NCAA Policies

The University of Pittsburgh conducts a highly competitive athletic program under the auspices of NCAA Division I. As such, the University is committed to operating the athletic program according to the NCAA’s regulations.

The following is a summary of the NCAA Division I Guide for University Representatives. Representatives of the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid must be familiar with these guidelines to avoid activities that might result in a violation of these rules. Sanctions for violation of these rules can affect individual student athlete’s eligibility in addition to resulting in penalties being assessed to the athletics program. These rules are intended to provide appropriate standards to govern the manner in which institutions compete with one another both on and off the field.

The “booster ban” legislation (NCAA Bylaw 13.01.5.1) applies to Division I and went into effect August 1, 1987.

In Division I, representatives of an institution’s athletic interests are prohibited from making in-person, on or off campus recruiting contacts, or written or telephonic communications with a prospect or the prospect’s relatives or legal guardians.

However, a bona-fide alumni organization of an institution may sponsor luncheons, teas or dinners at which prospective students (athletes and non-athletes) of that immediate locale are guests. Alumni organizations must meet the following conditions:

1. The primary purpose of the function doesn’t relate to the institution’s athletic program;
2. There is no athletics recruiting presentation made in conjunction with the function; and
3. Alumni do not have any direct contact with any prospect regarding his or her interest in attending the institution to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

- In person contact refers to any encounter during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of greeting.
- This contact is prohibited both on and off campus.
- This is not intended to relate to unavoidable incidental contact as long as it is not prearranged and/or not for the purpose of recruitment.
- When a student prospect visits campus, the legislation allows for the university to provide three complimentary tickets to an on-campus athletic event but prohibits any further types of entertainment and financing any expenses the prospect may incur.
• The legislation prohibits any telephone contact with the prospect with the exception of contact when the prospect initiates the call. A university representative cannot prearrange it.

A prospect is considered such even after signing a National Letter of Intent to attend an institution until (1) the prospect reports for regular team practice; or (2) the registrar or director of admissions certifies registration and the student is enrolled on the opening day of class; or, (3) the prospect attends class(es) in a regular term.

**Ultimately**, if you meet a student interested in a varsity sport, refer them to the appropriate coach.