

MURRAY STATE

RACERS

ARE YOU A REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTEREST?

Also known as boosters, you are considered a representative of athletics interest if you meet one of the following:

- You have participated in or been a member of an agency or organization promoting Murray State University athletics department (e.g. booster club).
- You are a former MSU student-athlete.
- You have made a financial contribution to Murray State University athletic department or to an athletics booster organization of that institution.
- You have ever assisted in recruiting a prospective student-athlete.
- You have ever assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their family members (e.g. summer job or occasional meal).
- You have ever otherwise been involved in promoting the Murray State University athletic program in any way. Boosters may be individuals, independent agencies, corporate entities or other organizations.

Once booster status has been established it remains FOREVER

Penalties for Booster Violations

Under NCAA Bylaw 6.4.2.1, Murray State University 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 revocation of booster club memberships and ticket privileges.

Prohibition of Extra Benefit

Boosters are not permitted to provide benefits to enrolled student-athletes and prospective student-athletes, or their relatives/friends with any extra benefits. The NCAA defines “extra benefits” as any special arrangement made which is not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.

The following are **some** examples

- Providing cash or loans in any amount or signing/co-signing for a loan;
- Giving gifts of any kinds, including birthday/holiday and “Get Well Soon” cards;
- Offering free or reduced-cost services such as meals, car repair, haircuts, dental work, etc;
- Providing the use of an automobile or transportation;
- Offering free or reduced-cost housing
- Employing relatives or friends of a prospective student-athlete as an inducement to attend MSU;
- Entertaining a student-athlete or a prospect or their friends and families.

INTERACTION WITH PROSPECTS

The NCAA defines a “prospective student-athlete” as any student who has either begun classes in the ninth grade or who has accepted extra benefits from a booster and has not yet enrolled in a four year institution. This definition includes junior college student-athletes as well as high school students who don’t play a varsity sport.

The signing of a National Letter of Intent does not remove the student-athlete from prospect status.

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 the prospect;

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

Pre-existing relationships

- Boosters are permitted to continue pre-existing relationships with prospective student-athletes
- In order for a relationship to be pre-existing the relationship must have begun prior to the prospect beginning the ninth grade.
- The booster should refrain from engaging the prospect in any discussion of MSU and/or its athletic programs and, instead, refer the prospect's questions to the athletics department staff.

Summer Employment of Student-Athletes or Prospects

- Boosters are permitted to employ incoming prospects who have signed a National Letter of Intent, 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
- Please contact the Athletics Compliance Office prior to employing any MSU student-athletes.
- Transportation is prohibited unless transportation is provided to all employees.
- Student-athletes may not be involved in any advertisements for the business

INTERACTION WITH CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES

A prospect becomes a student-athlete on the first day of initial collegiate enrollment at a four-year institution, triggering a different set of rules pertaining to booster interactions.

Student-Athletes Attending Booster Club Functions

Once per year, 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-athlete;
- Student-athletes are not compensated for attending or speaking at such a function; and
- The activity is pre-approved by the MSU coaching staff and Athletics Compliance Office.

Occasional Home Meals

Boosters are allowed to provide an "occasional home meal;" to current student-athletes as long as they contact the appropriate Murray State coach before the meal and the meal is held at the booster's home (although it may be catered in).

It Is Not Permissible To Take A Student-Athlete Out To Eat At A Restaurant.

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.**

Student Athlete Appearances

Within certain circumstances, student-athletes may make promotional appearances at charitable, educational or non-profit agency events. Please contact the Athletics Compliance Office for more information.