

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join a Friends Group or Sports Association

These groups provide support for teams through funding special trips and hosting receptions for teams at home and away contests. This is a great way to help the Big Red team of your choice.

Identify Outstanding Student-Athletes

If you know of outstanding student-athletes in your area, send information to the appropriate Cornell coach and let them take it from there. You may not contact prospects directly, nor may you contact high school coaches or guidance counselors to get information. There is no rule against attending contests (Bylaws 13.1.2.1, 13.1.2.4).

Offer Assistance to the Coaching Staff and Team

You may provide lodging, meals and transportation to coaches when they are recruiting in your area (Interp. 12/30/1998). With approval from the athletics department, you may provide a meal to a Cornell team competing in your area (Bylaw 16.11.1.5).

Continue Existing Relationships with Prospects

You may continue existing friendships with families of prospects or enrolled student-athletes, but you may not attempt to recruit the prospect (Bylaw 13.1.2.2(d)).

Employ a Prospect or a Current Student-Athlete

Generally speaking, **arrangements** to employ a prospect can be made after the prospect has committed to our institution. Actual **employment** can begin only after he or she has graduated from high school (Bylaw 13.2.3.3). Current SAs may also be employed. In either case, the following guidelines must be met:

- 1) Compensation is paid only for work actually performed;
- 2) Compensation is at the going rate in that locality for similar services (Bylaw 12.4.1);
- 3) Employment cannot be based on the utility that the student-athlete may have for the employer based on his or her athletics reputation (Bylaw 12.4.1.1);
- 4) Benefits cannot be provided that wouldn't otherwise be available to all employees (i.e., ride to/from work, housing) (Bylaw 13.2.3.4).

The above rules do not preclude you from hiring a prospect through your normal employment procedures so long as you are unaware of their status as a prospect. (Bylaw 13.2.3.2). To ensure all rules are being met, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Compliance Office before hiring a prospect or current student-athlete.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: May I contact high school coaches or guidance counselors directly regarding a prospect?

A: No, you may not have contact with a prospect or anyone associated with the prospect (i.e., parents, coaches, etc.) for recruiting purposes (Bylaw 13.1.2.4(c)).

Q: What should I do if a prospect contacts me?

A: Please explain to the prospect that NCAA rules preclude you from discussing the athletic program and refer them to the respective coach at Cornell (Bylaw 13.1.2.4(a)).

Q: May I attend a high school game, and speak with a prospect's parents prior to or during the game?

A: You may attend the high school game of a prospect. However, since "contact" with a prospect includes contact with a prospect's parents and relatives, please understand that you may not speak to the parents or prospect on such an occasion (Bylaw 13.1.2.4(b)).

Q: May I invite a prospective student-athlete to my home to talk about Cornell University?

A: No. Such contact can only be made as part of the institution's regular admissions program that is directed at all prospective students including nonathletes (Bylaw 13.1.2.2(a)).

Q: Are representatives of athletics interest allowed to help finance a student-athlete's education?

A: No. Under Ivy and NCAA rules, receipt by a student-athlete of any type of financial assistance from any non-family member or non-institutional source constitutes a rules violation that renders the student-athlete ineligible (Bylaw 15.01.3).

Q: May I use different forms of social networking to contact prospective student-athletes (e.g., Facebook, twitter, blogs)?

A: Any contact, including written contact, with a prospective student-athlete is impermissible. For example, on Facebook you may not post on a prospective student-athlete's wall or use the email function to send a message. You should not use any form of social network or technology to direct a message to a prospective student-athlete (Bylaw 13.1.2.1).

Q: If my neighbor happens to be a prospective student-athlete, and I would like him/her to attend Cornell, what should I do?

A: Normal contact with family friends, relatives, or neighbors is allowed; however, any contact for the purpose of recruiting them to Cornell is not permissible (Bylaw 13.1.2.2(d)). You should refer the prospect to the appropriate coach at Cornell or tell the coach about the prospect.

Please note that this brochure cannot cover all possible scenarios. If you have any questions concerning Ivy or NCAA rules, please contact:

Amy M. Foster, Associate Athletic Director
Compliance and Student Services
607-255-8874, alm7@cornell.edu

Last Updated: June 2015

CORNELL UNIVERSITY BIG RED ATHLETICS



A GUIDE TO NCAA AND IVY LEAGUE RULES FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETICS INTEREST

Ask Before You Act!!

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BIG RED ATHLETICS THE RIGHT WAY

THE RULES

Carrying on the tradition of excellence is hard work, and competition among the best institutions is intense. Searching for a competitive edge is part of the challenge, and meeting that challenge means playing by the rules. The NCAA has rules for coaches, the players and YOU! We know that you want to help Big Red Athletics and be a part of a winning team; following these rules will help us achieve our goals.

Cornell is responsible for making sure that everyone involved with its athletic program knows the rules. Cornell will be held accountable for any rule broken by anyone representing it (Bylaw 6.4.2).

TERMS TO KNOW

REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTEREST (RAI)

You are a “representative of athletics interest,” commonly referred to as a “booster,” if you have ever (Bylaw 13.02.14):

- Been a member of a sport support group or booster club.
- Made a donation to Cornell Athletics.
- Promoted Cornell Athletics in any way.
- Arranged or provided employment for enrolled student-athletes.

Once you have been identified as a “representative of athletics interest,” you retain the title forever.

RECRUITING PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

All recruiting of prospective student-athletes must be done by Cornell coaching staff (Bylaw 13.1.2.1).

A “prospective student-athlete” is any person who has begun ninth grade classes. In certain circumstances, younger student-athletes can be prospects as well. A person remains a prospect until the first day of enrollment or until the first day he or she reports for collegiate practice, whichever is earlier. At this point,

the student becomes an enrolled student-athlete. It is recommended that you treat all student-athletes as prospects until they are enrolled and attending a four year institution (Bylaw 13.02.12).

Recruiting

Recruiting is any solicitation of a prospect or prospect’s family or legal guardian by an institutional staff member or RAI for the purpose of securing the prospect’s enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution’s intercollegiate athletics program (Bylaw 13.02.13).

In general, RAIs are prohibited from having contact with prospects, or their legal guardians, in order to encourage them to participate in Cornell’s athletic program (Bylaw 13.1.2). This includes, but is not limited to:

- A face-to-face encounter that is pre-arranged or that takes place on the grounds of a prospect’s educational institution or at the site of organized competition or practice (Bylaw 13.02.4).
- Contacting a prospect in person on or off Cornell’s campus (Bylaw 13.02.4).
- Writing or phoning a prospect or a prospect’s family. This includes electronic correspondence (email) and the use of social networking sites (Bylaw 13.1.3.5.1).
- Contacting a prospect’s coach, principal or guidance counselor to evaluate the prospect (Bylaw 13.1.2.4(c)).
- Making arrangements for a prospect or his or her family to receive money or financial aid of any kind (Bylaw 15.01.3).

As a RAI, you may:

- Talk to a prospective student-athlete if the prospect initiates a phone call to you, but you must refer all recruiting conversations to the respective Cornell coach (Bylaw 13.1.2.4(a)).
- Attend a high school awards banquet, as long as no recruiting contact is made with a prospect.
- Observe a prospect’s athletic contest, as long as no contact is made with the prospect, the prospect’s family, coach or other persons associated with the prospect (Bylaw 13.1.2.4(b)).

Note: If a family friend or neighbor is a prospect, you may continue to maintain your relationship; however, you may NOT have a recruiting conversation (Bylaw 13.1.2.2 (d)).

Extra Benefits

Prospective and enrolled student-athletes may not be given extra benefits.

An “extra benefit” is any special arrangement that provides a student-athlete or prospect, or his or her family or friends, a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation (Bylaw 16.02.3). Examples of extra benefits include, but are not limited to the following (Bylaws 13.2.1.1, 16.11.2.2):

- Cash or loans in any amount, including the use of a credit card.
- Free or reduced-cost services.
- Gifts of any kind.
- Use of personal items such as an automobile or telephone.
- Free, or reduced-rent, housing.
- Free tickets to a prospect or a prospect’s family or friends to an athletic event.
- Summer housing/transportation for a student-athlete with eligibility remaining or for a prospect during the summer prior to enrollment at Cornell.
- Entertainment of a prospect or a prospect’s family or legal guardian on or off campus.

In addition to these prohibited extra benefits, you may not use the name, picture, or appearance of a student-athlete to advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of a commercial entity or item (Bylaw 12.5.2.1).

Limited Exception: You may invite enrolled student-athletes for an occasional meal 1) in your home, 2) at a location on campus, or 3) in a facility that is regularly used for home competition. In all cases, meals can be catered. This may be done only infrequently and on special occasions. It is also permissible for you to provide reasonable transportation to student-athletes to attend a meal at your home (Bylaw 16.11.1.5). Make sure you have permission from the Compliance Office before extending the invitation.