

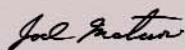
A MESSAGE FROM JOEL MATURI

On behalf of the University of Minnesota, I would like to thank each of you for your tremendous support of Golden Gopher athletics. Boosters are instrumental in the success of every athletics department, and our entire administration, coaching staffs, and our 700 student-athletes are ever-appreciative of your loyal dedication to our 25 sports programs.

With this appreciation comes responsibility. Consistent with the institutional mission of the University of Minnesota, our Athletics Department aims to serve as a window to the University within an environment of integrity and equity in order to enable our student athletes to achieve excellence in their athletic and academic pursuits. An essential element in this pursuit of excellence with integrity is ensuring compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the Big Ten Conference, and the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

The University of Minnesota is vested with the obligation to maintain “institutional control” within our athletics department by monitoring the actions of all of our coaches, student-athletes, and athletic department staff, as well as our boosters and donors. This brochure is a summary of the applicable NCAA rules pertaining to booster interactions with student-athletes and prospective student-athletes. Due to the complexity of NCAA rules governing boosters, this brochure is not an exhaustive overview of all applicable situations and should not be relied on exclusively. Please take the time to review these rules carefully, and always feel welcome to contact our Athletic Compliance Office with any questions at (612) 626-2070.

Accomplishing our goals would be impossible without the dedicated support of our boosters, and the “U” is grateful for your commitment to Golden Gopher athletics. Through regularly educating our boosters on applicable NCAA rules and regulations, we hope to instill the sense of prideful responsibility within our institutional community necessary to fulfill our vision of becoming the model Division I-A program in the country!



Joel Maturi, Director of Athletics

ARE YOU A “REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS”?

More commonly known as a “booster,” you are considered to be a “representative of the University of Minnesota’s athletics interests” if you meet any of the following criteria:

- You have participated in or been a member of an agency or organization promoting the University of Minnesota’s intercollegiate athletics program (e.g., a booster club).
- You have made a financial contribution to the University of Minnesota athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of that institution.
- You have ever assisted in recruiting a prospective student-athlete.
- You have ever assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their family (e.g., summer job or occasional meal).
- You have ever otherwise been involved in promoting the University of Minnesota athletics program in any way.

Boosters may be individuals, independent agencies, corporate entities, or other organizations. Once booster status is established, you are considered a booster **forever**.

INTERACTION WITH PROSPECTS

The NCAA defines a “prospective student-athlete” as any student who has either begun classes in the ninth grade or who has accepted extra benefits from a booster and has not yet enrolled at a four-year institution. This definition includes junior college student-athletes as well as high school students who don’t play a varsity sport.

1. No Contact With Prospects or Their Families:

Boosters may not have **any** contact with prospects or their families, including (but not limited to):

- Calling a prospect or a family member of a prospect.
- Writing to a prospect or a family member of a prospect.
- Sending a text message to a prospect or a family member of a prospect.
- Having any pre-arranged face-to-face contact with a prospect or a prospect’s family, including wishing good luck or congratulations at games.
- Admitting a prospect or a family member of a prospect to a booster club function.

2. Attending Competitions:

Boosters may attend high school and junior college competitions provided no contact with prospects or the families of prospects occurs. Additionally, while boosters are permitted to notify our coaches about talented prospects in the area, it is not permissible for boosters to attend high school and junior college competitions at the direction of U of M coaches.

3. Pre-existing Relationships:

Boosters are permitted to continue pre-existing relationships with prospective student-athletes, provided the booster refrains from any form of recruitment. In order for a relationship to be considered “pre-existing” for the purposes of this rule, the relationship must have begun prior to the prospect beginning the ninth grade. Should the University or its athletic programs ever arise as a topic of conversation, the booster must refer all of the prospect’s questions about the University of Minnesota athletics program to the athletic department staff.

4. Summer Employment of Prospects:

Boosters are permitted to employ incoming prospects who have signed a National Letter of Intent, provided the prospect has graduated from high school. The prospect must be paid at the going rate for similar jobs in the area and may only be compensated for work actually performed.

INTERACTION WITH CURRENT COLLEGIATE STUDENT-ATHLETES

A prospect becomes a student-athlete on the first day of initial collegiate enrollment at a four-year institution, triggering a different set of rules pertaining to booster interactions.

1. Employing Student-Athletes:

Boosters may employ a student-athlete provided the student-athlete is paid the going-rate for work actually performed. The student-athlete’s compensation may not include any remuneration for value or utility the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following that he or she obtained because of athletics ability. Providing transportation to work is prohibited unless such transportation is provided to all other employees. The student-athlete may not be involved in any advertisements for the business. Please contact the Compliance Office with any questions regarding employing student-athletes.

2. Student-Athletes Attending Booster Club Functions:

Student-athletes are permitted to attend booster club functions, provided the activity occurs within 100 miles of campus, no awards are presented to the student-athletes, and the activity is pre-approved by the coaching staff and compliance office. Student-athletes may not be compensated for attending or speaking at such a function.

3. Occasional Home Meals:

Boosters are allowed to provide an “occasional home meal” to current student-athletes as long as they contact the appropriate U of M coach before the meal and the meal is held at the booster’s home (although it may be catered in). It is **not permissible** to take a student-athlete out to eat at a restaurant.

4. Autographs:

It is permissible for a booster to ask a student-athlete for an autograph, provided nothing is offered in exchange for the autograph and the autograph is not displayed in the booster’s place of business.

5. Speaking Fees for Student-Athlete Appearances:

A student-athlete may make promotional appearances at charitable, educational, or non-profit agency events. However, the student-athlete may not receive any type of honorarium for making such appearances; he or she may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and meal expenses only. The charitable, educational, or non-profit agency should contact the student-athlete’s coach to make the promotional request, and the coach will seek approval from the Athletic Compliance Office.



PROHIBITION OF “EXTRA BENEFITS”

Boosters are not permitted to provide enrolled student-athletes and prospective student-athletes, or their relatives/friends with any “extra benefits.”

The NCAA defines an “extra benefit” as any special arrangement made which is not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.

The following are **some** (but not all) examples of items considered to be “extra benefits” and thus may not be provided to student-athletes:

- Providing cash or loans in any amount or signing/co-signing for a loan.
- Giving gifts of any kind, including birthday/holiday gifts and “get-well soon” cards.
- Offering free or reduced-cost services such as car repairs, haircuts, dental work, etc.
- Providing the use of an automobile, as well as a ride anywhere.
- Offering free or reduced-cost rent or housing.
- Giving tickets to athletic or community events, even if you received the tickets for free.
- Employing relatives or friends of a prospective student-athlete as an inducement to attend the U of M.
- Providing course supplies, typing, or duplicating costs.
- Entertaining a prospect or enrolled student-athlete or their friends and families.

Gambling

Student-athletes, coaches, and all athletics department staff members are prohibited from participating in any form of gambling on college or professional sports. Participation in any activities associated with organized gambling will render a student-athlete ineligible and result in severe disciplinary action for the coach or athletics department staff member. Booster clubs may not participate in any gambling activities related to college athletics, and all boosters are discouraged from participating in any form of gambling on college athletics.

Penalties for Violations Committed by Boosters

Under NCAA Bylaw 6.4.2.1, the University of Minnesota reserves the right to withhold any benefit or privilege associated with the athletics department from individuals who are involved in an NCAA rules violation, including revocation of booster club memberships and ticket privileges.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: May the parents of student-athletes attend a booster club function with their son or daughter?

A: Yes, provided that the **parents pay the cost** of attending the function. The same rule applies to the siblings of student-athletes.

Q: If a U of M booster is attending a high school game, is it permissible for the booster to discuss recruiting matters with the parents of a prospect as long as the booster refrains from mentioning the U during the conversation.

A: No, this is impermissible. Boosters are prohibited from having any interaction with the parents of prospects other than inadvertent contact, and having any discussion related to recruitment would clearly be in violation of this rule.

Q: May booster club members pay to travel on a team charter flight to an away contest?

A: Yes, this is permissible.

Q: Is it permissible for a booster to send a prospect the link to the booster club’s website to show the prospect how much support the team receives in the community as long as the booster focuses on the details of the booster club and not the University?

A: No, this is impermissible. Boosters may not send **anything** to prospects. It is permissible for coaches to send these links to prospects, however.

Q: A Booster owns a local restaurant and wants to pick up the tab when a U of M coach brings in prospects on a recruiting weekend. Is this permissible?

A: No. The booster may not directly cover the cost of the meal. The booster may, however, make a donation to the program to cover the cost of recruiting meals.

Q: May a booster serve as a “sponsor” or “family” to an international student-athlete attending the U of M who is from the booster’s home country?

A: No. Individuals or families may not serve as sponsors for any student-athlete. This would be considered an “extra benefit” to the student-athlete.

Reporting NCAA Violations

If you become aware of any rules violations, you should contact the Athletic Compliance Office or the Director of Athletics to report the information pertinent to the violation.

Contact the Athletic Compliance Office:

Phone: 612-626-2070



University of Minnesota Athletics
244 Bierman Field Athletic Building
516 15th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455



NCAA RULES FOR ALUMNI, FANS AND FRIENDS OF GOLDEN GOPHER ATHLETICS



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ATHLETICS