

BIG RED COMPLIANCE CORNER



YOUR SOURCE FOR LEARNING THE INS AND OUTS OF NCAA AND BIG 12 RULES.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT NCAA RULES SURROUNDING FANS, BOOSTERS, ALUMNI & RECRUITING

Fans, boosters and alumni often want to show their support by encouraging outstanding prospective student-athletes to attend the University of Nebraska. However, there are many limitations that preclude this type of support and in order to preserve our integrity and excellence all Husker fans need to be aware of NCAA regulations controlling such conduct.

WHO IS A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE?

A prospective student-athlete is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade or above, including students in prep schools and junior colleges as well as students who have officially withdrawn from a four-year institution and plan to transfer to another collegiate institution. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution or a booster provides the individual or the individual's relatives or friends with any financial assistance or benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students in general. A good rule of thumb is to treat **ALL STUDENTS** as prospects.

RECRUITING BY FANS, BOOSTERS, ALUMNI AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS

Q: May I call a prospective student-athlete to tell them how great the University of Nebraska is?

A: An athletics representative (e.g. fan, booster, alumnus) of a member institution may not call a prospective student-athlete. An athletics representative may speak over the telephone with a prospective student-athlete only if the prospect initiates the conversation and the call is not for recruiting purposes. Any questions referring to the University of Nebraska's athletics program should be referred to the athletics department staff.

Q: May I go talk to a prospective student-athlete before, after or on the sidelines at the prospect's athletics contest?

A: An athletics representative is allowed to attend and observe a prospective student-athlete's athletic contest, but may not make contact with the prospective student-athlete, his or her parents or coaches during such occasion.

Q: May I contact a prospective student-athlete's coaches, principal or counselors to evaluate or encourage support for the prospect to attend the University of Nebraska?

A: No, an athletics representative may not contact a prospective student-athlete's coaches, principal or counselors.

Q: Can I invite a prospective student athlete and his/her parents to attend an alumni chapter event?

A: No, an athletics representative may not have in-person contact with a prospective student-athlete or his/her parents.

Q: What if the prospect and his/her parents register for an alumni chapter event?

A: Inform them that because of NCAA rules they won't be able to attend the event until the prospect becomes a college student-athlete. Its also advisable to contact the Nebraska compliance office so that we can communicate with the prospect and his/her parents.

Q: May I attend a public event (e.g. high school awards banquet or dinner) at which prospective student-athletes may be in attendance?

A: Yes, so long as the athletics representative does not attempt to make any contact with the prospects, their parents or coaches.

Q: May I e-mail or post messages on a prospective student-athlete's MySpace, Facebook or similar web site and try to convince him or her to attend the University of Nebraska?

A: An athletics representative may not e-mail or post messages on the webpage or website of any prospective student-athlete.

If you wish to review the NCAA Manual on this issue or any other issues, please go to www.ncaa.org. There is a PDF-version of the NCAA manual on the site, and you can download or read at your leisure.

If you have any questions on this subject or any others, please contact the athletics compliance office at 402.472.2042 or e-mail compliance@huskers.com.

GO BIG RED!!