

Who is a Representative of Athletics Interest (Booster)?

You are a booster if you are involved in any of these ways:

- Member of the Penguin Club
- Former YSU student-athlete
- Financial contributor to YSU Athletics or the Penguin Club (including season-ticket holders)
- Corporate entity (i.e. apparel or equipment manufacturers, logo owners, etc.)
- Individuals assisting YSU athletic staff in permissible recruitment activities
- Individuals providing permissible benefits to current YSU student-athletes or their families
- Anyone promoting YSU Athletics

Once an individual or organization is identified as a booster, they retain that identity indefinitely.

Can a booster help recruit a prospective student-athlete?

What a booster CAN do is:

- Call a YSU coaching staff member about a potential recruit

What a booster CANNOT do is:

- Offer or arrange any financial aid or benefits to a recruit or recruit's relatives or friends. This can include but is not limited to: employment arrangement for a relative; gift of clothing; co-signing a loan; cash or like items; any tangible items; free or reduced-cost services or housing.
- Telephone, e-mail, or contact in any way a recruit or the recruit's relatives or friends about YSU athletics.

- Meet a recruit when the recruit is visiting YSU's campus

****Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their relatives is not a violation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to general students or families.**

Can a booster assist current YSU student-athletes?

A booster CAN provide current YSU student-athletes:

- An occasional meal in your home, but only for special occasions (i.e. holiday, birthday, team championship meal)
- Employment for work actually performed and at a rate commensurate with the going rate for that service.
- Athletic scholarships by joining the Penguin Club

A booster CANNOT provide current YSU student-athletes:

- Benefits or financial arrangements for the student-athletes or the student-athletes relatives or friends. Examples include, but are not limited to: loan of money or item, such as an automobile; any type of gift; entertainment (this includes providing a candy bar or soda); free use of a telephone; room or board for family or friends of a student-athlete; reduced or free professional services; etc.

Compliance Guidelines for Student-Athletes Prospective Student-Athlete

A prospective student-athlete is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade or above, including students in prep schools and junior colleges as well as students who have officially withdrawn from a four-year institution and plan to transfer to another institution. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution or a Youngstown State booster provides the individual or the individual's relatives or friends with any financial assistance or benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students in general. *A good rule of thumb is to treat ALL STUDENTS as prospects.*

Guidelines and Reminders for Boosters

A BOOSTER MAY NOT: contact the prospect, prospect's coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate or recruit the prospect; expend funds to entertain or provide transportation for a prospective student-athlete, the prospect's family or friends; become directly or indirectly involved in making arrangements for the prospect, or the prospect's relative or friends to receive money or financial aid of any kind; or contact a prospective student-athlete through letter writing, e-mail, telephone calling or other forms of communication.

For further information regarding NCAA Guidelines for Athletics Representatives contact the athletic compliance office at (330) 941-2282 or visit www.ncaa.org.

Can a booster financially assist the YSU Coaching Staff?

A booster CAN provide YSU coaches:

- A direct cash payment in recognition for a specific extraordinary achievement (i.e. conference or national championship, career contribution to YSU athletics, etc.) provided it is on conformance with YSU policy.

A booster CANNOT provide YSU coaches:

- A supplemental salary or direct cash payment for an unspecified achievement. A booster could donate funds to YSU and YSU could use such funds to supplement a coach's salary.

For More Information:

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