

NCAA Rules and Regulations A Guide for Family and Friends

Introduction

The University of Montana is proud to have a fine tradition of a successful athletics program which stresses academic achievement and operates within the rules of the NCAA and the Big Sky Conference. We are responsible for the actions of “representatives of our athletics interests”. The NCAA definition of “representative” includes, but is not limited to, boosters, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Who is a “Representative of Athletics Interests”?

A representative of athletics interests is any person who has at any time:

- Been a member of a sports booster club such as the Grizzly Scholarship Association, Quarterback Club, Lady Griz Hoop Club, or Roundball Club
- Made a donation to any of UM’s men’s or women’s sports programs
- Arranged or provided summer employment for enrolled student-athletes
- Assisted in providing any benefit to enrolled student-athletes or their families
- Been involved in any way with the University’s athletics programs
- Held season tickets in any sport

What is a Prospect?

A prospective student-athlete is a person who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, any student currently enrolled in a two-year or junior college is considered a prospect.

Important Rules to Know

Rule #1

Only coaches and athletic department staff members can be involved in the recruiting process. All “athletic representatives” who are not employed by the University are prohibited from contacting prospective student-athletes or members of the prospect’s family by telephone, letter or in person on or off campus for the purpose of encouraging participation in Grizzly athletics.

Rule #2

Athletic representatives of The University of Montana cannot provide an “extra benefit” or special arrangement to a prospect OR to an enrolled student-athlete.

The extra benefit rule for prospects and enrolled student-athletes, their relatives or friends states that athletic representatives:

1. **May not** give them cash or loans in any amount.
2. **May not** sign or co-sign a note with an outside agency to arrange a loan.
3. **May not** employ relatives or friends of a prospect as an inducement for the enrollment of the prospect at UM.
4. **May not** give them gifts of any kind (e.g., birthday, Christmas, Valentine’s Day) or free services (e.g., clothing, hair cuts, meals in restaurants).
5. **May not** provide special discounts for goods and services.

6. **May not** provide use of an automobile.
7. **May not** provide them hospitality in your home for other than special occasions and on an infrequent basis (e.g., Thanksgiving). *This benefit is only available to currently enrolled student-athletes.*
8. **May not** invite them to your summer home to go water skiing, sailing, etc.
9. **May not** entertain or contact a prospect or prospect's family on or off campus.
10. **May not** provide rent-free or reduced rate housing.
11. **May not** provide tickets to an athletic, institutional, or community event.
12. **May not** provide a guarantee of bond.
13. **May not** provide a promise of financial aid for post-graduation education.
14. **May not** provide promise to a prospect of employment after college.

Rule #3

Athletic representatives can assist the coaching staff in the recruitment process by notifying them of any student who could be a strong addition to the University and to the athletic program. The coach can then make the appropriate contact with the prospect.

Rule #4

Athletic representatives are not precluded from continuing existing friendships with families who have prospective or enrolled student-athletes (e.g., backyard barbecues, picnics). However, they must not encourage the prospect's participation in Grizzly Athletics.

The statements set forth in the previous two pages are a condensed summary of the NCAA guidelines and are not meant to be exhaustive of all prohibitions contained in the NCAA Bylaws Manual. If there is ever a question on whether an activity is permissible, do not jeopardize the eligibility of the prospect or student-athlete—ASK the Compliance Officer within the Athletic Department.

Interactions Between Representatives of Athletics Interests and Current Student-Athletes

In an effort to minimize potential impermissible contact between representatives of athletics interests and current student-athletes, the following shall apply:

- Access to team locker rooms is restricted to Athletic Department personnel, players and coaches.
- NCAA guidelines regarding sideline control in applicable sports shall be applied at all times. An Event Management staff member will be assigned to the home sideline to ensure compliance with those guidelines.

Student-Athlete Alcohol Use Policy

Being a student-athlete carries with it certain expectations, many that you would not experience if you were not a student-athlete. Because of the public nature of competition, you are more visible to the community than a non-student-athlete. Through your participation on an athletics team, you become a representative of The University of Montana and Intercollegiate Athletics. As such, it is expected you will conduct yourself in a manner that brings pride to your team, the department and the campus.

The use of alcohol can impair your ability to make good judgments and can result in unbecoming behaviors. If witnessed by others, it can reflect negatively not only on yourself, but on your team, the department and the university. Therefore, it is the policy of UM Intercollegiate Athletics that during the period of time that you are representing UM in competition, the use of alcohol is prohibited by all team members. This includes home contests, away contests and the travel time to and from away competitions. Further, underage drinking is illegal and is prohibited at all times. Violations of this policy could result in suspension from the team, loss of athletics aid or being withheld from participation for a period of time.

Coaches may adopt stricter alcohol use policies for their individual programs.

Gambling NCAA Bylaw 10.3

NCAA Bylaw 10.3 prohibits athletic staff members and student-athletes from participating in gambling activities, including soliciting or accepting a bet on any intercollegiate competition for *any* item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) of tangible value. The NCAA regulations regarding gambling are intended to focus on the act of gambling, not necessarily the value of the bet. Therefore, as an example, even a friendly bet between friends for a dinner is a violation of NCAA rules. This prohibition applies to all intercollegiate contests, not just ones in which UM participates.

Occasional Meals NCAA Bylaw 16.11.1.5

NCAA Bylaw 16.11.1.5 states that a student-athlete or the entire team in a sport may receive an occasional meal provided by the institution. Meals include, but are not limited to: team meals with a visiting recruit; team meals at a staff member's home; breakfasts provided on campus; meals at sport football tailgates; end-of-season team banquets; sport-specific academic banquets.

The following meals are excluded from the limitation of this bylaw: meals during away-from-home competitions (NCAA Bylaw 16.5.2.d3); pre- and post-game meals (NCAA Bylaw 16.5.2d1); and the Lindsay Scholar-Athlete banquet.

The University of Montana defines "occasional" as a maximum of four meals per semester.

Walk-on Process

1. Interested student contacts coach to inquire as to availability of walk-on spots for the team.
2. If coach approves the student joining the team, coach refers student to Jean Gee, Compliance Office.
3. Jean determines academic eligibility.*
4. If the student is deemed academically eligible, student will complete required NCAA and Big Sky Conference paperwork with Jean.
5. Jean provides a **Walk-on Form** to the student.
6. Student obtains Head Coach signature.
7. If the student is a continuing UM student or a transfer student, s/he proceeds to the Coordinator of Athletic Academic Services (Lommasson Center 288) to obtain a transcript.
8. Student then proceeds to Dr. Jim Lopach, NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (LA 348) for official eligibility determination and signature.
9. Student takes completed **Walk-on Form** to the Rhinehart Athletic Training Center (RATC) to complete medical documents and schedule a physical.
10. After the physical is completed, Athletic Training staff will review the medical documents and determine medical clearance. If a student is medically cleared, RATC staff notifies the Compliance Office.
11. The Compliance Office notifies the coach(s) and Equipment Room staff that the student is cleared to begin participation.
12. The coach notifies the student and helps him/her find the Equipment Room.

*New students with no previous collegiate attendance will not be allowed to begin the walk-on process if (1) they are not registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center, or (2) the Eligibility Center is missing documents (high school transcript, test scores), or (3) their pending status indicates possibility of being ruled a nonqualifier.

These steps must be completed in the order presented.