

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
ATHLETICS COMPLIANCE

**GUIDE FOR CRIMSON TIDE
SUPPORTERS**



COMPLIANCE





A LETTER FROM COMPLIANCE

Dear Crimson Tide Supporters,

We are very grateful for your continued support of the University of Alabama and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. As a booster at UA, the NCAA places you under the responsibility of Alabama Athletics. You can continue to help the Crimson Tide by being knowledgeable about NCAA rules.

Please review this brochure containing some of the rules that must be followed. Doing so can help to avoid jeopardizing the eligibility of current and prospective student-athletes.

Alabama Athletics is proud to have your loyal support, dedication, and enthusiasm for the Crimson Tide. We always seek the highest standard of ethical conduct as we strive for continued excellence on and off the field.

You may not be aware, but all season ticket holders are considered a representative of athletics interests (boosters). Please visit our Compliance page on our website, RollTide.com, in order to learn more about NCAA rules. Adhering to NCAA rules and legislation is the responsibility of everyone associated with and supportive of the University.

Each individual involved in intercollegiate athletics is obligated to maintain competency in knowledge of the rules. They are expected to act within his or her realm of responsibility in full compliance with the governing legislation. Also they must report any violations of NCAA, conference and/or institutional rules of which he or she is aware.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. Please contact the Alabama Compliance Office if you have a question or wish to receive further information.

Regards,

Matthew Self
Senior Associate Athletics Director Compliance

**ROLL
TIDE
ROLL**



The Basics:

BOOSTER DEFINED:

A Booster is an individual, independent agency, corporate entity, or other organization who is known, or should be known to:

- ◆ Hold, or have ever held, season tickets for any sport with Alabama Athletics;
- ◆ Have participated in or been a member of an agency that promotes the Alabama Athletics program;
 - e.g. *University of Alabama Alumni Association, Red Elephant Club, etc.*
- ◆ Have made financial contributions to Alabama Athletics or a booster organization that promotes Alabama Athletics;
 - e.g. *Crimson Tide Foundation, sports booster groups, etc.*
- ◆ Have provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their family;
- ◆ Be assisting or have been requested by athletic department staff to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes; or
- ◆ Promote Alabama Athletics in any way.

-NCAA Bylaw 13.02.15

*This is not an exhaustive list. Please contact the Alabama Athletics Compliance Office if you have any questions about your status as a Booster.

Prospective Student-Athletes

As a booster, the NCAA restricts the involvement that you have with prospective student-athletes. Only countable coaches and authorized employees may be involved in the recruiting process. NCAA rules prohibit boosters from engaging in recruiting activities designed to secure a prospect's enrollment at the University of Alabama.

PERMISSIBLE BOOSTER ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ Notify Alabama coaching staff members about noteworthy prospects in your area.
- ◆ Attend high school or two-year college athletic contests or other events where prospects may compete, provided no contact occurs.
- ◆ Continue existing relationships with an established family friend or neighbor who is a prospect.

A BOOSTER MAY NOT:

- ◆ Contact or call a prospect that the Booster does not have a longstanding relationship with (relationship must pre-date the 9th grade).
- ◆ Contact or call a prospect's parent, coach, principal or counselor.
- ◆ Assist with the evaluation of talent at the direction of the coaching staff.
- ◆ Promote Alabama Athletics in any way to encourage a prospect to attend the University of Alabama.

E.g. provide gifts, employ prospect or family as inducement for prospect to attend Alabama, create a fan page for the prospect, etc.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -

May a Prospect Call A Booster?

YES. A prospect may call a booster at his/her own expense. A booster may speak to the prospect ONLY if the prospect initiates the call and the call is not prearranged by an institutional staff member. Discussion must be limited to general University of Alabama topics. All athletically-related questions must be deferred to the athletics department.

May A Booster Call A Prospect Or Send A Congratulatory Letter Once The Prospect Has Committed To Or Signed A National Letter of Intent With UA?

NO. He/she remains a prospect until the first day of enrollment during summer, fall, or winter semester or his/her first official day of practice. Until then, prospect rules continue to apply even after signing the NLI.

May A Booster Pay For A Prospect's Expenses Or Fees To Attend Camp?

NO, unless the prospect is an immediate family member of the booster.

May A Booster Speak To A Prospect Who Is Accompanied By An Alabama Athletics Coach?

NO. If an Alabama Athletics coach is with a prospect during his/her visit to the University, do not approach the coach until the prospect and his/her family are off-campus.

Is It Permissible For A Booster To Accompany An Alabama Athletics Coach When He/She Visits A Local High School Or Prospect's Home?

NO. A booster may not accompany a coach during any recruiting activities.



AS A BOOSTER YOU MAY NOT GIVE/PROVIDE A PROSPECT*:

- ◆ Transportation/Use of an automobile
- ◆ Free admission to any event
e.g. college or professional sporting events, concerts, movies, etc.
- ◆ Cash or loans in any amount
- ◆ Gifts of any kind, including those on special occasions such as birthdays, religious holidays, graduation, etc.
- ◆ Free or reduced-cost services, rentals, or purchases of any type.
e.g. meals, drinks, clothing, laundry, car repairs, golf rounds, tattoos, etc.
- ◆ Free or reduced cost housing for any length of time.
- ◆ Payment of bills
- ◆ Awards
- ◆ Loans (including co-signing)
- ◆ Use of telephone or credit card
- ◆ Academic assistance of any kind
e.g. tutoring, editing papers, assisting in completion of class work, use of computer, etc.

*This is NOT an exhaustive list.

ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

As a booster, the NCAA restricts the involvement that you may have with Student-Athletes. NCAA rules prohibit boosters from providing a student-athlete with an extra benefit. Doing so may result in the student-athlete being declared ineligible to compete on behalf of the University of Alabama.

Extra benefit violations include any special gift or arrangement provided to a student-athlete, or a student-athlete's friend or family member that is not available to the general public or University of Alabama student body.

PERMISSIBLE BOOSTER ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ Employ student-athletes (see employment section on Pg. 6)
- ◆ Host a meal at your home or at an Alabama Athletics facility. Must be approved by the Alabama Athletics Compliance Office prior to meal occurring.
- ◆ Speak with student-athletes at athletic events, banquets, etc.

A BOOSTER MAY NOT PROVIDE:

- ◆ Transportation or use of an automobile.
- ◆ Free admission to any event
e.g. college or professional sporting events, concerts, movies, etc.
- ◆ Cash or loans in any amount
- ◆ Gifts of any kind, including those on special occasions such as birthdays, religious holidays, graduation, etc.
- ◆ Free or reduced-cost services, rentals, or purchases of any type.
e.g. meals, drinks, clothing, laundry, car repairs, golf rounds, tattoos, etc.
- ◆ Free or reduced cost housing for any length of time.
- ◆ Payment of bills
- ◆ Awards
- ◆ Loans (including co-signing)
- ◆ Use of telephone or credit card
- ◆ Provide meal outside of your home or Alabama Athletics Facilities
- ◆ Academic assistance of any kind
e.g. tutoring, editing papers etc.

**This is Not an Exhaustive List*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -

May A Booster Purchase A Ticket To An Athletics Event From A Current Student-Athlete?

NO. Boosters are not allowed to purchase a ticket from a current student-athlete and/or his/her family members.

May A Booster Purchase An Item That Belongs To A Current Student-Athlete Or Is Signed By A Current Student Athlete?

NO. A booster may not purchase an item that belongs to a current student-athlete or is signed by a current student-athlete. If a current student-athlete attempts to sell his/her personal items to you, it will immediately affect his/her eligibility. This includes purchasing gear, apparel, jerseys, helmets, gloves, game balls, awards, shoes, etc.

May A Booster Speak With A Student-Athlete At An Athletic Event or Banquet?

YES. Communication with a current student-athlete at an athletic event or banquet is not restricted under NCCA rules.

May A Booster Provide A Student-Athlete With A Nominal Gift For a Special Event (e.g. birthday, holiday)?

NO. Providing any gift, even of nominal value, is considered an extra benefit. Receipt of such benefits will jeopardize the eligibility of the student-athlete.

May A Booster Host A Meal For Current Student-Athletes?

YES. A booster may host a meal on an occasional basis for any number of current student-athletes provided the meal is approved by the Alabama Compliance Office prior to occurring. Meals may be hosted only in the booster's home or in an Alabama Athletics facility regularly used for team meals.

EMPLOYMENT OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE

EMPLOYMENT OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE IS PERMISSIBLE, PROVIDED ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

- 1) The student-athlete is only paid for work actually performed;
- 2) The student-athlete is paid at the rate commensurate with the going rate in that locale for similar services;
- 3) The student-athlete is not compensated in any manner for any value or utility that he/she may have for an employer because of any publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following that he/she may have obtained because of his/her athletics ability; and
- 4) Student-athletes must register all jobs during the academic year and the summer by completing the Student-Athlete Employment Form and returning it to the Alabama Athletics Compliance Office prior to beginning work;

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES: STUDENT-ATHLETES

- ◆ Student-athletes are not eligible for participation in intercollegiate athletics if he/she accepts compensation, or permits the use of his/her name or pictures to promote a commercial enterprise.
- ◆ A student-athlete's name or picture may not be used to advertise, recommend, or promote directly the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind.
- ◆ If a student-athlete's name or picture appears on commercial items (t-shirts, playing cards, posters, photographs, etc.) or is used to promote a commercial product without the student-athlete's knowledge or permission, the student-athlete and the institution are required to take steps to stop such an activity in order to retain the student-athlete's eligibility.

GAMBLING ACTIVITIES

NCAA rules prohibit student-athletes and athletic department staff members from participating in any sports gambling activity or providing information concerning competitions to individuals involved in organized gambling activities.

Additionally, it is a violation of federal law for boosters, student-athletes, or staff members to affect or attempt to affect the outcome of a collegiate contest.

Alabama Athletics asks that you do not contact any student-athletes or Alabama Athletics staff members regarding medical, academic, or personal issues of any student-athletes at UA.



**ASK BEFORE
YOU ACT.**

TERMS TO KNOW

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE (PSA OR “RECRUIT”)

- ♦ Any student who has started classes for the 9th grade.
- ♦ A student of any age if the institution provides benefits to the student that the institution does not provide to prospective students in general.
- ♦ A student remains a prospect until the start of classes or official team practice at the University of Alabama. Signing a National Letter of Intent (NLI) does NOT remove the status of “prospect”.

RECRUITING

Any solicitation of a prospect or the prospect’s family by an authorized institutional staff member for the purpose of securing the prospect’s enrollment and participation in athletics.

CONTACT

Any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect’s parent or legal guardian and an institutional staff member or booster during which any dialogue occurs in excess of a greeting.

EVALUATION

Any activity designed to assess the academic qualification or athletic ability of a prospect. Includes any visit to a prospect’s school or the observation of a prospect participating in any practice or competition.

STUDENT-ATHLETE

A student who presently is participating in intercollegiate athletics or has participated in intercollegiate athletics and is still receiving athletics aid.

EXTRA BENEFIT

Any special gift or arrangement provided to a student-athlete, or student-athlete’s friend or family member, which is not available to the general UA student body or the general population.

ALABAMA ATHLETICS

Compliance Office

Mal Moore Building Phone: 205-348-3615
323 Paul Bryant Drive Fax: 205-348-4659
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 Email: compliance@ia.ua.edu



SOCIAL MEDIA REMINDERS

A booster should NEVER post on a prospect’s “wall”, reply to a tweet, send them any kind of direct message, or take any other action that would constitute contact with a prospect.

This prohibition also includes creating fan pages for prospects to attend UA. Please remember that contact between boosters and prospective student athletes is prohibited.

We thank you for your support, but also request that you leave the recruiting to the Alabama Athletics coaching staff members.



/AlabamaAthletics



@BamaCompliance