Extra Benefits & Preferential Treatment

A basic tenet of NCAA legislation is that student-athletes must be treated as a regular student or member of the general public. In other words, student-athletes and those close to them must receive the same treatment as any other customer. This basic tenet also applies to prospective student-athletes. Providing a prospective student-athlete, or someone close to him/her, with an “extra benefit” may constitute an impermissible recruiting inducement. Please help protect the eligibility of prospective and current student-athletes by treating them as regular members of the public.

Promotional Activities and Donations

All requests for donations, autographs, and promotional assistance involving IUPUI student-athletes must be approved by the IUPUI Office of Athletics Compliance. Student-athletes cannot permit the use of their name, photo, or likeness to promote any commercial enterprise. This limitation also includes advertised appearances by student-athletes.

Basics for All Boosters To Remember

Most NCAA violations involving boosters are inadvertent and occurred because someone simply wanted to be nice or helpful. Unfortunately, these isolated events can endanger a student’s eligibility. When in doubt, please contact the IUPUI Office of Athletics Compliance.

- **Tickets**: Boosters cannot receive complimentary admission to an IUPUI sporting event from an IUPUI student-athlete, unless the student-athlete is a family member. No one can purchase complimentary admissions from student-athletes.
- **Recruiting**: Boosters cannot be involved in the recruitment process in any way. Boosters may continue pre-existing relationships with neighbors and family friends, provided the booster does not encourage participation in IUPUI athletics.
- **Benefits**: Boosters cannot provide free or discounted services or products to prospective or current student-athletes or those close to them without written approval from the IUPUI Office of Athletics Compliance. Common examples include:
  - Meals / Entertainment
  - Transportation / Lodging
  - Use of a credit card / loan
  - Gifts for a special occasion
  - Discounted services
  - Special access to events

Contact IUPUI Athletics Compliance when:

- Providing any type of benefit (product, service, or discount) to a student-athlete. Many times, this may be permissible if the benefit goes through the proper channels in advance.
- You have a relationship with a prospective student-athlete being recruited to participate in college sports, or if a prospective student-athlete asks you for information about IUPUI.
- Requesting a donation from IUPUI Athletics, including autographs.
- Requesting student-athletes to make an appearance at your business or event, or if you would like to use your support of IUPUI Athletics in any type of advertising.

Employment of Student-Athletes

Student-athletes may be employed as long as all of the following conditions are met:

- Student-athlete is only paid for work actually performed;
- Student-athlete is paid the “going rate” in the Indianapolis area for similar services;
- Student-athlete is NOT compensated based on his or her reputation, athletic ability, or for any value his or her athletic status brings to the employer; AND
- Student-athlete registered the job with the IUPUI Office of Athletics Compliance prior to beginning work.

Corporate sponsors cannot provide student-athletes with benefits, such as transportation, unless it is the employer’s established policy to provide such transportation to all employees. It is not permissible to employ a prospective student-athlete unless the first three listed conditions are met and the employment was obtained through regular hiring practices.

Thank you for your support of IUPUI Athletics! As a corporate sponsor, your business is considered a Jaguars “booster.” Under NCAA rules, status as a “booster” is retained forever. IUPUI must provide important education to our boosters, both individuals and organizations, to ensure compliance with NCAA rules. Please contact us if you have any concerns– the IUPUI compliance staff is here to help!