



Booster Guide to the NLI



Am I considered to be an institution's representative of athletics interests (booster)?

An individual is considered to be a representative of an institution's athletics interests (booster) by supporting teams and athletic departments through donations of time and financial resources. Further, an individual is considered to be a representative/booster of athletics interest if an individual:

- Has ever participated in or been a member of any group at an institution, which supports specific athletic teams.
- Has ever made financial contributions to an institution's athletic program or to an athletics booster organization of an institution.
- Has ever assisted in providing benefits to an enrolled student-athlete or his or her family or friends.
- Has ever helped to arrange or has provided summer or semester break employment for an enrolled student-athlete.
- Has ever provided a donation in order to obtain season tickets for any athletics program of an institution.
- Has ever promoted an institution's athletic program in any manner.
- Has ever contacted (by letter, telephone, or in-person) a high school student, grades 9-12, for the purpose of encouraging the student to participate in the athletics program of an institution.

Please note: This is not an all inclusive list.

Am I considered to be an institution's representative of athletics interests (booster) indefinitely?

Yes. NCAA rules state that once an individual is identified as an athletics representative, the person retains that identity for life.

Is an institution responsible for the actions of its representatives (boosters) and their support groups?

Yes. Representatives of athletics interests are subject to NCAA regulations and an institution is subject to penalties for any violation of NCAA rules by athletics representatives or their support organization.

Who is considered to be a prospective student-athlete (PSA)?

A PSA is a student in the ninth grade or above, including students in prep schools and junior colleges. Any student not yet in the ninth grade becomes a PSA if an institution provides him/her with any financial aid or other benefits not generally provided to prospective students. (Men's Basketball: a PSA is a student in the seventh grade or higher).

How long is a PSA considered to be a prospect?

A PSA remains a prospect even after committing to or signing a **National Letter of Intent** with an institution. Also, both the institution and the prospect continue to be governed by NCAA recruiting legislation regarding prospects until the prospect reports for regular squad practice or the PSA attends his/her first day of classes in any regular term.

What is considered recruiting?

Recruiting is any solicitation of a PSA or the PSA's family (or guardian) by an institutional staff member or by a representative of the institution's athletics interests for the purpose of securing the PSA's enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution's intercollegiate athletic program.

Please note: Recruiting activities include, but are not limited to, correspondence, e-mail, faxes, telephone conversations and in-person contacts (both on and off campus).



Is it permissible for an athletics representative to contact a PSA or his/her parents (or legal guardians) once the PSA has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with an institution?

No. An athletics representative may not contact a PSA or his/her parents (or legal guardians) in writing, in-person (both on and off campus), or by phone. These contact rules are applied in the same manner both before and after a PSA has signed a National Letter of Intent.

If a PSA visits an institution on an official or unofficial visit after signing a National Letter of Intent, can an athletics representative then contact that PSA during the visit?

No. Regardless of whether the PSA is at the institution on an official or unofficial visit, the athletics representative is not permitted to contact the PSA while the PSA is on the institution's campus.

Is it permissible for an athletics representative to call a PSA once the PSA has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with an institution?

No. Even if the purpose of the call is only to congratulate the PSA, he/she is still a PSA and the same contact rules apply after committing or signing that applied before.

Is it permissible for an athletics representative to e-mail or send a letter to a PSA once the PSA has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with an institution?

No. Even if the purpose of the e-mail or letter is only to congratulate the PSA, he/she is still a PSA and the same contact rules apply after committing or signing that applied before.

Is it permissible for an athletics representative to contact a PSA's coach, principal or counselor once the PSA has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with an institution?

No. An athletics representative may not contact a PSA's coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the PSA, indirectly communicate with the PSA, or to become involved in any manner with the recruiting process.

After a PSA has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with an institution, may an athletics representative visit a PSA's educational establishment, without speaking to any prohibited individuals, in order to pick up game film, transcripts, or other documentation?

No. An athletics representative may not visit a PSA's educational establishment to pick up game film, transcripts or any type of documentation pertaining to the evaluation of the PSA's academic eligibility or athletics ability.

After a PSA has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with an institution, may an athletics representative or booster organization publicize the PSA's decision through print or electronic media?

No. Representatives of athletics interests and booster organizations are prohibited from financing, arranging or using recruiting aids and advertisements designed to publicize an institution's interest in a particular PSA. Recruiting aids and advertisements include, but are not limited to, newspaper advertisements, bumper stickers, message buttons, billboards, and widely disseminated electronic notifications.

Is it permissible for an athletics representative to contact a PSA using social media websites once the PSA has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with an institution?

No. The NCAA rules that regulate contact with PSAs include not only in-person contacts, e-mails, faxes, telephone calls, and other correspondences, but also any and all contacts through social media websites. This includes, but is not limited to, websites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and MySpace.

Athletics representatives and fans may not initiate or accept "friend" requests of PSAs on Facebook. Representatives should never post to a recruit's "wall," reply to a "tweet," send them any type of direct message, or take any other action that would constitute contacting that recruit. This prohibition also includes creating fan pages for recruits to attend an institution.



It is always best to ask an institution's athletics compliance office before taking any action.