



# YOUR GUIDE TO GEORGIA ATHLETICS COMPLIANCE





I'm a booster if I:

- Hold, or have ever held season tickets for any sport at the University of Georgia
- Have participated in or am a member of an agency or organization promoting UGA's athletics program (e.g., University of Georgia Alumni Association, sport booster groups, etc)
- Have made financial contributions to the athletic association or to an athletics booster organization of that institution (e.g. Bulldog Club, booster group, etc.)
- Assisted, am assisting or I have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospects;
- Am assisting or I have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families, which will turn an individual a booster under NCAA rules. These benefits include, but are not limited to, financial assistance, use of a cell phone, etc.
- Provide allowable benefits (e.g., summer jobs) to enrolled student-athletes; or
- Promote University of Georgia Athletics in any way

\* The list is not exhaustive. Please contact the University of Georgia Athletics Compliance Office if you have any questions about your possible status as a booster

# ***PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES***

As a booster, the NCAA restricts the involvement that you may have with prospective student-athletes. Only coaches and authorized employees may be involved in the recruiting process. NCAA rules prohibit boosters from engaging in recruiting activities designed to secure a prospect's enrollment at UGA.

## **Permissible Booster Activities:**

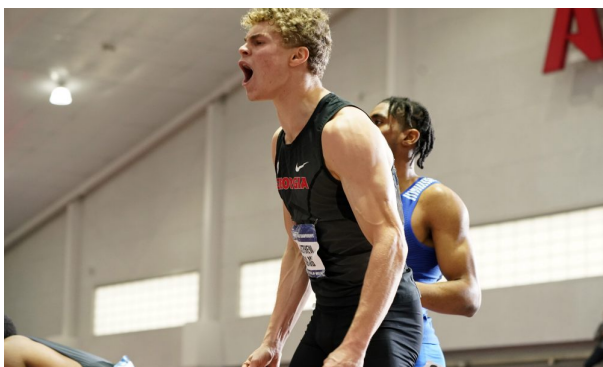
- Continuing to have contact with an established family friend or neighbor who is a prospect
- Viewing a prospect's game on your own initiative
- Receiving a call from a prospect only if the prospect initiates the call and it is not for a recruiting purpose
- Notifying the UGA coaching staff of outstanding prospects

## **As a Booster You May NOT:**

- Contact or call a prospect if the relationship began in the ninth grade or later and the relationship developed out of athletics;
- Contact or call a prospect's parent, coach, principal or counselor for a recruiting purpose or to encourage the prospect's enrollment at UGA;
- Assist with the evaluation of athletic talent at the direction of the UGA coaching staff; or
- Promote UGA in any way to a prospect or their family or friends

## **As a Booster You May NOT give/provide a prospect, among others:**

- Transportation (e.g., purchase of plane, train or bus tickets, etc.) or the use of an automobile
- Admission to an event (e.g., movies, banquets, concerts, sporting events, clubs, special events/parties, banquets, etc.).
- Cash, loans of money or the use of a credit card
- Any tangible gifts, including birthday or holiday gifts
- Free or discounted meals. Free or discounted goods (e.g., clothing, vehicles, electronics, tattoos, laundry, haircuts, legal fees, golf, car repairs).
- Free or reduced-cost housing for any length of time
- Assistance paying bills (e.g., utility bills, rent payments, telephone or cell phone bills)
- Special finance and/or credit arrangements (e.g., for vehicles, apartments, furniture or goods)
- Arranged employment for a prospect's or student-athlete's family or friends.
- Academic assistance of any kind (e.g., tutoring, editing papers/projects, assistance in completing classwork, use of a computer, etc.)



### COMMON QUESTIONS:

#### **May a prospect call a booster?**

Yes. A booster may receive a call from a prospect ONLY if the prospect initiates the call and the call is not prearranged by an institutional staff member or the booster. Discussion must be limited to general topics. All recruiting and athletically-related questions must be referred to the athletics department.

*\*Note:* The NCAA treats communication through videoconferencing applications (e.g., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, etc.) as the equivalent of a phone call. Boosters and staff members may not initiate or pre-arrange videoconferencing calls between prospects and boosters. Sending an invitation link to a scheduled Zoom call through email counts as initiating a call.

#### **May a booster call a prospect or send a congratulatory letter once the prospect has committed to or signed a National Letter of Intent with UGA?**

No. He/she remains a prospect until the first day of enrollment during the summer, fall or spring semester or their first official day of practice.

#### **May a booster pay for a prospect's expenses or fees to attend camp?**

No, unless the prospect is an immediate family member of the booster.

#### **May a booster speak to a prospect who is accompanied by a UGA coach?**

No. If a UGA coach is with a prospect during their visit at UGA, do not approach the coach until the prospect and his/her family has gone elsewhere.

#### **Is it permissible for a booster to accompany a UGA coach when he/she visits a local high school or prospect's home?**

No. A booster may not accompany a coach during any recruiting activities.





## ***ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES***

As a booster, the NCAA restricts the involvement that you may have with student-athletes. NCAA rules prohibit boosters from providing a student-athlete with an extra benefit – doing so may result in the student-athlete being declared ineligible to compete at UGA. Extra benefit violations include any special gift or arrangement provided to a student-athlete, or a student-athlete's friend or family member that is not available to the general UGA student body.

### **Permissible Booster Activities:**

- Employ student-athletes
- Host a meal on an occasional basis that has been approved by the UGA Compliance Office prior to the meal occurring
- Speak with student-athletes at athletic events, banquets, etc.

**As a Booster you may NOT give/provide a student-athlete or their family or friends (again, you turn into a booster if you are ever found to have provided benefits to student-athletes or prospective student-athletes):**

- Transportation (e.g., purchase of plane, train or bus tickets, etc.) or the use of an automobile
- Admission to an event (e.g., movies, banquets, concerts, sporting events, clubs, special events/parties, banquets, etc.).
- Cash, loans of money or the use of a credit card
- Any tangible gifts, including birthday or holiday gifts
- Free or discounted meals. Free or discounted goods (e.g., clothing, vehicles, electronics, tattoos, laundry, haircuts, legal fees, golf, car repairs).
- Free or reduced-cost housing for any length of time
- Assistance paying bills (e.g., utility bills, rent payments, telephone or cell phone bills)
- Special finance and/or credit arrangements (e.g., for vehicles, apartments, furniture or goods)
- Arrange employment for a prospect's or student-athlete's family or friends.
- Academic assistance of any kind (e.g., tutoring, editing papers/projects, assistance in completing classwork, use of a computer, etc.)

### **New NCAA Policy on Name/Image/Likeness (NIL) Activities:**

Student-athletes are now permitted to promote commercial entities using their NIL. There are certain requirements for such promotional activities. In general, boosters are still prohibited from offering benefits to student-athletes or prospective student-athletes, even in the form of promotional deals, that are a form of "pay to play." Please visit <https://georgiadogs.com/sports/2021/8/2/nil-policy.aspx> for more information.



#### COMMON QUESTIONS:

**May a booster receive a ticket to an athletic event from a current student-athlete?**

No. At UGA, boosters are not permitted to receive a complimentary admission or to purchase a ticket from a current student-athlete or their family members.

**May a booster speak with student-athlete at an athletic event or banquet?**

Yes. Communication with current student-athletes is not restricted under NCAA rules.

**May a booster provide a student-athlete with a nominal gift for a special event (e.g., birthday, Christmas, weddings, finals week, etc.)?**

No. Provision of any gift, including a gift of nominal value, is considered an extra benefit under NCAA rules and receipt of such benefits will jeopardize the eligibility of the student-athlete.

**May a booster host a meal for current student-athletes?**

Yes. A booster may host a meal on an occasional basis for any number of current student-athletes provided the meal is approved by the UGA Athletics Compliance Office prior to occurring. Meals may only be hosted in the booster's home or on UGA's campus.

**May a booster provide lodging to a student-athlete for any length of time?**

No. Provision of lodging to a student-athlete, whether in the booster's home, rental property or at any other location for any length of time would constitute an extra benefits violation that will jeopardize the eligibility of the student-athlete, even if the student-athlete pays for the housing.

## ***EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENT-ATHLETES***

Employment of a student-athlete is permissible, provided all six (6) of the following conditions are met:

1. The student-athlete is only paid for work actually performed.
2. The student-athlete is paid at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locale for similar services.
3. The student-athlete is not provided any benefits through a "pay for play" system or through incentives tied to athletics performance.
4. The student-athlete registers the job by completing the Student-Athlete Employment Form and returns it to the Athletics Compliance Office prior to beginning work.
5. Employers **MUST** confirm their employment of UGA student-athletes prior to the student-athletes' employment.

## ***GAMBLING ACTIVITIES***

NCAA rules prohibit student-athletes and athletic department staff members from participating in any sports gambling activity or providing information concerning competitions to individuals involved in organized gambling activities. Additionally, it is a violation of federal law for boosters, student-athletes, or staff members to affect or attempt to affect the outcome of a collegiate contest.

## ***PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES / STUDENT-ATHLETES***

- A student-athlete must receive approval from the Compliance Office prior to participating in any promotional activity or community outreach.
- Legitimate charitable/educational activities and legitimate NIL activities must be disclosed to the Compliance Office.
- Please visit <https://georgiadogs.com/sports/2021/8/2/nil-policy.aspx> for more information. You can also contact the Compliance Office at 706-542-9103.



# ***TERMS TO KNOW***

## **Prospective Student-Athlete (PSA or “recruit”)**

- Any student that has started classes for the ninth grade, regardless of athletic ability;
- A student of any age if benefits are provided to the student that are not provided to prospective students in general; and
- A student remains a prospect until he or she has either enrolled in school or reported for practice. Signing a National Letter of Intent or verbally committing to UGA does not remove the status of “prospect.” Please confirm a student’s status with the Compliance Office prior to contacting a prospect.

## **Recruiting**

Any solicitation of a prospect or the prospect’s family by an authorized institutional staff member for the purpose of securing the prospect’s enrollment and participation in athletics

## **Contact**

Any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect’s parent or legal guardian and an institutional staff member or booster during which any dialogue occurs in excess of a greeting

## **Evaluation**

Any activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or athletic ability of a prospect, including any visit to a prospect’s school or the observation of a prospect participating in any practice or competition

## **Student-Athlete**

A student who presently is participating in intercollegiate athletics or participated in intercollegiate athletics

## **Extra Benefit**

An extra benefit is any special gift or arrangement provided to a student-athlete, or student-athlete’s friend or family member, which is not available to the general University of Georgia student body or general population





**Example of Extra Benefits (this is NOT an exhaustive list):**  
**Prospective Student-Athletes and Enrolled Student-Athletes**

- Transportation (e.g., purchase of plane, train or bus tickets, etc.) or the use of an automobile
- Admission to an event (e.g., movies, banquets, concerts, sporting events, clubs, special events/ parties, banquets, etc.).
- Cash, loans of money or the use of a credit card
- Any tangible gifts, including birthday or holiday gifts
- Free or discounted meals. Free or discounted goods (e.g., clothing, vehicles, electronics, tattoos, laundry, haircuts, legal fees, golf, car repairs).
- Free or reduced-cost housing for any length of time
- Assistance paying bills (e.g., utility bills, rent payments, telephone or cell phone bills)
- Special finance and/or credit arrangements (e.g., for vehicles, apartments, furniture or goods)
- Arranged employment for a prospect's or student-athlete's family or friends.
- Academic assistance of any kind (e.g., tutoring, editing papers/projects, assistance in completing classwork, use of a computer, etc.)

**Recruiting:**

A recruiting inducement under NCAA rules is any special gift or arrangement provided to a PSA that is not available to the general population. The arrangement of such a benefit would be considered an improper inducement to encourage the eventual enrollment of a PSA at UGA.

**Representatives of Athletics Interests:**

You are a "Representative of Athletics Interests" ("Booster"). Remember, once you are identified as a booster, you retain that identity forever. Boosters are bound by NCAA, SEC and UGA rules, policies and guidelines. As a result, boosters are responsible for notifying the University of Georgia Athletics Association Compliance Office of any potential rules violations. Even if a violation is unintentional, the eligibility of a PSA (recruit) or enrolled student-athlete could be in jeopardy.

# **NCAA RULES**

## **Top 10 Things Fans and Friends of the University of Georgia Athletic Association Should Know About NCAA Rules:**

1. The NCAA holds UGA accountable for the actions of its fans and friends. This means that if you are involved with NCAA violations (known or unknown), UGA may have to, among others, forfeit games, entire seasons, scholarships, recruiting opportunities, and may be prohibited from participating in post-season competition and may have to return substantial sums of money.
2. You may send information about talented prospects to UGA coaching staff members.
3. You may continue established relationships with friends and neighbors whose children are prospects or current student-athletes, provided the relationship pre-dates high school and is not based on their status as an athlete.
4. You may not be involved in recruiting prospective student-athletes on behalf of UGA. A prospective student-athlete is defined as a student who has started classes for the ninth grade or above.
5. You may not become involved in arranging for a prospect, an UGA student-athlete or an UGA student-athlete's friends or family to receive money or financial assistance of any kind.
6. You may not provide transportation to a prospect, student-athlete or their friends or family.
7. You may not spend funds to entertain prospects, student-athletes or their friends or family.
8. You may not use a photo or name of a student-athlete for commercial purposes (which includes social media) or sell student-athlete memorabilia without approval as a legitimate NIL activity.
9. Breaking NCAA rules can render prospects and student-athletes ineligible to compete at the University of Georgia.
10. Always ask before you act!



## **CONTACT US:**

UGA Compliance Office

Phone: 706-542-9103

Email: [compliance@sports.uga.edu](mailto:compliance@sports.uga.edu)

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