



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

A GUIDE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF PRINCETON ATHLETICS

The University is proud to have your loyal support, dedication and enthusiasm for Princeton Athletics. Standards of excellence in academics and athletics are a tradition at Princeton. Conducting the Athletics program with integrity is of utmost importance. As we strive for continued excellence, we must always seek the highest standard of ethical conduct. NCAA rules are the responsibility of everyone from student-athletes to administrators to alumni and friends. Accordingly, we ask for your assistance in sustaining our distinguished reputation for excellence.

The information provided below will help you understand the basic guidelines applicable to the conduct of “Friends” and supporters of Princeton Athletics. This document also summarizes rules and regulations involving situations that have been encountered by alumni and Friends. Above all, we request that you always **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!** When a violation occurs, regardless of intention, it can jeopardize the eligibility of prospective and current student-athletes and result in the individual students, the team and the Athletics program as a whole being penalized by the NCAA and the Ivy League.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL

Institutional control of Athletics is a fundamental principle of the NCAA. Specifically, NCAA legislation states that Princeton must:

- Control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the NCAA;
- Monitor its programs to ensure compliance;
- Identify and report to the NCAA instances in which compliance has not been achieved and take appropriate corrective actions; and
- Ensure that members of the institution’s staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution’s athletics interests comply with the applicable NCAA rules.

Princeton University is committed and obligated to the principle of institutional control in operating its athletics program in a manner that is consistent with the letter and the spirit of the NCAA, Ivy League, and University rules and regulations. Please contact the Athletics Compliance Office if you have any questions about any rules or their application.

WHO IS AN ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE?

NCAA rules apply to Princeton student-athletes, coaches, prospective student-athletes, AND supporters of Princeton Athletics. The NCAA has a broad definition of an Athletics Representative (also called Representative of Athletics Interests). An Athletics Representative is someone who:

- Is a member of a group that supports or promotes Princeton Athletics (e.g., Friends Group, Princeton Varsity Club (PVC));
- Has given money or gifts to Princeton sports programs (including gifts of cash, goods or services);
- Has provided any benefits, such as employment, to Princeton student-athletes, prospective student-athletes, or their families; or
- Has otherwise assisted in the promotion of Princeton Athletics.

It is important to remember that once you are identified as an Athletics Representative, you remain one forever. The rules will always apply to you!

WHO IS A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE?

A prospective student-athlete (PSA) is **ANY** student who has started classes for the ninth (9th) grade, including students in prep schools and junior colleges, and individuals who have officially withdrawn from a four-year institution. In the sport of men's basketball, a PSA is any student who has started classes for the seventh grade.

A PSA remains a prospect even after he or she has received a "Likely Letter" or accepts an offer of admission to attend Princeton University. The restrictions regarding contact between Athletics Representatives and PSAs apply until the PSAs report for a regular academic year term (fall or spring semester) or preseason team practice (fall sports only).

WHAT IS THE NCAA DEFINITION OF RECRUITING?

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

CONTACT WITH A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE

The NCAA rules limit the type of contact an Athletics Representative may have with a prospective student-athlete (PSA) as well as when that contact may occur.

NCAA rules **PERMIT** Athletics Representatives to:

- Notify our coaches about prospects in their area that may be strong additions to our teams;
- Attend high school or two-year college athletics contests or other events where PSAs may compete. However, Athletics Representatives may not have contact with the PSAs or their relatives for the purpose of providing information about Princeton;
- Continue relationships with a PSA, and his/her parents or relatives, provided the relationship pre-dates the PSA entering ninth grade and the relationship did not develop as a result of the PSA's athletics participation. However, even with such a relationship. The Athletics Representative may not recruit the PSA to attend Princeton and/or participate in Princeton Athletics;
- Continue involvement with local youth sports teams/clubs that may include PSAs, provided they do not solicit any prospect's participation in Princeton Athletics.

NCAA rules specifically **PROHIBIT** Athletics Representatives from:

- Contacting a PSA or his/her family in person, on or off campus. This includes calling, writing, emailing, text messaging, or contacting/tagging them through social media outlets (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram);
- Making arrangements for PSAs or their relatives or friends to receive money or financial aid of any kind;
- Providing transportation for a PSA or the prospect's relatives or friends to visit campus or reimbursing another party (including a PSA's coach) for providing that transportation;
- Providing free tickets or tickets at a reduced cost for PSAs or their relatives or friends to attend an Athletics event;
- Entertaining high school, prep school or community college coaches;
- Attending a PSA's competition for the purpose of providing an evaluation requested by the Princeton coaching staff.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: May I call a prospect (PSA)?

A: You are not permitted to call PSAs for purposes of promoting Princeton/Princeton Athletics. However, you may have a telephone conversation with a prospect that is initiated by the prospect and is not prearranged by the institution (including providing a prospect with the phone number). Any questions about Princeton's athletics programs during the conversation must be referred to members of Princeton's coaching staff.

Q: Does this apply to "established family friends" or neighbors?

A: No. However, it must be understood that such contacts may not be made for recruiting purposes, and questions about Princeton's athletics programs should still be referred to members of Princeton's coaching staff.

Q: May I call a PSA or send a congratulatory letter once the prospect has received a Likely Letter, accepted an Early Action decision, or publicly confirmed that he or she will attend Princeton?

A: No. The PSA remains a prospect until the first day of enrollment during the fall semester or his/her first official day of practice (fall sports only). Until that time, he or she remains a prospect and the rules listed above apply.

Q: The rules permit Athletics Representatives to notify coaches of potential recruits. What information may be provided? Is it permissible to send statistics/conduct an analysis?

A: It is permissible to send coaches statistics/highlights that are posted in a public forum (e.g., newspaper, website). It is not permissible to conduct an analysis and forward it to the coaches. For example, providing detailed analysis of performance technique, individual breakdowns, etc. would be considered an evaluation for NCAA purposes, and not permissible. Only coaches who are certified to recruit may conduct evaluations of PSAs. The prohibition on evaluations also encompasses academic credentials. Inquiring about a prospect's academic credentials and interest in competing for Princeton should be done by Princeton coaching staff members only.

Q: Is it permissible for me to accompany a Princeton coach when he or she visits a local high school or visits a prospect's home?

A: No. Athletics Representatives may not be involved in any recruiting activities.

Q: Is there an exception for Alumni Schools Committee (ASC) Members?

A: Yes, the following guidelines apply to ASC members:

- Prospects should not be treated differently than other applicants in the admissions process; and
- If you are assigned to interview a student who is also an athlete, you may contact that student for ASC interview purposes only; and
- You may not have contact with prospects whom you are not officially assigned to interview.

EMPLOYMENT OF CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES

Employment of student-athletes is permissible provided the following conditions are met:

- The student-athlete is only paid for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with the going rate in the area for similar services;
- The student-athlete may not be compensated for any value that he or she may have for an employer because of any publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following that he or she has attained because of his or her athletics ability;
- Employers may not advertise a student-athlete's employment to generate extra business or "buzz," nor may they use a student-athlete's name, picture, or appearance to advertise, promote or recommend the sale or use of any commercial product or service;
- Student-athletes may not be provided with benefits not provided to other employees; and
- Student-athletes must report all employment to Princeton's Athletics Compliance Office.

EXTRA BENEFITS

An extra benefit is any gift or special arrangement by a Princeton employee or Athletics Representative that is not expressly permitted by the NCAA, provided to a prospective or current student-athlete, their relatives or friends. Student-athletes are members of the student body, and must not receive special privileges.

Specifically prohibited financial aid, benefits, or arrangements include, but are not limited to the following:

- Special discounts, payment arrangements or credit on any purchase or service;
- Gifts of cash, clothing, equipment, or other tangible items;
- Loans of money or co-signing of a loan;
- An automobile, use of an automobile, or any transportation or transportation expenses;
- Free or reduced-cost services, purchases, or rentals;
- Employment or loan arrangements for a prospect or current student-athlete's friends or relatives;
- Free or reduced rent or housing or storage;
- Payment to a student-athlete for a speaking engagement; or
- Entertainment on or off campus (including free meals at tailgates).

It is impermissible for an Athletics Representative to provide student-athletes or their families or friends with entertainment expenses related to Princeton Athletics events. For example, an Athletics Representative may not provide student-athletes, their families or friends complimentary admission to Princeton Athletics events, or access to any special seating areas including field, court, deck, or press row.

On an occasional basis, with advance approval from the Athletics Compliance Office, an Athletics Representative may provide a student-athlete or team with a meal. The meal must be provided in the Athletics Representative's home, which must be in the Princeton area. It may be catered. Please contact the student-athlete's or team's head coach for more information and to schedule an "occasional meal."

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AUTOGRAPHS

- It is not permissible to use a student-athlete's name, picture or appearance for any promotional activity (even for a charitable purpose) without prior approval from the Athletics Compliance Office.
- A student-athlete's name, picture or appearance may not be used to promote any commercial business, product or service.
- Student-athlete memorabilia may not be sold.
- Student-athletes may not be provided with payment or benefits in exchange for their autograph, memorabilia, varsity awards, tournament gifts, Ivy League awards, NCAA awards, etc.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT PRINCETON STUDENT-ATHLETES?

With the various NCAA rules and regulations regarding benefits to student-athletes, it may seem difficult to be a part of Princeton's athletics programs. However, you can show your support in other ways. Athletics Representatives may:

- Make contributions to Princeton's athletics programs through the sport-specific Friends Groups, Princeton Varsity Club and other gift-in kind arrangements; and
- Attend Princeton Athletics events to support the student-athletes' hard work.

MORE QUESTIONS

Please note that this document was developed to offer a general overview of key NCAA rules and definitions regarding the interaction between Athletics Representatives (Alumni and Friends) and current and prospective student-athletes. It is not a comprehensive guide. Please direct any specific questions to the Athletics Compliance Office.

Allison Rich '91, J.D., Ed.D
Senior Associate Director of Athletics/SWA
609-258-3751
Arich1@princeton.edu

Kelly Widener, J.D.
Assistant Director of Athletics
609-258-5312
kw2@princeton.edu



ALWAYS ASK BEFORE YOU ACT

