

NCAA Rules Pertaining to Faculty Involvement with Student-Athletes and Prospective Student-Athletes

The NCAA has strict guidelines pertaining to faculty interaction with currently enrolled student-athletes as well as prospective student-athletes being recruited to Appalachian State. It is very important that university faculty be informed of the basics of these rules to ensure that no violations occur that might affect the reputation of the university and jeopardize any student's educational and athletic endeavors.

As a basic principle, enrolled student-athletes are not permitted to receive any extra benefits from faculty or any university employees. The NCAA defines an extra benefit as "any special arrangement by an institutional employee provided to an enrolled student-athlete (or a student-athlete's relatives or friends) that is not available to the general student body of that institution."

Examples of arrangements that may be extra benefits include, but are not limited to:

- Special arrangements for late assignments or make-up exams if these arrangements are not available to the class as a whole;
- Allowing a student-athlete to miss class if these arrangements are not available to the class as a whole;(except for university excused absences)
- The use of a copying machine or a typing service that are not available to the general student body;
- Preferential grading for student-athletes;
- Special arrangements for extra credit work that are not available to the class as a whole; or
- Use of an automobile for any enrolled student-athletes.

As a general rule, a professor or other instructor should not make any arrangements with a student-athlete that he/she would not make with other students in that particular class.

NCAA bylaw 16.11.1.5 permits a student-athlete or the entire team in a sport to receive an occasional meal in the locale of the institution on infrequent and special occasions from an institutional staff member (i.e., faculty or staff member) under the following conditions:

- (a) The meal may only be provided in an individual's home, on campus or at a facility that is regularly used for home competition and may be catered; and
- (b) A representative of the institution's athletics interests may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend the meal function only if the meal function is at the home of that representative.

Paying for a student-athlete's off-campus meals at a restaurant is prohibited by NCAA rules and would be considered an extra benefit, unless it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to a particular segment of the student body (i.e., class roster) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.

NCAA Rules Pertaining to Faculty and Non-Athletic Department Staff Members (F/SM) Role in Recruiting Prospective Student-Athletes

In the case of prospective student-athletes (meaning those who are being recruited for Appalachian State athletics), faculty members are not permitted to recruit off campus on behalf of the university. Faculty members are permitted to have on-campus contact with recruits during campus visits.

It is never permissible for any university employee to provide prospects with any improper benefits or inducement to attract them to Appalachian State.

Many Appalachian State faculty and staff members (F/SM) are asked to assist in the recruitment efforts of prospects due to their academic expertise and enthusiastic support of our athletics program. Therefore, the Athletics Compliance Office is charged with making sure they are aware of NCAA recruiting regulations so as to avoid any potential for inadvertent institutional violations. Please take a moment to review the following NCAA rules relative to F/SM involvement in recruiting.

- F/SM may have only on-campus contact with prospects. Unavoidable, incidental off-campus contact is permissible as long as no discussion relevant to Appalachian State University athletics takes place.
- F/SM may not be present at a meal with a prospect unless it is on campus, or on only one occasion during the visit, in the home of an institutional staff member.
- F/SM may write prospects, following September 1 of the prospect's junior year in high school (following June 15 of the prospect's sophomore year for men's basketball recruits).
- F/SM may send pre-enrollment information regarding orientation and academics provided the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent with Appalachian State or has signed their acceptance agreement for enrollment at Appalachian State. Non-athletics institutional publications available to all prospective students, such as official academic, admissions, and student services publications, may be provided to prospects after September 1 of their junior year in high school (following June 15 of the prospect's sophomore year for men's basketball recruits).

ASK BEFORE YOU ACT! Contact Athletics Compliance at athleticscompliance@appstate.edu or (828) 262-7843. Go Mountaineers!

