

MSU OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES



COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES - ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

- **Definition of a Prospect:** A prospect is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade, regardless of whether the individual is being recruited by MSU. Students enrolled in preparatory schools and two-year colleges are also considered prospects. A prospect remains a prospect even after he or she signs a National Letter of Intent. An individual remains a prospect until he or she officially registers and enrolls in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends classes in any regular academic term (excluding summers), the individual participates in a regular squad practice or competition that occurs before the beginning of any term (i.e., preseason football) or the individual officially registers and enrolls and attends classes during the summer prior to initial enrollment.

- **Alumni Functions:** It is permissible for a bona fide MSU alumni organization to sponsor a function (e.g., luncheon, dinner) at which prospective students (athletes and nonathletes) of the immediate locale are guests, provided the following conditions are met:
 - The primary purpose of the function does not relate to MSU's athletics program;
 - There is no athletics recruiting presentation made in conjunction with the function; and
 - Alumni do not have any direct contact with any prospect regarding his or her interest in attending the institution to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

It is not permissible for an alumni organization to invite prospects to attend a function. If the event is open to all high school students or a specific group of students (e.g., high school seniors) it is permissible for a prospective student-athlete to accept the invitation. It is not permissible to announce prospective student-athletes who are attending the event, unless the prospect is being recognized as the recipient of an award.

- **Complimentary Admissions and Special Seating:** MSU may not provide complimentary admissions or special seating to prospects or their friends or family. Prospects are not allowed in the press box, suites, bench area, courtside seating, etc. during a game (including half-time).
 - MSU Policy: Prospects may be in a suite/box/club seats during an athletics event, provided they are a member of the owner's (of the suite/box/club seats) immediate family or there is a long standing relationship between the prospect and the owner of the suite/box/club seats. Receipt of impermissible complimentary admissions and special seating is considered an extra benefit.
- **Recruiting Visits to Campus:** During a prospect's visit to campus the following restrictions apply:
 - Prospects may not have on- or off-campus contact with alumni and boosters.
 - Prospects may not receive any extra benefit, including, but not limited to, clothing, meals, lodging, transportation, entertainment, cash, institutional memorabilia, etc.

- **Publicity:** MSU may not:
 - Comment about a prospect's ability, contribution the prospect might make to the team or the likelihood of the prospect signing a National Letter of Intent or Big Ten Tender with MSU.
 - Publicize a prospect's visit to campus (e.g., social networking website, newsletter, magazine article, etc.).
 - Prospects may not participate in any activity that would make the public or media aware of their visit to campus.

REPRESENTATIVES OF MSU'S ATHLETICS INTERESTS

- **Representatives of MSU's athletics interests** or boosters, may not participate in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes. Boosters may not contact have any in-person, on- or off-campus contact with prospects. In addition, boosters may not communicate with a prospect via the telephone, e-mail, social media, etc.
- **Preexisting Relationships:** In situations in which a current or prospective student-athlete received benefits prior to or during collegiate enrollment from someone other than a family member, the following guidelines should be used in determining whether such benefits are permissible:
 - Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) develop as a result of the athlete's participation in athletics or notoriety related thereto?
 - Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) predate the athlete's status as a prospective student-athlete?
 - Did the relationship between the athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) predate the athlete's status achieved as a result of his/her athletics ability or reputation?
 - Was the pattern of benefits provided by the individual to the athlete (or the athlete's parents) prior to the athlete attaining notoriety as a skilled athlete similar in nature to those provided after attaining such stature?

The origin and duration of a relationship and the consistency of benefits provided during the relationship are key factors in determining whether the benefits provided are contrary to the legislation.

- **Board of Trustees:** Board of Trustees are not permissible recruiters; therefore, they may not have on or off-campus contact with prospects.

CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES

- **Awards from Alumni Groups:** Any award given to a student-athlete (regardless of whether the student-athlete has exhausted his or her intercollegiate athletics eligibility) by an alumni group must comply with the NCAA limitations on institutional awards given to student-athletes. Please check with the Office of Compliance Services prior to providing an award to a student-athlete.
- **Luncheon Meetings:** A student-athlete may accept transportation and meal expenses in conjunction with participation in a luncheon meeting of a booster club or civic organization, provided the meeting occurs within a 30-mile radius of campus and no tangible award is provided to the student-athlete.

- **Special Seating:** MSU may not provide complimentary special seating to current student-athletes or their family or friends. Current student-athletes are NOT allowed in the press box, suites, bench area, courtside seating, etc. during a MSU athletics event (including half-time).
- **Extra Benefits:** The general rule is that donors, alumni and organizations MAY NOT provide anything to or make a special arrangement for MSU student-athletes, their family or friends that is not available to the general student body. Examples of impermissible extra benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Providing complimentary admissions to a current student-athlete or their family or friends. Student-athletes must purchase tickets to MSU events (athletics and institutional) in the same manner as the general student body.
 - Providing gifts of cash, entertainment, lodging, meals, transportation, clothing or any item of value to a student-athlete or their family or friends.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- MSU athletics department does sponsor auctions which offer MSU game day experiences and tickets to MSU sporting events as a means of raising funds. This is permissible under NCAA rules, but there are a few things to note.
 - Prospect-aged individuals may never have access to “special seating areas” in an athletics facility. Special seating areas include courtside seating in men’s basketball, women’s basketball and volleyball, the football press box, any team bench or restricted access sideline area and club seats/suites.
 - If an auction item includes special seating, promotional materials should include a disclaimer that clearly states the restrictions applicable to prospect-aged individuals.
- If an alumni club invites a coach to speak at a special event, it is important to note that coaches sometimes face NCAA restrictions on attending such events when prospect-aged individuals will be in attendance. Any invitation extended to a coach to attend such an event should always include a notice of whether or not prospects will be in attendance.

INSTITUTIONAL, CHARITABLE, EDUCATIONAL AND NONPROFIT PROMOTIONS

- Student-athletes must receive approval from the Office of Compliance Services and Student-Athlete Support Services prior to participating in any promotional activity.
- Student-athletes may not miss class to participate in the activity.
- Student-athletes may accept actual and necessary expenses (e.g., meal, transportation) in conjunction with their participation in a permissible promotional activity. Student-athletes may not receive payment (e.g., cash, gift card, gift certificate) or a stipend for participating in the promotional activity.
- Any commercial items with names, likenesses or pictures of multiple student-athletes (other than highlight films or media guides) may be sold only at MSU, institutionally controlled (owned and operated) outlets or outlets controlled by the charitable or educational organization. Items that include an individual student-athlete’s name, picture or likeness (e.g., name on jersey), other than informational items (e.g., media guide) may not be sold.
 - A fundraising activity (e.g., auction, raffle) involving items that include the name, picture or likeness of a student-athlete must be treated in the same manner as a sale.