MSU Student-Athlete Recruitment Policy

Michigan State University’s Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (“Department”) carries out its recruiting activities in accordance with applicable NCAA, Big Ten, and CCHA regulations. The Department is committed to the highest standards of conduct in the recruitment of future student-athletes at MSU. It strives to recruit prospective student-athletes of integrity who will be successful academically and athletically. Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 13.6.1, this Policy is designed to: a) clarify procedures and expectations for recruits’ official visits; b) specify host, recruit, and head coach responsibilities relating to official visits; c) emphasize appropriate behavior and activities during official visits; and d) establish educational procedures in support of enhanced recruiting standards.

Methodology

The Department’s Office of Compliance Services (OCS) and the Faculty Athletics Representative developed this Policy. It represents a compilation of existing MSU recruiting regulations and new guidelines mandated by the NCAA Task Force on Recruiting. This Policy was reviewed and approved by the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics (Athletics Director), by the Faculty Athletics Representative, by Athletics Council, by Department administrative and coaching staffs, by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and by select University administrators. It was implemented on December 1, 2004.

Prior to Official Visit

- The head coach is responsible for evaluating a recruit’s character, conduct, athletic talent, and academic ability prior to and during the recruitment process, including the official visit.
- The head coach is responsible for selecting hosts who will adhere to recruiting policies and procedures and who will avoid inappropriate behaviors, activities, and events during an official visit. Only currently enrolled student-athletes may serve as hosts during an official visit.
- If a head coach learns of information that raises questions about a recruit’s character or past conduct, particularly alleged illegal or unethical conduct, the head coach should consult the Athletics Director about it, in a timely manner, so that they can decide whether to continue recruitment.
- The OCS will send its standard “5-visit letter” to recruits and their parents. This letter will include information regarding this Policy.

Official Visit Procedures

- When a recruit arrives on an official visit, the head coach will give this Policy to the recruit and explain the behavior, attitude, and activities that are considered appropriate during an official visit.
- The head coach will instruct hosts and recruits about appropriate and inappropriate behaviors and activities during an official visit. Participation in any inappropriate, unethical, or illegal activity is strictly prohibited. While it is impractical to make an exhaustive list of such activities, the following are examples of prohibited activities:
  - Visiting an adult entertainment establishment;
  - Providing or consuming alcoholic beverages (no matter how old the recruit is);
  - Engaging or using an escort, escort service, or similar service;
  - Providing “adult entertainment” like exotic dancers;
  - Distributing or consuming any “street”/illegal drugs or someone else’s prescription drugs;
  - Gambling or gambling related activities; and
  - Going more than 30 miles from campus for any form of entertainment.
- The host, recruit, and head coach must each sign the MSU Recruitment Policy Disclosure Statement and Agreement. The host must do so prior to the start of the official visit or receiving host money, whichever comes first. The completed form must be filed with the OCS before the end of the official visit.
- The head coach or Athletics Director may terminate an official visit at any time for any reason.
Official Visit Activities

- The head coach is responsible for planning recruit activities during an official visit.
- Host, recruit, and head coach must be mindful of the Big Ten Conference recommended curfew of 1 a.m. each night during an official visit.
- Coaches must inform and remind hosts that they may not provide drugs or alcohol to a recruit during an official visit, and that the recruit may not consume drugs or alcohol during the official visit, regardless of the age of the recruit.

Educational Component
During their official visits recruits will learn about academic opportunities for student-athletes at MSU. The educational component of an official visit may include:

- A tour of the Student-Athlete Academic Center;
- A campus tour;
- A meeting with an Academic Coordinator to review academic requirements;
- A meeting with a faculty member;
- Attending class with a current student-athlete; and
- Observing study table with a current student-athlete, a coach, or an academic coordinator.

Policy Dissemination

- The Athletics Director is responsible to educate Department staff and others about recruiting policies, including distributing copies of this Policy.
- Staff education about recruiting occurs during the Department’s NCAA rules education meetings. Information about recruiting rules and policies appears in the New Staff Compliance Orientation Handbook, Athletics Department Policies and Procedures Manual, and postings on the Department’s website.
- Student-athletes learn about recruiting rules and policies during Fall and Spring semester rules education meetings. Information about recruiting rules and policies appears in the Student-Athlete Handbook, periodic e-mails, and postings on the Department’s website.
- A recruit will be advised about recruiting policies, in writing, by the head coach at the beginning of the official visit.
- The host, recruit, and head coach each must sign the MSU Recruitment Policy Disclosure Statement and Agreement.

Oversight and Enforcement

The host must inform the Athletics Director, the head coach, or the Assistant Director of Athletics for Compliance Services if the host knows that the recruit participated in inappropriate, unethical, or illegal activities during the recruit’s official visit.

Alleged violations of this Policy by a student-athlete who is acting as a host and/or by a coach will result in a meeting with the sport athletic administrator and the Athletics Director to review the facts relating to the alleged violation. The University will take appropriate action in response to a violation of this Policy.

Each year the OCS will prepare and send a summary of any violations of this Policy to the Big Ten Conference office. The President, Faculty Athletic Representative, Athletics Director, and MSU Athletics Council will receive copies of the violation summary as part of the OCS’s annual report.
MSU Recruitment Policy Disclosure Statement and Agreement  
- Host, Recruit, and Head Coach -

**Host Agreement**
I understand that if I participate in prohibited activities (see Recruit Agreement below) while hosting a recruit, the head coach and/or the Athletics Director may withhold me from practice or competition and I may lose all or part of my athletically-related financial aid. In addition, I understand that it is my responsibility to inform my coach, the Athletics Director, or the Assistant Director of Athletics for Compliance Services if I know of any inappropriate, unethical, or illegal activities in which a recruit participated during his/her official visit. I have also completed a student host form and returned it to the Office of Compliance Services. My signature indicates that I have read this Host Agreement and the Recruit Agreement below and that I accept my responsibility as a host of a recruit on an official visit at MSU.

Host Signature____________________________________  Date________________________

>>Recruits are to be in their hotel/dorm room by 1 a.m. each night during an official visit.<<

**Recruit Agreement**
The head coach has reviewed appropriate behaviors and activities during an official visit with me. I understand that participation in an inappropriate, unethical, or illegal activity or event is strictly prohibited. The following are examples of prohibited activities. This list is not exhaustive.

- Visiting an adult entertainment establishment;
- Providing or consuming alcoholic beverages;
- Engaging or using an escort, escort service, or similar service;
- Providing “adult entertainment” like exotic dancers;
- Distributing or consuming any “street”/illegal drugs or someone else’s prescription drugs;
- Gambling or gambling related activities; and
- Going more than 30 miles from campus for any form of entertainment.

My signature indicates that I have read this Recruit Agreement and that I accept my responsibility as a recruit on an official visit at MSU. I understand that if I engage in any inappropriate, unethical, or illegal behavior or activity, my official visit can be terminated immediately.

Recruit Signature__________________________________  Date_______________________