clothing or equipment;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-signing of a loan;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing a loan or a prospect’s relatives and friends;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash or like items;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any tangible items, including merchandise;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free or reduced-cost services, rentals or purchases of any type;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free or reduced-cost housing;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of an institution’s athletics equipment (e.g. for a high school all-star game);</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorship of, or arrangement for, an awards banquet for high school, preparatory school or two-year college athletes by an institution, its athletics representatives, or its alumni groups or booster groups.</td>
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**Unavoidable incidental contact**

Unavoidable incidental contact made with a prospect by an athletics representative is permitted, provided:

- The contact is not prearranged by the athletics representative or Athletics Department staff member;
- The contact does not take place on the grounds of the prospect’s educational institution or at practice or competition sites involving the prospect or his/her team;
- The contact is not made for the purpose of recruitment of the prospect; and
- The contact only involves normal civility.

You may make a financial donation to a high school athletics program in your hometown’s immediate locale provided:

- You make a donation of your own accord; or
- Your donation is distributed through the normal channels established by the high school; and
- Your donation is not earmarked for a specific prospect.

**Alumni Organizations**

Prospective student-athletes may attend luncheons or dinners in their immediate locale that are sponsored by bona fide alumni organizations of an institution. These alumni organizations must meet specific criteria to be considered as such. Please contact the Compliance Office for more information regarding specific criteria and permissible events.