

Recruiting Inducements

A recruiting inducement is any arrangement by an institutional staff member or booster whereby a benefit not expressly permitted by NCAA rules is provided to a prospect or a relative of a prospect. Recruiting inducements include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation to West Point for recruiting or admissions purposes;
- Tickets for Army West Point athletics events; and
- Gifts of Army West Point gear or other tangible items.

INVOLVEMENT WITH PROSPECTS

Contact with Prospects

NCAA rules prohibit boosters from making contact with prospects. This includes in-person contact as well as written, telephonic, and electronic communication. If a prospect initiates telephone contact with a booster, it is permissible, provided the call is made at the prospect's expense, and all questions concerning Army West Point Athletics are referred to an authorized individual within the athletic department. Please note: Boosters are prohibited from making interacting with prospects on social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter.

Contact with a Prospect's School

Boosters and institutional staff members may not contact a prospect's coach, principal, or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the prospect, nor may they visit a prospect's school to pick up film or transcripts in order to facilitate the evaluation of the prospect.

Attendance at Prospect's Events

Boosters and institutional staff members, of their own initiative, may attend events (e.g., banquets) where prospects are present, provided no contact is made with the prospect or the prospect's family.

Informing Army Coaches

Boosters and institutional staff members may make Army West Point coaches aware of prospects in their local areas by contacting the coaches directly. Evaluation activities at the direction of Army West Point Athletics are not permitted.

Donations

Generally, boosters may not donate to high schools or groups that benefit prospects (e.g., club teams). However, an individual booster may donate to a prospect's educational institution located in a community in which the boosters resides, or which he or she formerly attended, provided the representative acts independently of USMA, the funds donated are distributed through channels established by the high school or the organization conducting the fundraising, and the funds are not earmarked for a specific prospective student-athlete.

Pre-Existing Relationships

An individual who has a pre-existing relationship with a prospect may continue normal relations, provided no contact is made for recruiting purposes, and contact is not facilitated by Army West Point Athletics. If you believe you have a pre-existing relationship with a prospect, it is recommended that you contact the Army West Point Compliance Office in order to ensure that it meets NCAA requirements concerning such relationships.

Contact by Staff Members and Former Cadet-Athletes

Institutional staff members and former cadet-athletes are permitted to contact a prospect on the grounds of West Point during a recruiting visit that has been approved by Army West Point Athletics. At the direction of the Army West Point coaching staff, faculty and staff members may write letters and emails to a prospective student-athlete starting in the prospect's junior year of high school.

Cadet Candidates at USMAPS

For the purpose of applying NCAA recruiting rules, cadet candidates at the USMA Preparatory School (USMAPS) are considered prospective student-athletes, and the USMAPS grounds are considered an "off-campus" area under the control of an external institution. All restrictions and guidelines noted in this publication as being applicable to prospects are fully applicable to USMAPS cadet candidates and their family members.

INVOLVEMENT WITH ENROLLED CADET-ATHLETES

Benefits or Special Arrangements for Enrolled Cadet-Athletes

Boosters and institutional staff members may not provide any benefits to, or make special arrangements for, an enrolled cadet-athlete, his or her family, or his or her friends. The range of benefits and services forbidden by NCAA legislation is quite broad. Even the acceptance of a benefit of nominal value can affect the eligibility of a cadet-athlete.

Cadet-Athlete Participation in Promotional Activities

Use of a cadet-athlete's name, picture, or appearance to support any charitable, educational, or nonprofit organization requires written approval from a representative of the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. Approval forms can be obtained from the Army West Point Compliance Office. Generally, use of a cadet-athlete's name, picture, or appearance to promote or endorse a commercial product, service, or entity is not permitted.

Awards & Recognition Banquets

One time per year, a booster group may finance a recognition banquet, provided all expenses are paid through Army West Point Athletics, the location is within 100 miles of West Point, and no tangible awards are provided.

Occasional Meals

On infrequent and special occasions, an institutional staff member may provide an enrolled cadet-athlete or an entire team with a meal at any location. On infrequent and special occasions, a booster may provide an occasional meal to a cadet-athlete or an entire team, provided it takes place at the booster's home, on the West Point grounds, or in a facility regularly used for home competition.

Gambling

Cadet-athletes, athletic department staff members, and individuals with responsibilities in or over the athletics department may not knowingly:

- Provide information concerning intercollegiate athletics competition to individuals involved in organized gambling activities.
- Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate team.
- Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate, amateur, or professional athletics.

ALWAYS ASK BEFORE YOU ACT. BEAT NAVY!

Please direct all inquiries to:

Army West Point Athletics
Compliance Office
639 Howard Road
West Point, NY 10996
PHONE: 845-938-2576
FAX: 845-938-8707

Compliance Guide for Boosters, Alumni and Fans of Army West Point Athletics



**United States Military
Academy
West Point, NY**

Dear Alumni, Staff and Friends of West Point:

Thank you very much for your loyal support of Army West Point Athletics.

One of the great things about our program is the enthusiasm of our fan base. Indeed, we consider each of our supporters to be a valuable asset, not just to the athletics department, but to the West Point community as a whole.

However, that enthusiasm must remain within the scope of NCAA rules and regulations. The United States Military Academy, like all NCAA member institutions, is responsible for the actions of all individuals and entities involved in the promotion of its intercollegiate athletics program. This means that non-athletics staff members, alumni, and friends of West Point are just as responsible for upholding NCAA standards as are our coaches and athletics administrators. This is a very serious responsibility. As several national news stories have made clear, a violation of NCAA rules by a fan or supporter can result in very serious sanctions.

The NCAA's definition of a "representative of athletics interests," also sometimes called a "booster," is broad enough to cover virtually anyone who roots for Army West Point - and there are a host of rules which apply to such individuals. This pamphlet was designed to provide you with a primer on the most important of these rules, particularly those dealing with the interaction between boosters and prospective and enrolled cadet-athletes. Please review this information carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, or you are aware of a potential NCAA rules violation, please do not hesitate to contact the Army West Point Compliance Office at (845) 938-2576.

Thank you again for your support of our cadet-athletes and sport programs. We are counting on you to help us further our commitment to winning the right way and developing leaders of character for the United States Army.

Go Army West Point!



Eugene F. Corrigan, Jr.
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics
(845) 938-3701

INTRODUCTION

Institutional control of athletics is a fundamental principle of NCAA legislation. It requires each institution to conduct its intercollegiate athletics programs in accordance with the rules and regulations of the NCAA. This responsibility includes ensuring that staff members and other groups representing the institution's athletics interests comply with all applicable rules. In other words, the United States Military Academy is responsible for YOUR actions!

This brochure is intended to provide you with some basic information concerning NCAA rules as they relate to representatives of athletics interests. The complexity of NCAA regulations makes it impossible to cover every relevant situation; therefore, this document should not be relied upon exclusively. If you have questions concerning prospective student-athletes or enrolled cadet-athletes, please contact one of the following members of the Army West Point Compliance Office:

Ron Salvatore
Assistant Athletic Director, Compliance and Academics
(845) 9380-2576
Ron.salvatore@westpoint.edu

Rob Vandegrift
Compliance Coordinator
(845) 938-1016
Rob.vandegrift@westpoint.edu

CONSEQUENCES FOR NCAA VIOLATIONS

The consequences for acting contrary to NCAA legislation can be severe. Athletics representatives found to be in violation of NCAA rules, regardless of whether the violation results in the imposition of sanctions, are subject to the loss of all benefits and privileges received from the United States Military Academy.

KEY TERMS EVERY ALUMNI OR FRIEND SHOULD KNOW

Representative of Athletics Interests

A "representative of athletics interests," or "booster," is any individual or group that has:

- Been a member of or participated in an organization promoting Army West Point Athletics;
- Contributed to Army West Point Athletics or its booster or organizations (e.g., West Point Association of Graduates);
- Assisted in evaluating or recruiting prospective student-athletes;
- Provided benefits (e.g., employment) to prospective student-athletes, enrolled cadet-athletes, or their family members; or
- Otherwise promoted the Army West Point Athletics program.

Keep in mind that it is very easy to meet one or more of these criteria. All representatives of Army West Point's athletics interests are bound by NCAA, conference, and institutional rules. Once you become an athletics representative, you retain that status FOREVER!

Institutional Staff Member

Institutional staff members are individuals who work at West Point under the command of the USMA Superintendent.

Prospective Student-Athlete or "Prospect"

Typically, a prospective student-athlete or "prospect" is an individual who has started classes for the ninth grade, though in some respects a participant in men's basketball or softball is considered a prospect once he or she begins classes for the seventh grade. Also, an individual of any age becomes a prospect if that individual receives a benefit which the institution does not provide to prospective students in general. An individual remains a prospect until he or she starts classes at a four-year collegiate institution or reports for practice at such an institution, whichever occurs first.

Student-Athlete or Cadet-Athlete

A "cadet-athlete" is an individual whose enrollment was solicited by an athletics staff member with a view towards that individual's participation in intercollegiate athletics. Generally, an individual not solicited by an athletics staff member becomes a cadet-athlete when he or she joins an Army West Point intercollegiate team or reports for practice.

Extra Benefit

An "extra benefit" is any special arrangement by an institutional staff member or athletics representative which provides a cadet-athlete or his or her relatives with a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA rules. Examples of extra benefits include but are not limited to:

- Loans or assistance with loans;
- Use of vehicles or payment of transportation costs;
- Free or reduced-cost housing arrangements;
- Gifts, unauthorized awards, or other tangible items; and
- Special discounts or payment arrangements.

Recruiting

"Recruiting" is any solicitation of a prospect or the prospect's relatives for the purpose of securing that prospect's enrollment and athletics participation at the United States Military Academy. Athletics representatives may not be involved in the recruitment of prospects except as outlined in the following section.

Contact

A "contact" is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect's relatives and an institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. Any face-to-face encounter that is prearranged or which takes place on the grounds of the prospect's school or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the prospect or the prospect's team is considered a contact, regardless of the level of interaction.

Evaluation

An "evaluation" is any activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or athletics ability of a prospect, including any visit to a prospect's school or the observation of a prospect participating in a practice or competition.

INVOLVEMENT WITH PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Benefits or Special Arrangements for Prospects

Boosters and institutional staff members may not provide a benefit to, or make a special arrangement for, a prospect, his or her relatives, or his or her friends. Boosters are also prohibited from soliciting funds or other privileges from groups or individuals in order to benefit a prospect's high school, prep school, college, club, or league.

Pre-College Expenses and Donations

Boosters and institutional staff members are prohibited from offering, providing, or arranging financial assistance, directly or indirectly, to pay (in whole or in part) the costs of a prospect's education or other expenses. Generally, this includes donations which benefit a high school, prep school, or two-year college athletic program. However, a booster may donate to a high school, prep school, or two-year college athletics program, provided the institution is located in his or her local community, he or she acts independently of Army West Point, the funds are distributed through channels established by the fundraiser, and the funds are not earmarked for a specific prospective student-athlete.