

NCAA Rules Guide for Norse Fans



About NKU Athletics

Northern Kentucky University sponsors intercollegiate competition in 13 varsity sports, six for men and seven for women. In addition, the department also oversees the university's student athletic training program, cheerleading squads and various athletic administration work-study positions. All totaled, close to 250 students are directly involved in the intercollegiate athletics program.

NKU Athletics is a member of the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Valley Conference. The 12-member league represents quality institutions from Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin and includes both public and privately affiliated universities and colleges. The conference is widely recognized as the top men's basketball conference in the country, but also sponsors championships in 14 other sports.

NKU Athletics and You

The NKU Athletics department is grateful to the many alumni, donors, fans, and friends who support the Norse each year. The most important quality an intercollegiate athletic program can display is its integrity. NKU strives to uphold the highest standards of academic and athletic integrity. As a member of the NCAA, it is our responsibility to educate administrators, coaches, student-athletes, and other representatives of institutional athletic interests about the rules which could affect their association with the program. NKU Athletics strives each day to remain in compliance with the strict guidelines of the NCAA and Great Lakes Valley Conference.

You Are a Representative of NKU Athletic Interests!

A "representative of the institution's athletics interests" is an individual who is known (or who should be known) by a member of the institution's executive or athletics administration to:

- Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.
- Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of that institution, which for NKU is the Norse Athletic Club.
- Be assisting or to have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospects.
- Be assisting or to have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families.
- Have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletics program.

Once an individual is defined as such a representative, that person retains that identity indefinitely, even if they quit supporting the athletics program.

Who is a Prospective Student-Athlete?

The NCAA defines a prospective student-athlete as any student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started the ninth grade becomes a prospect if the institution provides that student (or student's relatives and friends) any financial assistance or other benefit not provided to prospective students in general. A prospective stu-

dent-athlete remains a prospect even after he or she has signed a National Letter of Intent or financial aid tender to attend NKU. A prospective student-athlete also includes students in prep schools, junior colleges, and individuals who have officially withdrawn from four-year schools.

NCAA Rules Involving Prospective Student-Athletes

Representatives of the institution's athletic interests are prohibited from making in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospect of the prospect's relatives. On-campus contact is permitted, as are written and telephonic communications. Recruiting contacts by representatives during a prospect's official visit are confined to campus and may not extend to the 30-mile radius permitted to institutional staff members.

Athletics representatives may not contact prospects' coaches, principals, or counselors in an attempt to evaluate prospects, and they cannot visit prospects' schools to pick up transcripts or films pertaining to evaluation of the prospect's academic or athletics ability. Boosters may attend prospects' games on their own initiative, but they cannot contact prospects on those occasions.

Each year, coaches and administrators in the NKU Athletics department receive information on prospective student-athletes from traditional sources such as



high schools and recruiting services. However, an increasing number of fans, friends, and other members of the community will offer leads in recruiting a particular student-athlete. The coaches at NKU appreciate any leads that you may be able to give them on a prospective student-athlete. The department encourages you to send recommendation letters, clippings, or any other supporting material to members of the NKU coaching staff, but you cannot contact prospective student-athletes directly.

Maintaining institutional control over the administration of the NKU Athletics program, including recruiting, is our highest priority. You should also be aware of the following:

- You **may not** entertain, provide tickets or gifts to junior or senior high school or junior college coaches at any time.
- You **may not** contribute to the payment of registration fees for prospects to attend summer sports camps
- You **may not** mail anything of benefit to a prospective student-athlete except personal letters. Specifically, you may not mail clippings, posters, programs, or similar items.
- You **may not** contribute to the payment of transportation costs for prospects or their friends and relatives to visit NKU.
- You **may not** contact student-athletes of another four-year institution to explore the possibility of transferring to NKU.
- You **may not** be involved with giving financial aid or other benefits to prospects or prospects' relatives or friends.

NCAA Rules Involving Enrolled Student-Athletes

The student-athlete shall not receive any extra benefit. The term "extra benefit" refers to any special arrangement by an institutional employee or representative of the institution's athletics interest to provide the student-athlete or his or her relatives and friends with a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.

As a supporter of NKU Athletics, your involvement is greatly appreciated by the administration, coaching staff, and student-athletes. We encourage you to attend as many events as possible, introduce NKU Athletics to friends and business associates, support our fundraising efforts, serve as a career mentor, and consider student-athletes for off-season or summer employment.

However, as important as your assistance is to the program, it is equally as imperative to know that the university and its athletics program could be jeopardized if you unintentionally or intentionally violate NCAA regulations.

- You **may** provide off-season or summer employment for enrolled student-athletes under the following conditions:
 - a. The athlete is paid only for work actually performed.
 - b. The pay must be at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services.
 - c. Transportation related to the job may not be provided unless it is provided to all employees in that particular job.
- You **may** provide an occasional family home meal on infrequent and special occasions (e.g. Thanksgiving, Christmas), but you cannot provide transportation to your home.
- You **may not** provide a student-athlete with a special discount, payment arrangement, or credit on a purchase or a service.
- You **may not** provide a student-athlete with professional services without charge or at a reduced cost.
- You **may not** allow a student-athlete to use a telephone or credit card at no charge or a reduced rate.
- You **may not** provide services (e.g. movie tickets, dinner, or use of a car) from commercial companies at no charge or a reduced rate.
- You **may not** provide a student-athlete with extra benefits or services including but not limited to:
 - a. a loan of money,
 - b. a guarantee of bond,
 - c. use of an automobile,
 - d. signing or cosigning a note with an outside agency to arrange the loan.
- You **may not** provide payment of any expenses (i.e. transportation, room, or board) for friends or relatives to visit a student-athlete at NKU. You cannot even purchase a cup of coffee or a soda pop for them.

If You Have a Question, Please Ask

There are many NCAA rules regarding prospective and enrolled student-athletes. Please ask before acting. NKU appreciates your interest and support. We would be glad to direct your support in a constructive manner within NCAA guidelines. Should you have any questions, feel free to call Jane Meier, Director of Athletics, at (859) 572-5631 or Scott Eaton, Associate Athletic Director, at (859) 572-6539.

