Don't be sidelined: Ask before you act

Florida International University (FIU), as a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Sun Belt Conference, is responsible for insureing that its various constituencies (e.g., University staff and faculty, student-athletes, alumni and friends) abide by NCAA and Sun Belt rules and regulations. Under these rules, alumni and friends can be categorized as “Representatives of FIU’s Athletics Interest.” This is a brief summary of the many NCAA rules that apply to everyone associated in any fashion with FIU athletics. Because it does not include all applicable situations, please call if you have any questions before having any contact with prospective or enrolled student-athletes. We appreciate your interest and support, but remind you that inappropriate contact or an inadvertent action on your part can jeopardize the eligibility of our student-athletes, and/or prospects.

Who do I contact?

If you have any questions regarding prospective or enrolled student-athletes, please contact:

FIU Athletics Compliance Office (ACO)
Modesto A. Maidique Campus
USCA 154
Tel: (305) 348-4417
Email: Athletic.Compliance@fiu.edu

Am I a "Representative of FIU's Athletics Interests?"

YES, if you are in an individual, independent agency, corporate entity or other organization who is known (or who should be known) by a member of the institution’s executive or athletics administration to:

✓ Have been involved in any way in promoting the institution’s athletics program;
✓ Have ever made a financial donation to an FIU athletics booster organization or any of the athletics programs;
✓ Assisted or have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athlete(s);
✓ Have provided summer employment for enrolled student-athletes; or
✓ Have provided an occasional meal to a team member or the entire team.

The NCAA maintains that once you have become a “Representative of FIU’s Athletics Interest” you retain that identity forever, even if you no longer contribute to the athletic program.

Who is a Prospective Student-Athlete?

A prospective student-athlete is anyone who:

✓ Has started ninth grade (men’s basketball 7th grade);
✓ Is enrolled in a two-year college;
✓ Is enrolled in, or has left a four-year college, but has officially notified the four-year college of the intention to transfer, and has received a release; or
✓ Has not started 9th grade (7th grade for men’s basketball) but has received financial assistance or other benefits from the institution.

Who is Permitted to Recruit?

Only FIU coaches and authorized FIU Athletics staff members are permitted to be involved in the recruiting process.

Representatives of FIU’s Athletics Interest MAY NOT:

“Representatives of Athletics Interest” MAY NOT get involved in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes. This includes, but is not limited to:

✓ Making in-person, on- or off-campus contacts, communicating in written notes, via the mail, social networks, email, telephone, text or any other electronic communication, directly or indirectly, with a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete’s relatives or legal guardians.
✓ Provide extra benefits (e.g., discounts, gifts, transportation) to prospective student-athletes, prospective, enrolled student-athletes or their parents, legal guardian(s), relatives or friends;
✓ Provide any financial assistance to prospective, enrolled student-athletes or their parents, legal guardian(s), relatives or friends; or
✓ Use a student-athlete’s name, picture or appearance to promote sales or advertise the use of a commercial product or service.
Representatives of FIU's Athletics Interest MAY:

- Attend a prospective student-athlete’s contest, provided there is no contact with the prospect and/or his/her relatives or legal guardians;
- Send newspaper clippings and other information about prospective student-athletes to FIU coaches;
- Continue established family relationships with friends and neighbors that have prospective student-athlete aged children, provided that the established relationship started prior to the prospect entering 9th grade, or 7th grade in men’s basketball. (Contact the ACO if you have questions);
- Accept telephone calls from prospective student-athletes and their family members as long as you do not solicit the prospect’s enrollment or discuss FIU’s athletics programs (refer them to the FIU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics);
- Offer summer employment to prospective student-athletes who have signed a National Letter of Intent with FIU, after contacting the ACO, and receiving written approval from the Head Coach;
- Offer employment at any time to an enrolled FIU student-athlete, after contacting the ACO, and receiving written approval from the Head Coach;

Extra benefits that are not authorized by the NCAA would include, but are not limited to:

- Cash or loans of any amount;
- Co-signing or authorizing a loan;
- Gifts or free services (e.g., airline tickets, restaurant meals, use of an automobile, etc.);
- Rent-free or reduced-cost housing; or
- Employment of a student-athlete at a rate higher than the wages paid for similar work, or payment to a student-athlete for work not performed.

Compliance with NCAA regulations is of the highest priority for our athletics program and institution. We need your assistance in complying with NCAA rules. If you any questions, please contact the ACO at (305) 348-4417 before acting.

What is an Extra Benefit?

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional staff member or a representative of the institution's athletics interests, provide a student-athlete or his/her relatives or legal guardians with a benefit not specifically authorized by NCAA regulations.