NCAA RULES RELATING TO PROSPECTS

NCAA rules prohibit boosters’ involvement in the recruiting process of prospects, as well as their parents and family members.

Representative of Athletics Interests (booster)
A “representative of the institution’s athletics interests” is any individual, independent agency, corporate entity (e.g., apparel or equipment manufacturer), or other organization who is known (or who should have been known) by a member of the institution’s executive or athletics administration to:

• Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting the institution’s intercollegiate athletics program;
• Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of that institution;
• Be assisting or to have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospects;
• Be assisting or to have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families; or
• Have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution’s athletics program.

Prospect
An individual who has either started ninth grade (seventh grade for men’s basketball) OR who has received any benefit from Hartford or a booster. Actions taken by athletics staff that cause an individual to become a prospective student-athlete include:

• providing a prospect an expense-paid visit to a collegiate institution;
• having an arranged in-person encounter with the individual; or
• initiating or arranging telephone contact with the individual or a member of his/her family.

Only those coaching staff members who have passed the coaches certification exam are permitted to recruit prospective student-athletes.

Contacts
Boosters may not make recruiting contacts in person with prospects at any site. A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or their parents, relatives, or legal guardian(s) and an institutional staff member or an athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting.

Communication
Boosters are prohibited from communicating with prospects for recruiting purposes via telephone, letters, email, text, Twitter, Facebook, or in any other manner.

Gifts
The provision of any financial aid or other benefits (e.g., clothing, special discounts, tickets to events, or loans of money or other items) to prospects or their relatives is prohibited.

Evaluation
A booster may view a prospect’s athletics contests on his or her own initiative, however, a booster may not contact the prospect, prospect’s coach, principal, or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the prospect. A booster may not secure transcripts or video pertaining to the prospect’s academic or athletic ability.

Employment
The employment or arranging of employment for a prospect before his/her graduation from high school is prohibited.

Examples of a representative of athletics interests are: fans, students, faculty, staff, and other employees and alumni. (This is not an exhaustive list.) Once identified as a booster, the individual or business retains that identity for life.

Consequences of an NCAA violation may include:

• A currently enrolled student-athlete being declared ineligible for competition.
• A prospect’s eligibility being jeopardized.
• Damage to the reputation and to the integrity of the University of Hartford.
• NCAA sanctions being placed on the University and the Athletics program.
What May a Booster Provide?

Boosters may invite an enrolled student-athlete or the entire team to their home for an occasional meal. You must receive approval from the Athletics Compliance office prior to the meal.

Boosters with an employment opportunity for a student-athlete should contact the Department of Athletics at 860.768.4959.

Boosters who know of a prospect should forward information to the appropriate coaching staff member.

We appreciate your support in continuing the excellence of Hartford Athletics.

Tom Nyman
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This brochure is not a complete summary of all NCAA regulations. It should only be used as a quick reference for athletics representatives.

Hartford Athletics appreciates your assistance as we strive to comply with NCAA regulations.