

## **INTRODUCTION TO BOOSTERS AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES**

As a member of the NCAA, Southern Illinois University is responsible for the actions of its representatives of athletics interests. The NCAA definition of a representative includes, but is not limited to, boosters, alumni, faculty, staff, and fans. Member institutions are held accountable for the actions of their boosters. We value the interest and support of our athletic boosters, but we must remind you that a single violation of NCAA legislation resulting from an inappropriate action on your part, whether inadvertent or not, could jeopardize the eligibility of a student-athlete, a prospective student-athlete, and/or Southern Illinois University with NCAA, MVC or Gateway Conference rules and regulations.

Again, without the support of loyal alumni and friends, our athletic program would not be where it is today. As SIU strives for academic and athletic excellence, we must always maintain the highest standard of ethical conduct. With your help and cooperation in adhering to NCAA regulations, we believe that we can accomplish all of these objectives. Thank you for your sustained interest and support of Saluki Athletics.

### **KEY DEFINITIONS YOU MUST KNOW:**

The term “Representative of Athletics Interests” is interchangeable with the term “athletic representative,” “representative,” “booster,” “alumni,” “friend of the university,” or “fan.” This is true even if you no longer contribute to the athletics program.

### **YOU ARE A REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS IF YOU:**

1. Are or ever have been a member of a Saluki athletic booster organization;
2. Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or a booster organization;
3. Are or ever have been involved with the recruitment of a Prospect;
4. Have provided benefits to an enrolled student-athlete or their relatives or friends;
5. Have otherwise been involved in promoting Southern Illinois University’s athletic program (e.g., alumni and friends);
6. Provide or have helped to arrange employment for student-athletes;
7. Are the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of an enrolled student-athlete;
8. Are or ever have been a season ticket holder.

### **ONCE A BOOSTER . . . ALWAYS A BOOSTER.**

According to the NCAA, once an individual has been identified as a Representative of Athletics Interests, he or she retains this identity forever, even if that person no longer contributes to the institution’s athletics program.

### **A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE**

Our prospect is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a Prospect if the institution contacts the student for recruiting purposes or provides the student (or the student’s relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefit that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally.

### **A RECRUITING CONTACT**

Any face-to-face encounter between a University staff member or a Representative of Athletics Interests and a Prospect or the Prospect’s parents or legal guardians during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. ***Please Note:*** Any face-to-face encounter that is prearranged or occurs on the grounds of the Prospect’s educational institution, or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the Prospect or the team the Prospect represents, shall be considered a “contact” regardless of the conversation that occurs. *This type of contact by a Representative of Athletics Interests is also prohibited.* Any impermissible contact by you with a Prospect may render that Prospect ineligible to compete at Southern Illinois University.

### **BOOSTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a Representative of Athletics Interests, you are responsible for making Southern Illinois University’s Athletic Compliance Office aware of any potential violations of NCAA rules you have reason to believe have occurred.

## **INTRODUCTION TO BOOSTERS AND RECRUITING**

### **ONLY COACHES AND ATHLETIC STAFF MEMBERS CAN BE INVOLVED IN THE RECRUITING PROCESS**

All Representatives of Athletics Interests are prohibited from contacting Prospects or members of a Prospect's family by telephone, letter, by electronic means, or in person on- or off-campus for the purpose of encouraging the Prospect's participation in Southern Illinois University's athletics program.

### **A PROSPECT REMAINS A PROSPECT EVEN AFTER HE OR SHE HAS SIGNED A NLI TO ATTEND SIU**

The Prospect does not lose his Prospect status until the start of fall classes at the university or until the beginning of official practice prior to the start of fall classes, whichever occurs first. Please note that you may not provide room and board, transportation of any kind or any other benefit to a Prospect during the summer prior to the Prospect's enrollment for fall classes at Southern Illinois University. However, it is permissible for you to employ or arrange for the employment of a Prospect who has signed a National Letter of Intent with Southern Illinois University, provided the employment does not begin until the completion of the Prospect's senior year in high school. NOTE: If you employ or arrange employment for a Prospect, you must notify Southern Illinois University's Athletic Compliance Office (618-453-5463) immediately. Please remember that a booster cannot be involved, directly or indirectly, in making arrangements for a Prospect, or for the Prospect's relatives or friends to receive money, financial aid or equivalent financial inducements.

### **A BOOSTER MAY NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH A PROSPECT OR HIS OR HER PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS DURING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE CAMPUS**

This includes any involvement in on- or off-campus entertainment activities. Consequently, a Representative of Athletics Interests is prohibited from purchasing meals or tickets to events, or expending any funds on the Prospect or the Prospect's relatives or friends. Please remember that a booster may not provide transportation or arrange for the payment of transportation costs incurred by the Prospect or by the Prospect's relatives or friends at any time.

### **A BOOSTER IS PROHIBITED FROM CONTACTING A PROSPECT BY TELEPHONE.**

However, a booster can speak on the phone to a Prospect only if the Prospect initiates the telephone conversation **and** the call is not for recruiting purposes. Please remember that a booster must refer any questions about the institution's athletics program to the athletics department staff.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- A booster may not pay any portion of summer sports camps registration fees on behalf of a Prospect.
- A booster is permitted to view a Prospect's athletics contest on his or her own initiative, provided that the Representative of Athletics Interests does not contact the Prospect, or the Prospect's relatives, on such occasions.
- A booster is prohibited from contacting an enrolled student-athlete at another institution for the purpose of encouraging a transfer to Southern Illinois University and participation in our athletic programs.
- A booster may not provide complimentary tickets or tickets at reduced cost to Southern Illinois University's home or away athletic or non-athletic events to a Prospect or the Prospect's friends or relatives. Only the Athletic Department can provide complimentary admissions to home athletics events for Prospects.
- A booster shall not provide entertainment, complimentary tickets, tickets at a reduced cost or transportation for high school, preparatory school or community college coaches at any time. Only the Athletic Department can

provide complimentary admissions to home athletic events for those coaches.

- As a booster, you can assist the coaching staff in the recruiting process by notifying them of any student you think would be a strong addition to the University and the athletics program. You may also send Southern Illinois's coaching staff any newspaper clippings or other information about Prospects that you think would be of interest. The coach can then make the appropriate contact. You may not contact a Prospect's coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the Prospect or visit the Prospect's educational institution to pick up game films or transcripts.
- **When in doubt, ASK!** Do not provide anything to or for a Prospect or the Prospect's relatives or friends, or have any contact with a Prospect, without first checking with the Athletic Compliance Office.

#### **WHAT TYPE OF CONTACT CAN A BOOSTER AND PROSPECT HAVE DURING THE RECRUITING PROCESS?**

- 1) An alumni group is permitted to sponsor a luncheon, tea or dinner where prospective students (athletes and non-athletes) of that immediate locale are invited, provided that the group is a bonafide alumni organization subject to administrative and financial review by an athletic department staff member.
- 2) A booster may have contact with a Prospect regarding permissible pre-enrollment activities such as summer employment, provided the Prospect has already signed a National Letter of Intent and the institution is aware that these contacts are made to arrange such employment. Please note that such employment cannot begin until completion of the Prospect's senior year in high school.
- 3) A booster may have a phone conversation with a Prospect only if the Prospect initiates the call. Such a call may not be prearranged by an institutional staff member. The booster is **NOT** permitted to have a recruiting conversation, but may exhibit normal civility. The booster must refer any questions about the university's athletic program to the proper athletics department staff member.
- 4) A booster may view a Prospect's athletics contest on his or her own initiative, subject to the understanding that the athletics representative may not contact the Prospect on such occasions.
- 5) A booster may have contact with a Prospect who is a long-time, established family friend or neighbor. Such contacts may not be made for recruiting purposes and shall not be initiated by a coaching staff member.
- 6) An "Unavoidable Incidental Contact" between a booster and a Prospect is permissible. This means that the contact is not prearranged, does not take place on the grounds of the Prospect's educational institution or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the Prospect or the Prospect's team (i.e., high school, preparatory school, two-year college or all-star team), is not made for the purpose of recruiting, and involves only normal civility (e.g., exchange of greetings).

#### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q: Can a booster provide any type of benefit or financial aid to a Prospect?**

**A: *NO. The NCAA prohibits boosters from providing financial aids, extra benefits and special arrangements to prospective and enrolled student-athletes. Some examples of "extra benefits" include, but are not limited to, the following:***

1. Arranging employment for a Prospect's relatives or friends.

2. Giving any type of gift (i.e., birthday or holiday), gift-in-kind or free services (e.g., clothing, airline tickets, laundry, car repair, haircuts, meals in restaurants, movie tickets, etc.)
3. Signing or cosigning a loan.
4. Providing loans in any amount to a Prospect's relatives or friends.
5. Providing the use of an automobile.
6. Providing typing or tutoring services or covering the related expenses for course-related papers or projects.
7. Providing goods, services or rentals for free or at reduced cost.
8. Providing free or reduced cost housing.
9. Sponsoring or arranging an awards banquet for high school, preparatory school or two-year college athletes.
10. Providing hospitality in your home, other than for an occasional home meal (e.g., birthday, holiday). **All occasional home meals must be approved in advance by the coaching staff and the Compliance Office.**
11. Providing transportation within or outside of the campus area (e.g., from campus to your home, from the airport to campus, to summer jobs, etc.).
12. Entertaining or contacting a Prospect or Prospect's family on or off campus.
13. Providing a benefit connected with on- or off-campus housing (e.g., individualized television sets or stereo equipment, specialized recreational facilities).
14. Providing a ticket to any athletic, institutional or community event.
15. Providing a guarantee of a bond.
16. Promising financial aid for post-graduate education.
17. Promising employment after their college education.
18. Use of a telephone or credit card for personal reasons without charge or at a reduced cost.
19. Providing athletics equipment supplies or clothing (e.g., tennis rackets, golf clubs, balls, shirts, etc.).
20. Providing relatives or friends of prospective or enrolled student-athletes free or reduced cost admissions or meals in conjunction with the institution's or booster club's recognition banquet.

**Q: May a booster provide funding for a high school program located in his or her community?**

*A: Yes. A booster may provide funding to a local high school in the community in which he or she resides when the following conditions are met:*

- a) the Representative of Athletics Interests acts independently of Southern Illinois University;*
- b) the funds are distributed through channels established by the high school or the organization conducting the fund-raising activity; **AND***
- c) the funds are not earmarked directly for a specific Prospect.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO BOOSTERS AND ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES**

### **KEY DEFINITIONS YOU MUST KNOW:**

#### **AN ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETE**

A student who is enrolled at Southern Illinois University and presently is participating in athletics or has completed his or her eligibility but is still enrolled at the university.

#### **AN EXTRA BENEFIT**

Any special arrangement by an institutional employee or Representative of Athletics Interests to provide the student-athlete or his or her relatives or friends with a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.

Some examples of "extra benefits" include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) A Representative of Athletics Interests is not permitted to provide room and board or any type of transportation during the academic year or summer for a student-athlete with eligibility remaining.
- 2) A Representative of Athletics Interests is not permitted to expend funds to entertain student-athletes, their relatives or friends. You are not even permitted to buy a soda or cup of coffee for them.
- 3) It is not permissible to use the name, picture or appearance of an enrolled student-athlete to advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind. Even the sale of a picture of an enrolled student-athlete would jeopardize eligibility. All promotional activities must be approved in advance by the Compliance office and the Director of Athletics.
- 4) A Representative of Athletics Interests may not provide any transportation, payment of expense or loan of any automobile for a student-athlete for any reason.
- 5) It is not permissible to provide an honorarium to a student-athlete for a speaking engagement. Only necessary travel expenses can be given when speaking to educational or charitable groups. All speaking engagements and charitable work must be approved in advance by the Coordinator of Student Services.
- 6) A Representative of Athletics Interests may not permit a student-athlete, their relatives or friends to use a telephone or credit card to make telephone calls without charge or at a reduced cost.
- 7) A Representative of Athletics Interests may not serve as a “sponsor family” for a student-athlete.
- 8) If a student-athlete accepts any benefit based on his or her athletic ability, that student-athlete will jeopardize his or her eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition. Even if a student-athlete has completed his or her eligibility, the institution is still responsible and may receive penalties applied to the Athletic Department if you gave the student-athlete an “extra benefit.” Additionally, the Representative of Athletics Interests involved may be required to disassociate from the university’s athletics program. Disassociation would result in a loss of any benefits or privileges offered by the Athletic Department.

**WHAT A BOOSTER CAN DO TO SUPPORT CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES?**

- 1) A Representative of Athletics Interests may invite an enrolled student-athlete or an entire team in a sport to his or her home for an occasional home meal under the following conditions:
  - a) The meal must be provided in an individual’s home (as opposed to a restaurant) and may be catered;
  - b) Meals must be restricted to infrequent and special occasions (i.e., birthdays, holidays);
  - c) Institutional staff members may provide transportation to a student-athlete to attend such meals.
  - d) This occasional home meal must be approved in advance by the Athletic Compliance Office.
- 2) An outside organization may provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete and the student-athlete’s spouse, parents or other relatives to attend a recognition event where the student-athlete receives an established regional, national or international award for his or her accomplishments as an athlete.
- 3) A Representative of Athletics Interests, a commercial entity or a member of the local community may provide funding for a student-athlete’s spouse, parent, legal guardians or other relatives to attend the Olympic games in which the student-athlete will participate.

### **CAN A BOOSTER PROVIDE A JOB TO A STUDENT-ATHLETE?**

- 1) All compensation received by a student-athlete must be
  - a) only for work actually performed AND
  - b) at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services.
- 2) A Representative of Athletics Interests is not permitted to employ or arrange for the employment of a prospective or enrolled student-athlete without checking first with the Athletic Department. The Department is permitted to make arrangements for summer employment for Prospects prior to enrollment as freshmen under certain circumstances. Stringent rules apply in these instances and written records must be kept regarding employment.
- 3) Before the commencement of employment, a student-athlete must register his or her job with the Compliance Office.
- 4) Employment compensation cannot include payment for the value or utility that a student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that he or she has obtained because of athletic ability.
- 5) A Representative of Athletics Interests is not permitted to provide transportation for Prospects or student-athletes he or she employs unless transportation is provided for all other employees.
- 6) A Representative of Athletics Interests may employ or arrange employment for a student-athlete in the summer as long as the student-athlete has properly registered his or her job with the Compliance Office. Compensation must be for work actually performed and must be commensurate with the going rate of pay in that locality for similar services.
- 7) A Representative of Athletics Interests may employ or arrange employment for a student-athlete during the institution's academic year as long as the student-athlete has properly registered his or her job with the Compliance Office.
- 8) A student-athlete may not be employed to sell equipment related to the student-athlete's sport if his or her name, picture or athletics reputation is used to advertise or promote the product, the job or the employer. If the student-athlete's name, picture or athletics reputation is not used for advertising or promotion, the student-athlete may be employed in a legitimate sales position, provided he or she is compensated at an hourly rate, set salary or commission in the same manner as any non-athlete salesperson.
- 9) A Representative of Athletics Interests may not use the name, picture or appearance of an enrolled student-athlete to advertise, recommend or promote sales or use of a commercial product or service of any kind. If the institution learns that a Representative of Athletics Interests has used a student-athlete's name, picture or appearance to promote his or her business in any way, the Representative of Athletics Interests will receive a cease and desist letter from the University, and further action may be taken against the individual(s) or organization(s) involved.

### **WHAT CAN BOOSTERS DO WITH ATHLETIC MEMORABILIA?**

- 1) An institution may not provide, directly or indirectly, fund-raising to benefit a high school athletics program or any other program that might benefit Prospects. Thus, it is not permissible for institutions to provide memorabilia (e.g., balls, jerseys, hats, etc.), or any other item (e.g., tickets, photos, sweatshirts, T-shirts, etc.),

regardless of whether or not the item has been autographed, to assist high schools in raising money.

- 2) An institution is not permitted to donate institutional memorabilia (e.g., tickets, photos, autographed balls, jerseys, etc.), regardless of whether or not the item is autographed, to any organization for the purpose of being auctioned to raise funds to provide financial assistance to high school students to attend a collegiate institution of their choice.

#### **CONDITIONS TO RECEIVING SIU MEMORABILIA**

If Southern Illinois University is permitted, and has chosen, to donate memorabilia, or if you have requested that Southern Illinois University sign your memorabilia for your personal use, the following information (or information, which is substantially similar) will be included:

We are providing this item to you on the following conditions:

- 1) You understand that any memorabilia (e.g., balls, jerseys, hats, etc.) or other item (e.g., tickets, sweatshirts, T-shirts, etc.) that you receive from the Southern Illinois University Department of Athletics (including student-athletes and coaches), or from any other department of the University, whether for personal use or for use as a donation to an organization you represent, regardless of whether or not the item has been autographed, **is provided to you on the condition that you WILL NOT:**
  - a) Sell these items to any third party who may use them to raise money, directly or indirectly, to benefit any high-school program, including athletics program, or;
  - b) Exchange these items for anything of value with a third party who may use them to raise money, directly or indirectly, to benefit any high-school program, including athletics programs, or;
  - c) Donate these items to any organization which may use them to raise money, directly or indirectly, to benefit any high-school program, including athletics programs, or;
  - d) Give or sell these items to an organization for the purpose of auctioning them off to raise funds to provide financial assistance to high-school students to attend a collegiate institution of their choice.
- 2) You understand that your violation of these conditions will be a violation of NCAA rules, which may subject the University to penalties and may jeopardize the eligibility of our student-athletes.
- 3) You understand that if the University determines that you have this memorabilia in violation of these conditions, then you may lose certain privileges offered by the Athletic Department.
- 4) You understand that if you have any questions regarding the permissible use of any item you have received, you should contact Christian Spears, Southern Illinois University's Assistant Director of Athletics for Compliance, at (618) 453-5463.

#### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q:** May a charitable, educational or nonprofit organization (e.g., United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs) use a student-athlete's name, picture or appearance to support its activities?

**A:** Yes, provided that **all** of the following conditions are met:

- a) the athletic director, or his designee, gives written approval;
- b) the activity does not involve co-sponsorship, advertisement or promotion of a product or service by a commercial entity. A company may include its emblem, logo, trademark, name, address, and telephone number on an advertisement for the activity;
- c) the student-athlete does not miss class;
- d) all money raised must go to either the member institution, the conference, or to the charitable, educational or nonprofit agency;
- e) the charitable or educational organization may provide the student-athlete legitimate and normal expenses related to the event provided the event occurs within the state. If the event occurs outside the state, it must be held within a 100-mile radius of the student-athlete's campus;
- f) the student-athlete's name, picture or appearance is not utilized to promote the commercial venture of any nonprofit agency;
- g) any commercial items with the names or pictures of student-athletes may be sold only at the location of the charitable event (during the event). They may also be sold at the educational institution where the student-athlete is enrolled; AND the student-athlete and an authorized representative of the charitable, educational or nonprofit agency must sign a statement ensuring that the student-athlete's name, image or appearance is used in a manner consistent with NCAA rules and regulations

#### **CONTACTING THE COMPLIANCE OFFICE**

While many examples and situations have been presented in this overview, please note that not every possible situation has been covered. If you have any questions regarding your involvement with prospective or enrolled student-athletes and the NCAA rules and regulations, please direct these questions to:

Christian Spears  
Assistant Director of Athletics  
Southern Illinois University  
118F SIU ARENA, MC 6620  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
Phone: (618) 453-5463  
Fax: (618) 453-5152  
E-Mail: [cspears@athletics.siu.edu](mailto:cspears@athletics.siu.edu)