

UC San Diego Athletics Compliance
Guidelines & NCAA Rules

Guide for Triton Boosters



Intercollegiate Athletics
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A LETTER FROM
Director of Athletics



Dear Supporters of UC San Diego Athletics,

The Department of Athletics wants to thank you for your continued support of UC San Diego Athletics. Our proud tradition of academic and athletic excellence would not be possible without you.

Part of our long-standing tradition, is maintaining our reputation as an athletics program that operates with the highest integrity. Under NCAA rules, we are responsible for ensuring that our faculty, staff, donors, boosters, student-athletes, alumni, friends and fans abide by NCAA, conference and institutional rules and regulations.

Hopefully after reading this publication you will have a clearer idea of how as a representative of UC San Diego's athletics interests you can interact with our student-athletes and prospective student-athletes. This publication cannot adequately address every situation where NCAA rules may come into play. The most important thing for you to take away as a supporter of the University's athletics program is to "Ask Before You Act."

Inappropriate actions, whether inadvertent or intentional, can jeopardize the eligibility of a prospective or current student-athlete and adversely affect the entire department and institution. Your support of our athletics program in following the rules is greatly appreciated as it ensures that the eligibility of both our hard-working student-athletes and future Tritons are not jeopardized.

Again, thank you for your continued interest and support here at UC San Diego. Without your help the UC San Diego student-athlete experience would not be possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl W. Edwards".

Earl W. Edwards
Director of Athletics

If you have questions about the information contained here or any other compliance related questions, please contact the UC San Diego Compliance Office staff:
Associate Athletic Director, Katie McGann (858-534-8700 or kmcgann@ucsd.edu)
Assistant Athletic Director, Abrina Wheatfall (858-822-7837 or awheatfall@ucsd.edu)



THE BASICS

BOOSTER (aka “Representative of Athletics Interests”)

A booster is an individual, independent agency, corporate entity (eg. apparel or equipment manufacturer) or other organization that is known to:

- Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting any UC San Diego Athletics program (e.g., UC San Diego Athletics Board, TAA, etc.);
- Have made financial contributions to the UC San Diego Athletics Department or Athletics Department booster organization (e.g. TAF);
- Be assisting or to have been requested (by the Athletics Department) to assist in the permissible types of recruitment activity of prospects see page 5 for a list of the permissible way boosters can assist UC San Diego coaches
- Provide allowable benefits (e.g., summer jobs, occasional meals, etc.) to enrolled student-athletes;
- You are a parent or legal guardian of an enrolled student-athlete;
- You are a former student-athlete of UC San Diego; or
- Promote UC San Diego Athletics in any way.



This is not an exhaustive list. Please contact the UC San Diego Compliance Office if you have any questions about your potential status as a booster.

REMEMBER THIS: Once you are identified as a “Booster” (aka “Representative of Athletics Interests,” you retain that identity forever. Boosters are bound by NCAA, CCAA and UC San Diego rules, policies, and guidelines. As a result, boosters are responsible for notifying the UC San Diego Compliance Office of any potential rules violations. Even if a violation is unintentional, the eligibility of a prospect (recruit) or enrolled student-athlete could be in jeopardy.

TERMS TO KNOW

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE ("PSA" or "RECRUIT")

Any student who has started classes for the ninth grade. Includes student-athletes in prep schools & two-year schools.

KNOW THIS: A student remains a prospect until she either starts classes full-time at UC San Diego or starts official team practice at UC San Diego, whichever occurs first. Signing a National Letter of Intent (NLI) does NOT remove the status of prospect.

STUDENT-ATHLETE

A student who presently is participating in intercollegiate athletics, or has participated in intercollegiate athletics and is still receiving athletics aid. This includes both recruited student-athletes and walk-ons.

RECRUITING

Any solicitation of a prospect or the prospect's family by an authorized institutional staff member for the purpose of securing the prospect's enrollment and participation in intercollegiate athletics.

CONTACT

Any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect's parent or legal guardian and an institutional staff member or booster during which any dialogue occurs in excess of a greeting.

EVALUATION

Any activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or athletic ability of a prospect, including any visit to a prospect's school or the observation of a prospect participating in any practice or competition.

EXTRA BENEFIT

An extra benefit is any special gift or arrangement provided to a student-athlete, or student-athlete's friend or family member, which is not available to the general UC San Diego student body or the general population.

EXAMPLES OF EXTRA BENEFITS (THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST):

- Use of an automobile or transportation
- Admission to an event (e.g., movies, athletic events, banquets, clubs, special events/parties, concerts, etc.)
- Cash or loans in any amount
- Gifts of any kind, including those on special occasions such as birthdays, religious holidays, finals week, graduation, etc.
- Free or reduced-cost services, rentals, or purchases of any type (e.g. meals, drinks, clothing, laundry, haircuts, legal fees, tattoos, rounds of golf, car repairs, etc.)
- Free or reduced-cost housing for any length of time
- Entertainment
- Assistance with paying bills (e.g., cell phone, gas money, rent, etc.)
- Awards
- Loans (including co-signing)
- Use of your telephone or credit card
- Academic assistance of any kind (e.g., tutoring, editing papers/ projects, assistance in completing class work, use of computer, etc.)
- Providing a meal to a student-athlete(s) outside of an Athletic Department approved "Occasional Meal" - see below

OCCASSIONAL MEAL

A meal provided by a booster to a student-athlete or a whole team in the booster's home, on campus, or at an off campus facility that is regularly used for the team's home competition. The meal can be home-cooked or catered, but *cannot* be hosted at an off-campus restaurant. The booster *can* provide reasonable transportation for the student-athlete(s) to the approved meal location. It can only be on an occasional basis and requires prior approval from the Compliance Office.

RECRUITING INDUCEMENT

A recruiting inducement under NCAA rules is any special gift or arrangement provided to a prospective student-athlete that is not available to the general population. The arrangement of such a benefit would be considered an improper inducement to encourage the eventual enrollment of a prospective student-athlete at UC San Diego.



PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

As a booster, the NCAA restricts the involvement that you may have with prospective student-athletes. Only coaches and authorized employees may be involved in the official recruiting process. NCAA rules prohibit boosters from engaging in recruiting activities designed to secure a prospect's enrollment at UC San Diego. However, there are several things you can permissibly do as a booster where recruits are involved.

PERMISSIBLE BOOSTER ACTIVITIES INVOLVING RECRUITS:

- Attend a recruit's game on your own initiative (but you cannot have any contact with the recruit or his/her family member)
- Notify a UC San Diego coach about a potential recruit
- Continuing to have contact with an established family friend or neighbor who is a prospect as long as you do not engage in the recruitment process with him/her
- Refer any and all recruiting questions to an Athletic Department staff member
- Meet with a recruit on campus, but only at the direction of the Athletics Department

AS A BOOSTER YOU MAY NOT:

- Write/email or call/text a prospect that you do not have a longstanding established relationship with (the relationship must pre-date the ninth grade – see above)
- Contact or call a prospect's parent, coach, principal or counselor for purposes of evaluating their talent
- Assist with the actual evaluation of talent at the direction of the coaching staff (remember, you *can* attend a recruit's games on your own initiative)
- Meet with a PSA or his immediate family members off campus;
- Promote UC San Diego Athletics in any way to encourage a prospect to attend UC San Diego (e.g. create a fan page for prospect)
- Provide extra benefits or recruiting inducements to prospects or their relatives or friends (e.g. movie or event tickets, dinner, gift cards or special discounts)

RECRUITING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: May a booster call or send a congratulatory email or text to recruit once she has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with UC San Diego?

A: NO. She remains a prospect until her first day of classes at UC San Diego, or first day of official practice, whichever comes first. Until that time, she remains a prospect and a booster may not have any contact, in person or otherwise (ie. phone call, email, or text) with the recruit unless it's on campus as the direction of the Athletics Department.

Q: May a booster pay for a prospect's expenses to attend camp?

A: NO. Unless, the prospect is an immediate family member of the booster, the booster cannot pay for expenses for a prospect.

Q: Is it permissible for a booster to accompany a UC San Diego coach when he/she visits a local high school for a recruit's game or to accompany them on a home visit?

A: NO. A booster may not accompany a coach during any off-campus recruiting activity and cannot have any off-campus contact with a recruit. A booster *can*, however, attend a recruit's game at a local high school on their own initiative and sit with a UC San Diego coach. But remember, the booster *cannot* have any contact with the recruit. This includes something as simple as saying a "quick hello" and handshake.

Q: If I have family friends with a son or daughter who is a prospect, do the rules change my relationship with them?

A. NOT NECESSARILY. The rules are not meant to alter relationships that started for reasons unrelated to athletics, especially prior to a PSA reaching such age or status. You may continue friendships with families with PSAs (e.g. backyard bbqs, picnics). But, you cannot encourage a PSA's participation in UC San Diego athletics or provide benefits that you were not providing before he/she became a PSA.



CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES

As a booster, the NCAA restricts the involvement that you may have with student-athletes. NCAA rules prohibit boosters from providing a student-athlete with an extra benefit and doing so may result in the student-athlete being declared ineligible to compete. Extra benefit violations include any special gift or arrangement provided to a student-athlete, or a student-athlete's friend or family member that is not available to the general public or UC San Diego student body.

PERMISSIBLE BOOSTER ACTIVITIES WITH STUDENT-ATHLETES:

- Employ or provide internships to student-athletes
- Host an "occasional meal" (see Terms to Know) in their home, on campus, or at the team's regular off-campus home competition site. Remember, the meal must be approved by the UC San Diego Athletics Compliance Office prior to the meal
- Speak with student-athletes at athletic events, banquets, etc.

KNOW THIS: any employment of a student-athlete must be at a fair, going rate and their pay cannot be based in any way on their athletic ability or involvement. They must also be paid only for work they actually perform.

AS A BOOSTER YOU MAY NOT GIVE/PROVIDE STUDENT-ATHLETES:

- Any "extra benefits" that are not generally available to the general public or other UC San Diego students. For examples of things that would be considered impermissible "extra benefits" please see the Terms to Know section on page 4. Remember this list is not exhaustive.

STUDENT-ATHLETE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: MAY A BOOSTER SPEAK WITH A STUDENT-ATHLETE AT AN ATHLETIC EVENT OR BANQUET?

A: YES. Communication with current student-athletes at an athletic event or banquet is not restricted under NCAA rules.

Q: CAN A BOOSTER HAVE OFF-CAMPUS CONTACT WITH A STUDENT-ATHLETE?

A: YES. Boosters are not restricted from having on or off-campus contact with a student-athlete. However, you *cannot* give or provide a student-athlete anything that is an extra benefit (see page 4 Terms to Know). For example, you can meet with a student-athlete off-campus for lunch, but you cannot purchase their meal as this would be an impermissible extra benefit.

Q: MAY A BOOSTER PROVIDE A STUDENT-ATHLETE WITH A NOMINAL GIFT FOR A SPECIAL EVENT (E.G. BIRTHDAY, GRADUATION, ETC.)?

A: NO. Gifts of any kind, no matter how nominal the value, are considered an extra benefit under NCAA rules. Even though a kind gesture, this will jeopardize the eligibility of the student-athlete.

Q: MAY A BOOSTER HOST A MEAL FOR CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES?

A: YES. As an approved "occasional meal" (see page 4 Terms to Know) a booster may host a meal on an occasional basis for any number of current student-athletes. The meal must be in the booster's home, on-campus, or at the team's regular home competition site if off-campus. The meal may be catered. The meal must be approved in advance by the Compliance Office.