

FAQs for Alumni, Fans & Boosters of Roadrunner Athletics

What is a Representative of Athletics Interests (RAI aka, “Booster”)?

If you...

- *Ever participated in, or were ever a member of an agency or organization, promoting CSUB athletics.*
- *Ever made a financial contribution to CSUB’s athletics department or to a CSUB athletics booster organization. ****This includes a donation paid by season ticket holders for premium seating.***
- *Ever assisted or have been requested by CSUB’s athletics department staff to assist in the recruitment of prospects. ****This would be a violation of NCAA rules.***
- *Ever assisted in providing benefits to an enrolled student-athlete or their families.*
- *Ever been involved otherwise in the promotion of CSUB’s athletics program.*
- *Ever provided a job for a current or prospective student-athlete at the request of the athletics department.*

NOTE: The NCAA stipulates that once you have become a representative of athletics interests, you are one FOREVER, even if you no longer contribute to or are involved with the athletics program.



Who is a Prospective Student-Athlete (PSA or “prospect”)?

- *A person who has begun classes for the ninth grade. However, it is possible for any high school or collegiate student to be considered a prospect, so please treat **ALL STUDENTS** as prospects.*
- *A prospective student-athlete remains a prospect even after a National Letter of Intent (NLI), an agreement to attend CSUB, is signed. Applicable NCAA rules governing prospects do not change until the student reports for official team practice or attends classes as a full-time student.*

NOTE: You should never take part in the recruitment of any prospective student-athlete. If you have any questions, please contact the Athletics Compliance Office.

Q: What is an official or unofficial visit?

A: An Official Visit is a CSUB expense-paid visit to campus for the prospect and select guests in order to evaluate enrollment at the institution; any manner of expense paid results in an official visit designation. Official visits must be approved by the Compliance Office before any expense is paid to a prospect; and must adhere to specific guidelines. Official visits are limited to one visit per campus while in high school and/or post-high school.

An Unofficial Visit is any visit to the CSUB campus made by a prospect AND at his/her own expense. Unofficial Visits are unlimited, and do not require prior approval.

Q: Can an athletics representative be involved in any way when a prospect is on an official or unofficial visit to the CSUB campus?

A: NO. Athletics representatives are precluded from all recruiting activities, including meeting prospective student-athletes.



Q: Is it permissible for a booster to reimburse the coach of a prospect for expenses incurred in transporting a prospect to visit the campus?

A: NO, unless an approved “prior relationship” existed. Otherwise, this activity would be considered an “inducement”, and subject to significant penalty.

Q: Is it permissible for a booster to pay, in whole or in part, registration fees associated with sport camps or clinics?

A: NO, unless an approved “prior relationship” existed. Otherwise, this activity would be considered an “inducement,” and subject to significant penalty.

Q: Are the NCAA “contact” rules applicable to established family, friends, and neighbors?

A: NO; if an approved “prior relationship” exists the rules do not apply. However, it must be understood that such contacts may not be made for recruiting purposes and are not initiated by a member of the CSUB Department or coaching staff.

NOTE: *Activities that took place as a basis for the “prior relationship” are the only activities permissible after the prospect becomes recruitable (i.e., small gifts ≠ vehicle).*

Q: May a booster attend a public event (e.g., high school award banquet or dinner) at which prospects are in attendance?

A: YES. Please remember that contact with a prospect may not be prearranged by an athletics department staff member, and no attempt may be made to recruit the prospect.

Q: What if a prospect calls an athletics representative?

*A: An athletics representative may have a telephone conversation with a prospect **ONLY** if the prospect initiates the call. Any questions about CSUB’s athletics program, however, should be referred to the Athletics Department.*

Q: What if a prospect approaches a booster, on or off-campus, regarding the athletics program?

A: The athletics representative should explain to the prospect that NCAA rules do not permit discussion of the athletics program and refer the prospect to the Athletics Department.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to telephone a prospect or send a letter once the prospect has committed to, or signed a NLI with CSUB?

A: NO, even if the purpose of the call or letter is only to congratulate the prospect. The prospect is still a prospect until he/she attends CSUB.

Q: May an athletics representative provide any assistance or special arrangement to a prospect or prospect’s family or friends?

A: NO. The NCAA considers these “offers and inducements,” and they are specifically prohibited.





Q: Can a prospect be in attendance at booster functions?

A: This is NOT advisable for the following reasons:

- The function must be open to the entire public, no special invitations may be made, and the prospect may not be introduced.

- Prospects cannot have contact with representatives of athletics interests on or off-campus.

Q: May an athletics representative (i.e., teammate parent) provide any assistance or special arrangement to a current student-athlete or his/her family or friends?

A: NO. The NCAA considers these “extra benefits,” and they are specifically prohibited unless a “prior relationship” existed between the parties that was before the student-athletes were in high school.

Q: Is it permissible for a booster to provide a current student-athlete with professional services (for which a fee would normally be charged) for personal reasons?

A: NO. Professional services provided at a fee less than the normal rate, or at no expense to a student-athlete, are considered extra benefits.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to give their game tickets to a current student-athlete or prospect?

A: NO. Even if you are not using your tickets to a game, they have intrinsic value. Therefore, it would be a violation to provide your tickets to ANY student-athlete. This prohibition continues for as long as a student is a prospect, enrolled at CSUB, and even after competition eligibility is completed.

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to provide summer employment for current student-athletes?

A: YES. Please remember that compensation must be paid only for work actually performed and at the “going rate” in that locality for similar services. Such employment should be facilitated with the assistance of the Athletics Compliance Office.

Q: May a current student-athlete's name or picture be used to directly or indirectly advertise, recommend, or promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service?

A: NO. Such activity would jeopardize the eligibility of the student-athlete. The NCAA membership has always maintained that student-athletes not be involved in the promotion of a commercial product.

Q: Is it permissible for a booster to provide gifts or awards to a current or prospective student-athlete for his/her athletics performance?



A: No; all awards must conform to NCAA award legislation and must be approved by the Athletics Compliance Office.

Q: May a current student-athlete make a public appearance at a business establishment for any purpose such as signing autographs, etc.?

A: NO. Such appearances can be construed as a direct or indirect endorsement of the commercial establishment and its products/services, thus jeopardizing the eligibility of the student-athlete.

NOTE: *Student-athletes may participate in “promotional” activities at schools, hospitals, or other non-profit or charitable organizations. Prior approval must be received from the Athletics Compliance Office.*

Q: Is it permissible for a current student-athlete to receive any expenses for speaking to a booster club or civic organization?

A: A student-athlete may ONLY accept transportation and meal expenses in conjunction with participation in a luncheon meeting of a booster club or civic organization, provided the meeting occurs within a 100-mile radius of CSUB’s main campus and no tangible award is provided to the student-athlete. If the luncheon is outside of the 100-mile radius, the student-athlete is not permitted to accept any transportation or meal expenses.



Q: What about tailgating at CSUB events?

A: Current student-athletes cannot be provided food unless you are making the food available to the entire CSUB student body, whether they accept your provision or not.

NOTE: *Prospects may be visiting CSUB at any time, but they may NEVER receive free or discounted food, items, or access. Please be diligent in your planning to help avoid mistakes.*

Q: Is it permissible for an athletics representative to provide current student-athletes a cooked meal?

A: Yes. NCAA rules permit “occasional” meal (defined by the Athletics Compliance Office). However, the meals must occur (1) in the home of the booster, or (2) on the CSUB campus. It may also be a catered meal within those guidelines. Prior approval must be received from the Athletics Compliance Office, but you are encouraged to communicate your requests through the coaching staff.

More Questions? Contact...

Marcus Brown or Joseph Flores, Athletics Compliance Office

661/654-2189 or mbrown59@csub.edu or @RunnersComply

661/654-2566 or jflores77@csub.edu

