

# North Carolina A&T State University

Department of Athletics

## Rules and Regulations for Alumni and Friends of Aggie Athletics



# REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS



This booklet has been developed by North Carolina A&T State University (A&T) Department of Athletics to serve as a guideline for NCAA legislation governing alumni and friends of NCAA institutions. All NCAA rules and regulations cannot be covered in this limited booklet yet; it does address pertinent NCAA legislation involving common situations encountered by alumni and friends. Your efforts to follow these rules are greatly appreciated, because violations could affect the eligibility of involved prospects or student-athletes, resulting in NCAA penalties being imposed on A&T and leading to restrictions regarding your involvement with A&T's athletics program.

**Q:** Am I considered to be a North Carolina A&T State University Representative of Athletics Interests (Booster)?

**A:** "Representative of Athletics Interests" or "Booster" is an individual or business that has participated in any of the following activities:

- Contributed, joined or participated in Athletics Department and/or sport specific booster organizations ( i.e. Aggie Athletic Foundation)
- Provided NCAA permissible benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families
- A former A&T student-athlete
- Promoted A&T Athletics program in any way
- Hold or have ever held season tickets
- Have guardianship role over a student-athlete ( i.e. parent or legal guardian)

**Q:** Is A&T responsible for the actions of its representatives (boosters) and their support groups?

**A:** Yes. Representative of athletics interests are subject to NCAA regulations and A&T is subject to penalties for any violation of NCAA rules by a representative of athletics interests or their support organization(s).

**AGGIE NOTE:** Please remember that once you become a booster, you remain a booster for life.

**Q:** Who is considered to be a prospective student-athlete (prospect)?

**A:** A prospect is a student in the ninth grade or above regardless of their athletic talent. Prospects are also students in prep schools and junior colleges.

**Q:** What is considered recruiting?

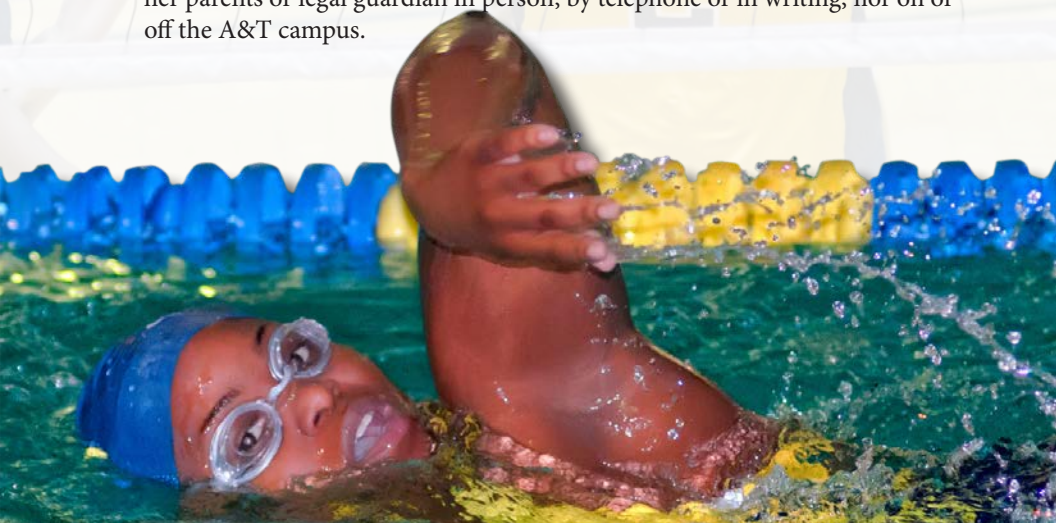
**A:** Recruiting is any solicitation of the prospect or the prospect's legal guardians or family by an institutional staff member or by a representative of the institution's athletics interests for the purpose of securing the prospect's enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.

**Q:** How long is a prospective student-athlete considered to be a prospect?

**A:** A prospective student-athlete remains a prospect even after committing to or signing a National Letter of Intent with A&T or any institution. Both the institution and the prospect continue to be governed by NCAA recruiting legislation regarding prospects until the prospect reports for regular squad practice or the prospect attends his/her first day of classes in any regular semester.

**Q:** Is it permissible to contact a prospective student-athlete or his/her parents or legal guardian?

**A:** No. A representative of athletics interests may not contact a prospect or his/her parents or legal guardian in person, by telephone or in writing, nor on or off the A&T campus.





**Q:** Is this contact rule applicable to “established family friends” or neighbors?

**A:** No. However, it must be understood that such contacts may not be made for recruiting purposes and may not be initiated or arranged by an A&T coaching staff member. In addition, the established relationship between the booster and the prospect must have occurred prior to the friend or neighbor becoming a prospect.

**Q:** What if a prospect calls a representative of athletics interests?

**A:** A representative of athletics interests may have a telephone conversation with a prospect ONLY if the prospect initiates the call. Such a call may not be prearranged by an institutional staff member and the representative of athletics interests MAY NOT have a recruiting conversation, but may exhibit normal civility. The representative of athletics interests must refer any questions about athletics program to the Athletics Department.

**Q:** What if a prospect knows a representative of athletics interests is an A&T graduate and contacts him/her to ask questions about A&T?

**A:** If a prospect contacts a representative of athletics interests, he/she may answer questions regarding various aspects of A&T as long as NO discussion takes place regarding the athletics program. If a prospect asks about A&T athletics, refer him/her to the Athletics Department.

**Q:** What if an unavoidable incidental contact is made with a prospect by a representative of athletics interests?

**A:** An unavoidable incidental contact with a prospect is permissible provided the contact is not prearranged by the representative of athletics interests or an Athletics Department staff member. Further, it may not take place at the prospect’s educational institution or at the sites of organized competition and practice involving the prospect. This contact made should not be of the recruitment nature but may exhibit normal civility.

**Q:** Is it permissible for a representative of athletics interests to telephone a prospect once the prospect has committed to A&T or signed a National Letter of Intent?

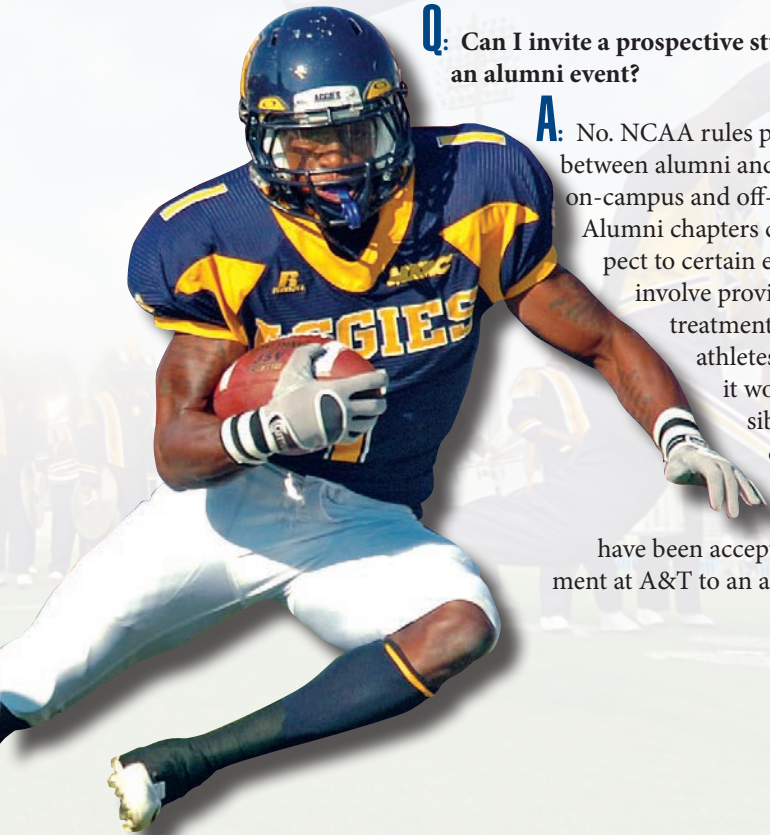
**A:** No. Even if the purpose of the call is only to congratulate the prospect, he/she is still a prospect and the same contact rules apply after committing or signing that applied before. DO NOT contact a prospect without first checking with the Compliance Office (336.334.7686), unless the prospect is a relative.

**Q:** During recruitment, or prior to an individual's enrollment, can a representative of athletics interests be involved directly or indirectly in making arrangements for the prospect, or prospect's relatives to receive money or any other equivalent inducements?

**A:** No. Furthermore, it WOULD NOT be permissible to make such arrangements for current student-athletes at A&T.

**Q:** Can I invite a prospective student-athlete to an alumni event?

**A:** No. NCAA rules prohibit contact between alumni and friends at both on-campus and off-campus sites. Alumni chapters can invite prospect to certain events that do not involve providing preferential treatment for student-athletes. For example, it would be permissible for an alumni chapter to invite all high-school seniors who have been accepted for enrollment at A&T to an alumni event.



**Q:** What are considered other types of inducements that are prohibited for prospects and their relatives?

**A:** Other types of inducements that are prohibited include, but are not limited to the following:

- cash or loans in any amount
- promise of employment after college education
- special discounts or payment arrangements on loans
- employment of relatives and friends of prospects
- arrangement for free or reduced charges for professional or personal services, purchases or charges
- use of an automobile
- providing transportation to and from summer job or any other site
- sign or co-sign for a loan or guarantee of bond
- the loan or gift of money or other tangible items (clothes, cars, jewelry, electronic/stereo equipment)
- free or reduced cost housing arrangements
- entertainment costs on or off campus
- educational expenses (typing costs, course supplies, use of copy machine)
- registration for summer sports camps

**Q:** Is it permissible for a representative of athletics interests to bring to A&T's attention outstanding prospects from the representative's local area?

**A:** Yes. However, a representative of athletics interests MAY NOT get involved in the actual evaluation of the talent of a prospect. In other words, representative of athletics interests MAY NOT contact a prospect's coach, principal, or counselor nor visit the prospects educational institution to pick up film or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's athletic or academic abilities.

**AGGIE NOTE:** As a booster, you:

- **MAY NOT** make any in person on or off a campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete and his parents or legal guardian.
- **MAY NOT** make any recruiting contacts with prospects or their relatives. This precludes telephone calls, letters, emails, social networking websites, and facsimiles, as well as any face-to-face contact either on-off campus.
- **MAY** forward information about prospective student-athletes to the Athletics Department.
- **MAY** continue to have contact with an established family, friend or neighbor who is a prospective student-athlete.
- **MAY** receive a call from a prospective student-athlete only if the prospect initiates the call and it is not for a recruiting purpose.

**Q:** Who is an enrolled student-athlete?

**A:** An enrolled student-athlete is a student who is enrolled at A&T and was recruited by a member of the athletics staff with a view toward the student's ultimate participation on an intercollegiate athletics team, or a non-recruited student who becomes a member of an athletics team subsequent to their enrollment at A&T. An individual retains their status of student-athlete as long as he/she remains on an intercollegiate athletics team and is enrolled as a full-time student at A&T.

**Q:** Is it permissible to provide a meal for a student-athlete or an intercollegiate athletics team?

**A:** A representative of athletics interests may provide a student-athlete or an entire team with an occasional meal under the following conditions:

- the meal must take place in the home of the representative of athletics interests, on campus, or at a facility that is regularly used for home competition
- the meal may be catered
- the meal may not take place at a restaurant
- the meal is restricted to infrequent or special occasions
- if the meal is at the home of the representative of athletics interests, reasonable local transportation for the student-athlete to attend the meal function is permissible with prior approval
- the meal must be coordinated with the Compliance Office (336.334.7686) before the meal occurs.

**AGGIE NOTE:** One time per year, an institution's athletics booster club may finance an intercollegiate team's transportation expenses to a recognition banquet, provided all expenses are paid through the institution's athletics department, the location of the event is not more than 100 miles from the campus and no tangible award is provided to members of the team.

**Q:** What kind of contact limitations does a representative of athletics interests have with an enrolled student-athlete?

**A:** A booster may speak to an enrolled student-athlete before a game or practice, following a game or practice, at a banquet, or at any other time that is consistent with the educational mission of the institution.



**Q:** I would like to hire a student-athlete to work for me – how can I do that?

**A:** An enrolled student-athlete may be employed at any time, provided the student-athlete:

- is compensated only for work actually performed and at a rate that is consistent with similar services in that locale
- is not hired based on publicity, reputation or fame due to athletic ability
- is not provided any benefits not enjoyed by all other employees
- student-athlete may not miss class, practice or study hall due to employment obligations
- student-athlete must keep employment obligations on file with the Compliance Office

**Q:** Are there any limitations on donating money or in-kind gifts to an athletics team or student-athlete?

**A:** A representative of athletics interests MAY NOT provide a student-athlete with any extra benefit. Examples of extra benefits include, but not limited to:

- cash or loans in any amount
- sign or co-sign for a loan or guarantee of bond
- use of any personal property (automobile, boat, summer home, stereo, etc.)
- gifts of any kind, including birthday cards, flowers, holiday gifts or gifts of clothing or equipment
- loans to relatives or friends of the student-athlete
- any tangible item, including merchandise
  - free or reduced cost services, rentals, or purchases of any type
  - free or reduced cost housing
  - meals (except occasional home meals)
  - purchase complimentary admission tickets from a student-athlete
  - a honorarium for a speaking engagement
  - typing or copying services



**AGGIE NOTE:** Representative of athletics interests are encouraged to contribute money or in-kind donations to the Athletics Department or a specific athletics team, but these donations cannot be earmarked for a specific student-athlete or institutional staff member.

**Q:** Can I use a student-athletes image to advertise my business?

**A:** NCAA regulations do not permit the use of a student-athlete's name, picture, or appearance to be used directly or indirectly to advertise, recommend, or promote the sale or use of any commercial product or service. Do not use any items (equipment, clothing, poster, etc.) signed by a coach, student-athlete, or athletics staff member in any kind of auction or fundraising event. Only under specific conditions, student-athletes may be involved in charitable, educational, or non-profit promotional activities. However, those events must be coordinated through the Compliance Office (336.334.7686).



# GENERAL QUESTIONS

**Q:** What is the relationship between A&T and sports wagering?

**A:** A&T student-athletes, coaches, and employees SHALL NOT:

- provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics
- solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team
- accept a bet on any team representing the institution
- solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any tangible item that has a value
- participate(s) in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card, or any other method employed by organized gambling

**Q:** What kind of relationships can I establish with the coaches at A&T?

**A:** Do not establish any outside account for the purpose of recruiting student-athletes or supplementing a coach's salary. All funds used for recruiting must be administered by A&T, and NCAA regulations prohibit individuals or organizations other than the University from paying or regularly supplementing the salary of an athletics staff member. It is permissible for a representative of athletics interests to donate funds to the Athletics Department which are earmarked for a specific team.

**Q:** Can A&T coaches speak at alumni, booster functions or banquets?

**A:** Yes. Please inform coaches or athletics staff members who are invited to speak at alumni or booster club functions if prospective student-athletes will be in attendance at the event. There are certain time periods during each year when it is impermissible for a coach to have any off-campus contact with a prospect, and the Compliance Office (336.334.7686) needs to approve the engagement if prospects will be present.



**Q:** What are the possible consequences for booster involvement in an NCAA violation?

**A:** The student-athlete, the booster, and the institution will be negatively impacted by any NCAA violation involving a booster. Possible sanctions include:

- *for the affected student-athlete(s)* – temporary or permanent loss of eligibility for participation in intercollegiate athletics at A&T, repayment of extra benefit value
- *for A&T* – penalties imposed by the NCAA include fines, loss of scholarships, reduction in recruiting or practice activities, probation, censure, etc.
- *for the booster* – Disassociation, meaning the revocation or loss of any athletically related benefit or privilege conferred on that individual by A&T, including the opportunity to purchase tickets, belong to a booster club, associate with the athletics department, or attend games

NCAA rules are the responsibility of everyone from representatives of athletics interests to administrators/coaches to student-athletes. In striving to assist North Carolina A&T State University Athletic Department achieve our preeminence, we ask your assistance in continuing to build a compliance conscience. If you have questions or become aware of any potential violations, please contact the A&T Compliance Office.

PHONE: 336.334.7686

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EMAIL: [comply@ncat.edu](mailto:comply@ncat.edu)



FACEBOOK: [NC A&T Compliance Services](#)



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ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT WEBPAGE: [www.ncataggies.com](http://www.ncataggies.com)

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