

NCAA Rules and Regulations for Alumni and Supporters of West Virginia University





Dear Mountaineer Supporter



As Director of Athletics at West Virginia University I am responsible for making sure that our athletic program is in full compliance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the NCAA. That's a big job because it involves awareness of the actions of not only our staff and student-athletes, but also those of outside representatives and supporters, and it's an obligation we take very seriously.

The NCAA rules state that anyone involved in actively promoting the athletic interests of an institution must follow the NCAA guidelines. This includes individuals such as you. As a supporter of West Virginia University you are prohibited from doing such things as contacting a prospective recruit in person, by letter or by phone, or from contacting that prospect's family members. You are prohibited from providing transportation, entertainment, meals or anything of material value to student-athletes and their family members as well. There are very strict and specific rules governing your actions and any violation, regardless of your intentions, could jeopardize that young man's or woman's eligibility and could possibly bring NCAA sanctions upon our athletic program.

I hope this booklet gives you a clearer understanding of what you can and cannot do as a loyal supporter. If you have any questions, don't be afraid to contact our compliance office with any questions. We are very appreciative of your support of our athletic programs; however, we need you to be very diligent in following the NCAA rules. Let's continue to keep West Virginia University a model for what an NCAA program should be successful within the rules. We need your help to continue that tradition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Oliver Luck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Oliver" and "Luck" being capitalized and prominent.

Oliver Luck
Director of Athletics



Athletic Compliance

West Virginia University is committed and obligated to the principle of institutional control in operating its athletics program in a manner that is consistent with the letter and the spirit of the NCAA, the Big 12 Conference and University rules and regulations.

The athletic compliance office coordinates, monitors and verifies compliance with all NCAA requirements and educates the various constituencies of the University and the community regarding NCAA and Big 12 Conference regulations. The athletic compliance office is dedicated to providing educational programs and interpretive support to ensure that all individuals involved with the athletics program understand and adhere to the university's compliance expectations.

The West Virginia University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is committed to the principle of institutional control through the education of coaches, staff, student-athletes and other individuals within the athletics program. The compliance office has put into place monitoring procedures and educational programs that provide guidance in how to work within the rules. Each individual within the athletic department is obligated to maintain competency in knowledge of rules, to act within his or her realm of responsibility in full compliance with the rules and to report any violations of the rules.

Keeping our student-athletes, boosters and coaching staffs abreast of NCAA and Big 12 Conference rules is the key to ensuring proper rules compliance.

Compliance monitors all activities that involve any NCAA or Big 12 Conference rule, such as recruiting, financial aid, length of play and practice seasons, academics and eligibility to name a few.

Maintaining institutional control is imperative to continue the growth and success of Mountaineer athletics. Proper rules compliance is the concern of everyone associated with West Virginia University, and everyone plays a role.

It is the goal of the compliance program to place the University in a pro-active position by educating, overseeing and monitoring the intercollegiate athletics program and maintaining a positive compliance environment.



Institutional Control of Athletics Program

Institutional control of athletics is a fundamental requirement of NCAA legislation. Specifically, the NCAA constitution provides that each institution shall be responsible for:

1. Controlling its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with NCAA rules and regulations.
2. Monitoring its program to ensure compliance with identifying and reporting to the NCAA instances in which compliance has not been achieved and taking appropriate corrective action.
3. Ensuring the members of the institution's staff, student-athletes and other individuals or groups representing the institution's athletics interests comply with all applicable NCAA rules.



Athletic Booster

A "representative of the institution's athletics interest" is an individual who is known (or who should be known) by a member of the institution's executive or athletic administration to:

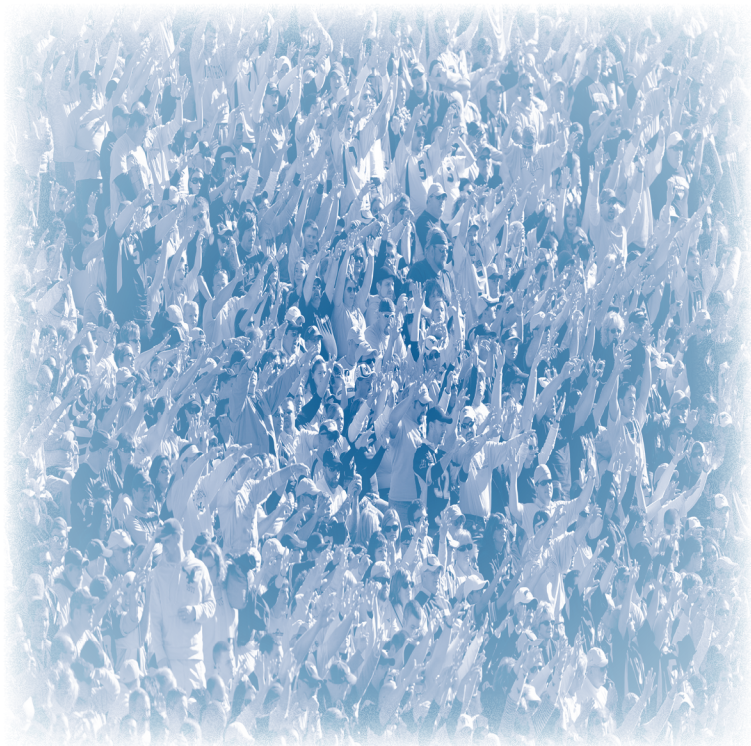
1. Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletic program.
2. Have made financial contributions to the athletic department or to an athletic booster organization of that institution (i.e. Mountaineer Athletic Club).
3. Be assisting or to have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of Prospects.
4. Assist or have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families.
5. Having been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletic program. Once an individual is identified as such a representative, the person retains that identity indefinitely.



Prospective Student-Athletes

A prospective student-athlete (“prospect”) is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade, including students in preparatory school, junior college and other four-year institutions. Actions by the coaching staff that cause a prospect to become a recruited prospective student-athlete include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Providing transportation to the prospect to visit the institution’s campus.
2. Entertaining the prospect in any way on the campus.
3. Initiating or arranging a telephone contact with the prospect, family member or guardian for the purpose of recruitment.
4. Visiting a prospect, family or guardian for the purpose of recruitment.
5. Entertaining family members or guardians of a prospect on the institution’s campus.





Important NCAA Reminders

1. Only coaches and athletic department staff members are permitted to be involved in the recruiting process. Alumni, friends and other “representatives of athletic interest” who are not employed by the University are not permitted to contact a prospective student-athlete (or members of the prospect’s family) by letter, telephone or in person (on or off campus) for the purpose of soliciting their participation in the athletic program. WVU faculty members are permitted to have contact with prospects, but only on campus.

2. A prospective student-athlete remains a prospect even after signing a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement to attend the University. The prospect does not lose his/her prospective student-athlete status until the start of classes at WVU or the beginning of official team practice immediately prior to the start of classes.

3. The prohibition of contact with a prospective student-athlete is not intended to relate to normal civility, it being understood that such a contact is not prearranged by the representatives of a member institution and is not made for the purpose of recruitment. In other words, if you meet a junior or senior high school or junior college student-athlete during your normal course of business there is no problem with the contact as long as you complete the conduct of your affairs with no talk about West Virginia University. However, if you are attending an alumni or athletic event and find yourself talking to parents of a prospect, don’t talk about the WVU athletic program and extricate yourself from the situation in a timely and civil manner.

4. Don’t do **ANYTHING** for prospects, enrolled student-athletes, their relatives or friends without specific authorization from the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Examples of extra benefits that you cannot provide to these individuals include, but are not limited to:

- a. Cash or loans in any amount.
- b. Cosigning or arranging a loan.
- c. Providing gifts of any kind (e.g., clothing, airline tickets, or holiday cards).
- d. Providing special discount for goods and services including but not limited to medical, dental and optical expenses.



Important NCAA Reminders

- e. Use of an automobile.
 - f. Provide or pay for typing or other costs associated with school.
 - g. Provide free or reduced-cost tickets to WVU athletics events.
 - h. Payment of registration fees for summer sports camps for prospects.
5. Please be reminded of the following rules governing contacts with prospects:
- a. **DO NOT** telephone or write to a prospective student-athlete for the purpose of soliciting his or her participation in the athletic program. If a prospective student-athlete initiates telephone conversation with you, refer them to the appropriate coaching staff.
 - b. **DO NOT** make in person contact with a prospective student-athlete either on or off the college campus.
 - c. **DO NOT** contact a prospective student-athlete's coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the prospect. Do not visit the prospect's educational institution to pick up films or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect.
 - d. **DO NOT** directly or indirectly become involved in making arrangements for a prospect, the prospect's relatives, or friends to receive money, financial aid of any kind.
 - e. **DO NOT** entertain, provide tickets, gifts or other benefits to junior or senior high school, preparatory school, or junior college coaches at any time. The athletic department is permitted to provide them with complimentary admissions, but "representatives of athletics interest" may not.
 - f. **DO** feel free to attend junior or senior high school or junior college athletic events. NCAA rules do not prohibit you from doing so, only from coming into contact with a prospective student-athlete or members of the student's family while you were there.



Employment of Student-Athletes

1. DO NOT provide employment to a prospective or currently enrolled student-athlete without checking with the WVU athletic department first.
2. DO NOT employ a currently enrolled student-athlete without the express permission of the athletic department.
3. DO NOT provide free transportation to and from jobs for student-athlete employees unless such transportation is provided to all employees.
4. Do not provide an honorarium to a student-athlete for a speaking engagement.
5. NCAA rules stipulate that compensation may be paid to a student-athlete only for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar service.
6. Compensation may not include any remuneration for value or utility that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of publicity, reputation, and fame or personal following that he/she has obtained because of athletic ability.
7. The athletic department must keep written records verifying all student-athlete employment. Student-athletes must receive permission prior to starting employment.



Former Student-Athletes

There are NCAA rules that continue to govern a student-athlete even after he/she exhausts his/her eligibility and/or graduates. Although it is permissible to provide a meal to a student-athlete as long as it's of nominal value it is not permissible to provide gifts or cash to a former student-athlete.



Agents and Amateurism/Gambling



A student-athlete loses his or her amateur status and shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if:

1. One negotiates, signs, or enters into any written or oral agreement with an agent.
2. One accepts or receives any extra benefits (including family members) from an agent or anyone who wishes to represent the student-athlete.
3. Athletic skills are used for pay or promise of pay.
4. One competes on a professional sports team.

A student-athlete, coach, and athletics staff employee of West Virginia University may not provide information to individuals involved in any type of organized gambling activities concerning sporting events. In addition, student-athletes, coaches, and athletics staff employees may not solicit or accept any wager on any intercollegiate or professional athletic contest.



The Consequences of NCAA Violations

Institutions are required by the NCAA to notify boosters of consequences regarding rules violations. Booster participation in non-permissible activities outlined by the NCAA could result in any of the following:

1. A prospect being declared ineligible to represent West Virginia University.
2. A student-athlete being declared ineligible to compete for West Virginia University.
3. An entire team being declared ineligible to compete in Big 12 or NCAA competition.
4. Disassociation of booster with the institution and the loss of season ticket privileges.

Please understand the rules and ask questions.

“Ask Before You Act.”





Contacting the West Virginia University Athletic Compliance Office

This publication was prepared by the West Virginia University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics to assist alumni and supporters in complying with the requirements of National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) and Big 12 Conference rules and regulations governing the conduct of the University's athletic program.

If you have additional questions about your involvements with prospects and WVU's student-athletes or NCAA rules, contact the WVU compliance office.

Athletic Compliance Office
West Virginia University
PO Box 877
Morgantown, WV 26507-0877

Phone: (304) 293-6758

Fax: (304) 293-3035

For additional contact information, please access the compliance staff directory at www.MSNsportsNET.com.





**Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
West Virginia University
PO Box 877
Morgantown, WV 26507-0877**

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Morgantown, WV
Permit No. 34**