

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q: Can boosters contact prospects to encourage them to attend ULM?**
A: No. Any such contact could result in the prospect being declared ineligible to participate in ULM athletics. Recruiting contact must be made by countable coaches.
- Q: May a booster attend a public event (e.g., high school awards banquet) at which prospects are present?**
A: Yes, as long as you do not make contact with the prospect or his/her family nor attempt to recruit the prospect.
- Q: What extra benefits are prohibited for current student-athletes, prospects, their relatives and friends?**
A: Prohibited benefits include (and are not limited to) the following: cash or loans, promise of employment after graduation, special discounts, employment of relatives or friends of prospects, use of an automobile, providing transportation to and from a summer job or other site, co-signing a loan, a loan or gift of money or other tangible items (clothing, jewelry, etc.), free or reduced cost housing arrangements, entertainment costs on or off-campus, educational expenses, or summer camp registration.

Once an individual has been identified as a booster, he or she retains this indefinitely.

- Q: Is it permissible for a booster to entertain high school, preparatory, or junior college coaches at any location?**
A: No. However, ULM may provide two complimentary tickets to the coaches for home athletics contest.
- Q: What is the definition of an in-person contact?**
A: In-person contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect, or the prospect's parents or legal guardian, where the exchange of a greeting is exceeded. Additionally, any face-to-face encounter which is prearranged and takes place on either the grounds of the prospect's educational institution, the site of organized competition or at proactive that involves the prospect or the team the prospect represents is an in-person contact.
- Q: Is the contact rule applicable to established friends and neighbors?**
A: No. However, if you know a prospect who might want to attend University of Louisiana at Monroe, the only permissible recruiting activity for a booster is to notify the appropriate coach.

It is the responsibility of the Department of Athletics to educate, monitor, and control boosters in regard to their activities related to University of Louisiana at Monroe's athletics program. Please understand that violations of NCAA rules by alumni and supporters of ULM Athletics could affect the eligibility of the involved student-athlete and impose sanctions on the University of Louisiana at Monroe Department of Athletics.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BOOSTERS WHO VIOLATE NCAA RULES

ULM is required by the NCAA to notify boosters of consequences regarding rules violations.

Consequences are severe if NCAA rules are broken. Boosters found in violation of NCAA rules are subject to losing benefits and privileges, including season tickets.



This brochure has been produced to assist alumni and supporters of ULM Athletics with education of NCAA rules. Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of Academics & Compliance.

**University of Louisiana at Monroe
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Ask before you act!



DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS



Guide To NCAA Rules for Alumni, Fans and Friends





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RULES FOR BOOSTERS REGARDING PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

A Booster May NOT:

- Contact a prospect or his/her relatives by telephone, mail, email or fax (includes “chat rooms” or “instant messaging”), along with any face-to-face contact, for the purpose of recruiting.
- Assist ULM coaches by picking up transcripts, films, or any other information pertaining to a prospect’s ability from the prospect’s educational institution (i.e., “evaluation” activities)
- Have contact with student-athletes at institutions other than ULM for the purpose of recruiting.
- Provide a prospect or his/her relatives and friends with any benefits (e.g., clothing, special discounts, lodging, meals, transportation, tickets, loans of money).
- Make a contact with a prospect or his/her relatives when that prospect is on campus for an official or unofficial visit.
- Contact a prospect to congratulate him/her on signing a National Letter of Intent to attend ULM.
- Provide transportation or arrange payment for transportation for a prospect or his/her relatives or friends to visit campus.
- Employ or arrange for employment of a prospect before the completion of his/her senior year in high school or official withdrawal/graduation from junior college or prep school. Also, you may only do so if the compensation is for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with experience and the going rate for similar services in that locale.

A Booster May:

- Continue contact with a prospect as long as the booster has an established relationship prior to the student being a prospect and as long as there is no effort to recruit the prospect.
- Inform ULM coaches of prospects in his or her area by contacting a coach via phone, letter, or email. In addition, newspaper clippings may be sent to a coach.
- View a prospect’s athletic contest, provided you do not contact the prospect or his/her relatives, coaches, principal, or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the academic or athletic abilities of the prospect.
- Speak to a prospect on the telephone ONLY if the prospect initiated the call. The call cannot be arranged or initiated by ULM coaching staff members.

RULES FOR BOOSTERS REGARDING ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

A Booster May NOT:

- Pay for/arrange for payment of room, board, or any type of transportation AT ANY TIME for currently enrolled student-athletes, their relatives or friends.
- Provide a student-athlete with any “extra benefit” or special arrangements, such as: expense money, movie passes, free meals at restaurants, or reduced-priced housing.
- Provide preferential treatment or discount professional services (medical, dental, legal, etc) because a student-athlete’s athletic reputation or pay-back potential as a professional athlete.
- Provide awards or gifts to student-athletes for any reason. This also prohibits honorariums for speaking engagements.
- Use the name or picture of a student-athlete to directly advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of commercial product/service of any kind.

A Booster May:

- Employ/arrange for the employment of student-athletes during the academic year and summer if, and only if:
 - The compensation must not place any value on the student-athlete’s publicity, reputation, fame or personal following due to his/her athletic ability;
 - Compensation is only for work actually performed
 - Compensation is at a rate commensurate with the going rate for similar services in that locale.
 - Please remind the student-athlete to contact the Compliance Office before starting employment.
- A booster may provide a student-athlete or an entire team with an occasional meal under the following conditions:
 - The meal must be approved in advance by the respective coach and Compliance Office;
 - The meal must be provided in the booster’s home or on campus, and may be catered;
 - These meals must be restricted to infrequent or special occasions.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Booster (Representative of Athletics Interest)

The NCAA defines a booster as any individual who:

- Is a member of the institution’s athletics booster club.
- Has made donations to the booster club or to the Department of Athletics.
- Is involved in recruiting prospects or providing benefits (e.g., summer jobs) to enrolled student-athletes.
- Is involved in promoting the institution’s athletics program (e.g., buying season tickets).

Prospective Student-Athlete (Prospect/Recruit)

Any individual who has started classed for the 9th grade. *In Men’s Basketball, a prospect is an individual who has started classes for the seventh grade.*

Also, any student-athletes enrolled in preparatory schools or two-year colleges are considered prospects. A prospective student-athlete remains a prospect until he or she attends the 1st day of classes for the fall or spring semester.

Student-Athlete

A student who participates in intercollegiate athletics at ULM. This includes those students who were recruited by coaches as well as walk-ons.

Recruiting

Any solicitation of a prospect (or family members) by a staff member of the Department of Athletics at ULM to encourage him/her to enroll at ULM and ultimately participate in intercollegiate athletics at ULM.

Extra Benefit

Any special arrangement by an ULM employee or booster to provide a student-athlete, or that student-athlete’s friends or relatives, a benefit not authorized by the NCAA.

PLEASE NOTE

Most of the impermissible actions detailed in this brochure will immediately render the involved student-athlete INELIGIBLE for competition.