

Parents' Guide to NCAA Rules Compliance

OFFICE OF
COMPLIANCE SERVICES
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Welcome!

The purpose of this guide is to educate the parents of MSU student-athletes about the ever-changing rules in intercollegiate athletics. This guide will review National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) and Big Ten rules that apply to you and your student-athlete. While this guide is not all inclusive, it will provide a sample of the type of compliance issues you and your student-athlete will encounter while at MSU.

If you have a question about NCAA or Big Ten rules, please contact the Office of Compliance Services at (517) 432-5510. For more information on NCAA and Big Ten rules, please visit the Office of Compliance Services' website at: <http://www.msu.edu/user/msuncaa/> or follow us on Twitter at @ComplianceMSU.



Seasons of Competition - Five-Year Clock

Student-athletes may not engage in more than four seasons of competition in any one sport within five calendar years. A student-athlete's five-year clock starts when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term of an academic year (summers excluded) for a minimum full-time program of studies (12 credit hours) and attends his/her first day of classes for that term.

A student-athlete uses a season of competition if he/she participates in any competition, regardless of the length of time, during a season. For example, if a student-athlete plays in one minute of one game, he/she has used a season of competition in his/her sport. There is one exception to this rule. During a student-athlete's initial year of enrollment at a four-year institution, he/she may compete in preseason exhibition contests and preseason practice scrimmages without counting such competition as a season of competition.

A student-athlete who does not compete at all during one of his/her seasons will not use a season of competition. This is commonly referred to as a "redshirt" year. An athlete only receives one "redshirt" year within his/her five-year clock.



Complimentary Admissions

MSU may provide a student-athlete with a maximum of four complimentary admissions per regular season home and away competitions, regardless of whether the student-athlete competes in the contest. Student-athletes may not receive "hard" tickets, as complimentary admissions may be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. Student-athletes may assign complimentary admissions to family members, relatives and friends. The individual receiving the complimentary admission must present identification at the admission gate in order to receive the complimentary admission. Neither the student-athlete, nor the individual designated to receive the ticket may exchange the ticket for money or any item of value. Doing so would result in a violation of NCAA legislation.

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Office of Compliance Services

(517) 432-5510

www.msu.edu/user/msuncaa/

Twitter & Instagram:
@ComplianceMSU

Student-Athlete Support Services (SASS)

<http://www.sass.msu.edu/>

Twitter: & Instagram
@MSU_SASS



Employment

It is permissible for student-athletes to work during the academic year and vacation periods. There is no limit on the amount of money a student-athlete can earn.

Student-athletes may be paid only for work actually performed and at a rate that is commensurate with the going rate in the locale for the type of work performed. A student-

athlete's compensation may not include any remuneration for value or utility that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that he/she has obtained because of athletics ability. Student-athletes may not receive any special discounts or services from his/her employer unless they are provided to all employees (i.e.,

transportation to and from work, health benefits, vacation/sick time, bonuses, etc.).

Student-athletes planning to work during the academic year and/or vacation periods must report the employment to the Office of Compliance Services.



Financial Aid

A student-athlete may not receive athletics aid in excess of a full grant-in-aid. A full grant-in-aid is defined as financial aid that consists of tuition and fees, room, board and books, and other expenses related to attendance at MSU up to the cost of attendance. The room portion of a student-athlete's scholarship is based on the value of a double dorm room and the board value is based on the platinum meal plan.

Charges not covered by a student-athlete's athletics scholarship include, but are not limited to, AOP book, missed tutorials, lost ID, parking tickets, damage to dorm rooms, late fees, meal plan in excess of a silver meal plan and single rooms (on-campus).

MSU may not decrease or cancel

a student-athlete's athletics aid during the period of the award (i.e., academic year) on the basis of the student-athlete's athletics ability, performance or contribution to a team's success; because of an injury, illness or physical or mental medical condition; or for any other athletics reason. MSU may reduce or cancel athletics aid during the period of the award if the student-athlete renders himself/herself ineligible for intercollegiate athletics competition; fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement; engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty; voluntarily withdraws from a sport at any time; or violates a nonathletically related condition

outlined in the financial aid agreement or violates a documented institution rule or policy.

It is permissible for a student-athlete to receive additional aid (e.g., institutional scholarships, outside awards) in addition to an athletics scholarship. In some instances those scholarships are countable against the student-athlete's full grant-in-aid limit. If that occurs, the student-athlete may have to decline the additional scholarship due to his/her financial aid limits and the team's financial aid limit. Should the athlete choose to keep the additional scholarship, his/her athletics aid may have to be reduced in order to accommodate the additional scholarship.



Consequences of NCAA Rules Violations

A violation of NCAA rules by a student-athlete will immediately put his/her eligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletics in jeopardy. In addition, a violation of NCAA rules by the parents, relatives and/or friends of a student-athlete will have a similar affect. As a result, the eligibility status of a Michigan State University student-athlete may be adversely impacted by the actions of their parents or others (e.g., boosters), even if the student-athlete did not have any knowledge of the events and circumstances that led to the violation of NCAA rules. Please be aware that your actions, regardless of your son's/daughter's knowledge or approval, may have eligibility ramifications for him/her.



Extra Benefits

One area that causes concern and raises the greatest number of questions involves a student-athlete or his/her family member's receipt of an "extra benefit." An extra benefit is defined as any special arrangement by an institutional employee or booster to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's relatives or friends a benefit not authorized by the NCAA. The receipt of a benefit not authorized by NCAA regulations by a student-athlete or his/her parents, relatives or friends will immediately place

the student-athlete's eligibility for intercollegiate athletics competition in jeopardy.

Examples of extra benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A special discount, payment arrangement or credit on a purchase or service (e.g., dry cleaning, legal representation);
- Free or reduced-cost housing;
- Transportation, an automobile or use of an

automobile;

- Services (e.g., movie tickets, dinners, use of a car) from commercial agencies (e.g., movie theaters, restaurants, car dealers) without charge or at reduced rates; and
- Cash, gift certificates or other items with value.

Please contact the Office of Compliance Services should you have any questions regarding extra benefits.



Boosters

As the parent of a MSU student-athlete, you should be aware that the NCAA has imposed limitations and boundaries on the kinds of interactions you may have with people whom the NCAA defines as "representatives of the MSU's athletics interests" or a "booster." A booster is an individual who is a member of an organization that supports and promotes MSU athletics; made any financial contributions to the athletics department (e.g., Spartan Fund); been involved in promoting MSU's athletics program (e.g., member of a booster group); been a season ticket holder or provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their relatives or friends. In addition to an individual, a booster can also be a commercial entity such as a hotel, restaurant, retailer or car dealership.

Once an individual has been identified as a booster, he/she retains that status forever. This is true even if the person no longer contributes to MSU's

athletics program. While your son and/or daughter is enrolled at MSU, it is a possibility that you may befriend a person who is defined per NCAA regulations as a booster. If this occurs, please be aware that your friendship with a booster does not change their status and your responsibility as far as maintaining compliance with NCAA rules is concerned. In general, these individuals may not provide benefits to you, your family or your son and/or daughter.

There may be circumstances when someone other than a parent or legal guardian may provide a student-athlete with a benefit or service. The NCAA uses the following four questions as an objective guideline in determining whether to permit a student-athlete's receipt of such benefits.

1. Did the relationship between the student-athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) develop as a result of the student-athlete's

participation in athletics or notoriety related thereto?

2. Did the relationship between the student-athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) predate the athlete's status as a prospective student-athlete?
3. Did the relationship between the student-athlete (or the athlete's parents) and the individual providing the benefit(s) predate the student-athlete's status achieved as a result of his/her athletics ability or reputation?
4. Was the pattern of benefits provided by the individual to the student-athlete (or the athlete's parents) prior to the student-athlete attaining notoriety as a skilled athlete similar in nature to those provided after attaining such stature?

Please contact the Office of Compliance Services prior to accepting anything from a booster.



Academic Requirements

Once your son and/or daughter begins taking classes at MSU, he/she will be expected to maintain certain academic standards in order to be eligible for practice and competition. NCAA legislation requires student-athletes maintain progress toward a degree in order to maintain their academic eligibility. In addition to NCAA requirements, student-athletes are required to meet MSU and Big Ten Conference academic standards as well.

In general, to be eligible to participate in practice and competition, a student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum

full-time program of studies (i.e., 12 credit hours). As student-athletes progress through each term, they are required to meet additional academic requirements. First, student-athletes must complete a minimum of six credits per term (excluding summers) to be eligible for competition the next term. In addition, student-athletes must complete a minimum of 18 credits during the academic year. Finally, student-athletes must earn a minimum number of credits prior to the start of each academic year. In addition to credit hour requirements, student-athletes must earn a

minimum grade-point average each year of enrollment. As student-athletes enter their third year of enrollment they are required to make progress toward a degree by completing a minimum percentage of requirements for that degree.

Student-athletes who fail to meet NCAA and/or Big Ten academic requirements will be rendered ineligible for competition until their academic deficiency has been corrected.

For more information on NCAA and Big Ten academic standards please see the charts below.

NCAA & BIG TEN CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS				
During 1st Year of Enrollment	Entering 2nd Year of Enrollment	Entering 3rd Year of Enrollment	Entering 4th Year of Enrollment	Entering 5th Year of Enrollment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 12 credits per term • Pass 6 credits per term • Pass 18 credits during academic year • FB Only—Pass 9 credits in the fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass 24 credits • Earn a 1.80 GPA • Pass 6 credits per term • Pass 18 credits during academic year • FB Only—Pass 9 credits in the fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass 48 degree applicable credits • Earn a 1.90 GPA • Pass 6 credits per term • Pass 18 credits during academic year • FB Only—Pass 9 credits in the fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass 72 degree applicable credits • Earn a 2.00 GPA • Pass 6 credits per term • Pass 18 credits during academic year • FB Only—Pass 9 credits in the fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass 96 degree applicable credits • Earn a 2.00 GPA • Pass 6 credits per term



Recruiting Warning

NCAA legislation restricts recruitment of prospective student-athletes to institutional staff members. It is not permissible for a parent of a current student-athlete to contact a prospective student-athlete. A prospect is defined as an individual enrolled in grades 9-12 in high school or an individual enrolled in a two-year college. A prospect remains a prospect until he/she enrolls

full-time at MSU or begins practice prior to their first term of enrollment (e.g., fall sports). recruit on behalf of MSU.

For example, it is not permissible for a parent of a current student-athlete to have telephone contact or written contact (e.g., e-mail, letter, text message, Instant Message, Facebook, Twitter, chat rooms, message boards) with a prospect

or his/her parents. In addition, parents may not provide prospects or their parents with any extra benefit including, but not limited to, complimentary admissions, meals, lodging, transportation, financial aid, loans, employment, etc. It is permissible for parents of current student-athletes to have on-campus contact with prospect and their parents during their visit to MSU.



Gambling

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required or there is an opportunity to win a prize. The prohibition against sports wagering applies to MSU

athletics department staff members and student-athletes.

This means that student-athletes are prohibited from participating in the following activities:

- No wagers for any item (e.g., cash, dinner, clothing) on any MSU practice or intercollegiate, amateur or professional competition.
- No sports “pools”.
- No Internet gambling on sports events.
- No fantasy leagues that award a prize or require a fee to participate.
- No exchange of information

about a MSU team and/or student-athlete with anyone who gambles including information about injuries, new plays, team morale, discipline problems, etc.

A student-athlete who participates in any sports wagering activity involving MSU or who engages in activities designed to influence the outcome of an intercollegiate contest or in an effort to affect win-loss margins (“point shaving”) shall permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.



Promotional Activities

Each year the athletics department receives many requests from the community for our student-athletes to make public appearances. It is permissible for student-athletes to participate in promotional activities, provided certain criteria are met.

- Student-athletes MAY NOT allow their name, picture or personal appearance to advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of any commercial products,
- services or businesses.
- Student-athletes must receive written approval from the Office of Compliance Services or Student-Athlete Support Services PRIOR to participating in any promotional activities.
- The student-athlete may not miss class.
- The student-athlete may not receive payment for their appearance at a promotional activity.

- Student-athletes may not promote a commercial entity on a social networking website.

In order to protect a student-athletes eligibility, it is important to check with the Office of Compliance Services before the student-athlete participates in any promotional activity with an outside organization.



Financial Aid Tips

Financial can be very confusing. MSU has several resources available online to help students and parents. Two valuable websites are the Office of Financial Aid (OFA) located at www.finaid.msu.edu and Student Accounts located on the Controller’s website at www.ctrlr.msu.edu.

Parents and students can access the following information on the

OFA website:

- StuInfo/eFINAID: View your student’s financial aid information
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Financial aid forms
- Information regarding guest access to your student’s account and information on the new eSecurity process.

- OFA contact information.
- Additional scholarship and loan opportunities.

You can also find important information on the Student Account website located on the Controller’s website. This site contains additional information on billing, deferred payments, fees, tuition costs, direct deposit and frequently asked questions.



Agents and Amateurism

Per NCAA legislation only an amateur student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate athletics participation. A student-athlete may jeopardize his/her amateur status if he/she has inappropriate contact with an agent or their representatives. Please keep the following in mind if an agent or their representatives contacts you or your son/daughter in an attempt to persuade you to allow them to represent your child's athletics interests.

- A student-athlete MAY NOT agree, either orally or in writing, to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing his/her athletics ability or reputation in a sport. In addition, it is not permissible for a student-athlete to enter into a verbal or written agreement with an agent for representation in future professional sports negotiations once his/her collegiate eligibility has

expired in that sport.

- Student-athletes (or their relatives or friends) MAY NOT accept transportation or other benefits (e.g., dinner, lodging) from anyone who wishes to represent their athletic interests.
- A student-athlete MAY NOT enter into any kind of agreement to compete in professional athletics, either orally or in writing, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement.
- Student-athletes MAY NOT receive any type of pay or compensation for play (either directly or indirectly).
- Student-athletes MAY NOT be involved in any commercial endorsements for a product, service or establishment.

It is permissible for a student-athlete to secure legal advice

from a lawyer concerning a proposed, professional sports contract, provided the lawyer DOES NOT represent the student-athlete in negotiations for such a contract. A lawyer may not be present during discussions of a contract offer with a professional organization or have any direct contact (in person, by telephone or by mail) with a professional sports organization on behalf of the student-athlete. A lawyer's presence during such discussions is considered representation by an agent.

A student-athlete may inquire of a professional sports organization about eligibility for a professional-league player draft or request information about his/her market value without affecting his or her amateur status.

For more information on agents and amateurism please visit the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org.



Transfer 101

If your son and/or daughter decides to transfer from MSU to another institution (regardless of division) they must first receive permission from his/her head coach before talking to the second institution. If the student-athlete does not obtain permission to contact the second institution, the coach from that institution may not have any written or verbal contact with the student-athlete. The general rule regarding transferring from one Division I institution to another Division I institution is that the student-athlete must serve one academic year in residence at the second institution before being eligible for competition. In sports other than baseball, basketball, bowl subdivision football and men's ice hockey, an athlete may receive a one-time transfer exception from the first institution which allows the individual to be immediately eligible for competition at the second institution upon transfer, provided the student-athlete meets all academic requirements. For more information regarding transfers visit the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org.



National Letter of Intent

Many incoming student-athletes sign a National Letter of Intent (NLI) with Michigan State University. An NLI is an agreement between the incoming student-athlete and MSU which states that the institution will provide the student-athlete with one academic year of athletically related financial aid in return for the student-athlete's attendance at that institution for one academic year (summers excluded). This financial agreement is valid for one academic year only. It does not guarantee that the student-athlete will receive athletics aid in excess of his/her first year of enrollment at the institution. This agreement remains binding even if the student-athlete's coach leaves the institution with which he/she signed. If the student-athlete does not attend the institution or attends the institution for less than one academic year, the athlete will face a penalty should he/she transfer to another NLI institution. For more information on the NLI visit their website at www.national-letter.org.