Principle of Institutional Control and Responsibility
Michigan State University is responsible for ensuring that its staff members (e.g., University staff, faculty, coaches) and any other individual or organization engaged in activities promoting the athletics interests of the institution (e.g., student-athletes, alumni, friends) abide by NCAA rules and regulations. MSU is responsible for the actions of boosters and booster support groups. Boosters are governed by the same NCAA and institutional rules and regulations as those placed upon all institutional athletics staff members. [2.1]

Representatives of Michigan State University’s Athletics Interests
A representative of the institution’s athletics interests (booster) is an individual, independent agency, corporate entity (e.g., apparel or equipment manufacturer) or other organization who is known (or who should have been 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 MSU’s intercollegiate athletics program;
- Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of MSU;
- Be assisting or to have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes;
- Be assisting or to have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families; or
- Have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletics program. [13.02.13]

MSU fans, friends, alumni and employees are categorized as representatives of MSU’s athletics interests. Specifically, the NCAA has determined that a representative of MSU’s athletics interests (i.e., a booster) is an individual or a business that:

- Is or ever has been a contributor to the MSU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.
- Has ever made a donation of any kind to a specific sport program.
- Are or have been a member of an organization promoting MSU’s athletics program (e.g., booster club).
- Has ever made a donation to the Ralph Young Fund.
- Is an employee or spouse of an employee of Michigan State University.
- Has ever purchased season tickets for any of MSU’s athletic programs.
- Has ever helped to arrange or provided summer employment for enrolled student-athletes or for MSU prospects who have signed a National Letter of Intent.
- Have otherwise promoted MSU’s athletics programs in any manner.

An individual can become a booster if he/she provides benefits to prospects, student-athletes, their relatives or friends and any of the following statements are true:

- The relationship between the athlete (or parents of the athlete) and the individual providing the benefits developed as a result of the athlete’s participation in athletics or their reputation as an athlete;
- The relationship began only after the athlete became a prospect;
- The relationship began only after the athlete had achieve notoriety due to his or her athletic ability or reputation;
- The pattern of benefits increased after the athlete attained notoriety as a talented athlete.

Once an individual, independent agency, corporate entity or other organization is identified as a “representative”, that person, independent agency, corporate entity or other organization retains that
status FOREVER. This is true even if the individual or group no longer contributes to the athletics program. [13.02.13.1]

**Recruiting Issues Regarding MSU’s Athletics Representatives**

Only MSU coaches may contact and evaluate prospect for recruiting purposes. NCAA legislation prohibits boosters from making in-person, on- or off-campus recruiting contacts, or written or telephonic communications with a prospect or the prospect’s relatives or legal guardians.

Specifically, boosters may not:

∅ Call, write or e-mail a prospect or the prospect’s parents, legal guardians, friends or relatives for purposes of athletics recruitment. This prohibition also includes all forms of electronic communication including text/instant message, chat rooms, message boards, blogs, MySpace and Facebook.

∅ Mail anything, including newspaper and magazine articles, clippings, posters, programs, etc. to prospects.

∅ Have on- or off-campus contact with a prospect, the prospect’s parents, legal guardians or relatives for purposes of athletics recruitment. An unavoidable incidental contact made with a prospect by a representative of MSU’s athletics interests is permissible provided:
  - The contact is not prearranged by the booster or an athletics department staff member;
  - It does not take place on the grounds of the prospect’s educational institution or at the sites of organized competition and practice involving the prospect or the prospect’s team;
  - It is not made for the purpose of recruitment of the prospect; and
  - It involves only normal civility.

∅ Contact a prospect’s coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate a prospect.

∅ Visit a prospect’s educational institution to pick up film/videotape or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect’s academic eligibility or athletics ability.

∅ Attend a prospect’s competition for evaluation purposes at the request of an MSU coaching staff member.

∅ Contact student-athletes enrolled in other four-year institutions regarding the possibility of transferring to MSU.

∅ Provide a prospect with free transportation to and from a summer job unless it is the employer’s established policy to transport all employees to and from the job site.

∅ Make financial donations to a prospect’s nonscholastic team (e.g., club team, AAU).

NCAA rules do permit representatives of MSU’s athletics interests to:

- Speak to a prospect via the telephone only if the prospect initiates the telephone conversation and the call is not for recruiting purposes. All questions regarding the institution’s athletics program must be directed to the athletics department staff.
- Attend athletics events involving prospective student-athletes provided no recruitment or contact with the prospect, prospect’s parents or coach occurs.
- Continue existing friendships, provided solicitation of a prospect’s enrollment at MSU does not occur.
- Contact a prospect regarding summer employment provided the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent.

**Recruiting Issues Regarding MSU Staff and Board of Trustees**

Institutional staff members (e.g., faculty members) may have contact with a prospect in conjunction with the prospect’s visit to campus. Contact may occur on campus, or within 30 miles of campus during the prospective student-athlete’s official visit. It is NOT permissible for MSU’s Board of Trustees to have on or off campus contact with a prospective student-athlete. [13.1.2.3]

**Extra Benefits**

Specifically prohibited financial aid, benefits and arrangements include, but are not limited to, the following:
Cash or like items (e.g., gift certificates).
• Tangible items (e.g., clothing, cars, jewelry, etc.).
• Loan of money, signing or cosigning loans, guarantee of bond or providing special discounts or payment arrangements on loans.
• Special discounts, payment arrangements or credit (e.g., credit line at a store) on a purchase or service (e.g., dry cleaning).
• Free or reduced-cost services, rentals or purchases of any type.
• Transportation.
• An automobile or use of an automobile.
• Free or reduced-cost housing, storage or use of personal property.
• Free or reduced-cost entertainment services from commercial agencies (e.g., movie tickets, dinners, use of car, reduced admission to institutional or community events).
• Educational expenses (other than from permissible institutional and outside sources).
• Providing loans to a prospect’s relatives or friends.
• Arranging employment for a prospect’s relatives or friends.
• Transportation costs to prospects, their relatives or friends.
• Purchase of items or services from a prospect or the prospect’s family at inflated prices.
• Providing, directly or indirectly, transportation to enroll in class at Michigan State University.
• Entertaining prospects and/or the prospect’s relatives or friends at any site either on- or off-campus.
• Complimentary admissions to MSU athletic events. [13.2.1]