

Top Ten NCAA Rules Every Spartan Fan Should Know

Dear Spartan Fan,

As a MSU season ticket holder, a MSU alumnus or a member of any booster organization, you are by NCAA definition a representative of MSU's athletics interests ("booster"). MSU is responsible for the actions of its boosters and any inadvertent action on your part could jeopardize the eligibility of current and prospective student-athletes. MSU's Office of Compliance Services has developed a "top ten" list to help guide you as you continue to support MSU's athletics program.

Please note this list was developed to offer a general overview of key NCAA rules regarding the interaction between boosters and current and prospective student-athlete. The list is not a comprehensive guide; therefore, any specific questions you may have should be directed to the Office of Compliance Services at (517) 432-5510.

"Top Ten" NCAA Rules

1. You may not provide current or prospective student-athletes, their families or friends a benefit that is not permitted by the NCAA. Specifically prohibited financial aid, benefits or arrangements include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - A special discount, payment arrangement or credit on any purchase or service;
 - Gifts of cash, clothing or any other item with value;
 - Loan of money or co-signing of a loan;
 - An automobile, or use of an automobile or transportation expenses;
 - Free or reduced-cost services, purchases or rentals;
 - Employment or loan arrangements for a prospective or current student-athlete's friends or relatives;
 - Free or reduced-cost rent or housing;
 - Payment to a student-athlete for a speaking engagement; or
 - Entertainment on- or off-campus.
2. Employment of current student-athletes during the academic year and vacation periods is permissible, provided the following conditions are met:
 - A student-athlete may only be paid for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with the going rate in the area for similar services;
 - A 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 obtained because of his or her athletics ability;
 - Employers may not advertise a student-athlete's employment to generate extra business, nor may they use a student-athlete's name or picture to advertise, promote or recommend the sale or use of any commercial product or service;
 - Student-athletes cannot be provided with any benefits not provided to other employees; and
 - Student-athletes must report all jobs with MSU's Office of Compliance Services.
3. It is not permissible to use a student-athlete's name, picture or appearance for any promotional activity without prior approval from MSU's Office of Compliance Services.

You may not use a student-athlete's name, picture or appearance for commercial purposes or sell student-athlete memorabilia.

4. You may not provide student-athletes or their families or friends with entertainment expenses related to MSU athletic events. For example, it is not permissible to provide student-athletes or their families or friends with complimentary admissions to MSU athletic events or access to special seating areas of the facility including courtside seating at Breslin Center and the Huntington Club at Spartan Stadium and Munn Arena.
5. Only MSU coaches may be involved in the recruiting process. You may not have any telephone, written (e.g., letter, e-mail, fax, Twitter, Facebook, chat rooms, message boards, etc.) or in-person contact with a prospective student-athlete for recruiting purposes. A prospect is defined as an individual who has started classes for the ninth grade, including individuals enrolled in preparatory school and two-year colleges. You may not contact student-athletes enrolled in other four-year institutions regarding the possibility of transferring to MSU.
6. Boosters may not provide prospective student-athletes or their families or friends with any expenses (e.g., transportation to visit campus, meals, lodging, complimentary admissions to MSU athletic events, educational expenses, training expenses, medical expenses, etc.).
7. Boosters may not contact prospective student-athletes through any social media including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, message boards, chat rooms, blogs, etc.
8. You may not entertain a prospective student-athlete's high school, preparatory school, junior college or club coach or provide them with any other type of benefit.
9. You may not provide a benefit to a current student-athlete in exchange for the student-athlete's autograph, memorabilia, varsity awards, Big Ten awards (rings), NCAA awards (e.g., bowl gifts), etc.
10. Ask Before You Act! MSU is responsible for the actions of its boosters. When a violation occurs, regardless of intention, it can jeopardize the eligibility of our prospective and current student-athletes and result in the student-athlete and the athletics program being penalized by the NCAA and Big Ten Conference.

Please contact MSU's Office of Compliance Services if you should have any questions regarding NCAA legislation.

Office of Compliance Services

Michigan State University

Phone: (517) 432-5510

www.msu.edu/user/msunca/

Follow OCS on Twitter: @ComplianceMSU