

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AT CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

### NCAA RULES REGARDING STUDENT ATHLETES

Central Connecticut State University is responsible for insuring that its various constituencies (e.g., University staff and faculty, student-athletes, alumni and friends) abide by NCAA rules and regulations. NCAA rules indicate that all alumni, friends, and employees of the University are categorized as "representatives of Central Connecticut State University's athletics interests." The NCAA stipulates that once an individual has been identified as a representative or "booster" of the University's athletics programs, he or she retains this status forever, even if the individual is no longer associated with the athletics program.

#### **A representative of CCSU's athletics interests (i.e., a booster) is an individual or a business that:**

- Is or ever has been a contributor to the Alumni, CCSU or any of the sport specific support groups
- Is or ever has been an employee of the University or is the spouse of an employee of Central Connecticut State University
- Has ever made a donation of any kind to CCSU's men's or women's athletic programs, including the purchasing of season tickets for any of CCSU's athletic programs
- Has ever helped to arrange or to provide summer employment for enrolled student-athletes or for prospects who have signed a National Letter of Intent
- Has ever assisted or have been requested (by the athletics department) to assist in the recruitment of students in grades 9-12 to participate in any of CCSU's athletics programs.
- Has ever assisted in providing any benefit to a CCSU enrolled student-athletes or their families
- Has ever been involved otherwise in promoting CCSU's athletics programs.

#### **EXTRA BENEFITS - WHAT IS AN "EXTRA BENEFIT?"**

The NCAA defines an extra benefit as any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution's athletics interest ("booster") to provide a student-athlete (or a student-athlete's relative or friend) a benefit that is not generally available to other CCSU students and their relatives and/or friends. Therefore, please be aware of the following:

1. A student-athlete cannot accept anything from an employee of CCSU, a donor or any other athletics representative (e.g., use of a car, hair cut, clothing, gifts, money, tickets for any kind of entertainment, payment of long distance telephone calls).
2. A student-athlete cannot accept free or reduced cost room and/or board from any CCSU employee or representative of CCSU's athletics interests. This includes in New Britain, in the student-athlete's home city or any other location.
3. A student-athlete may not accept free or reduced cost storage room for personal belongings for the summer months from any CCSU employee or a representative of CCSU's athletics interests.
4. A student-athlete cannot accept free or reduced merchandise or services from any merchant unless that free or reduced cost item is also available to the general public.
5. A student-athlete cannot eat at a restaurant as the guest of an athletics representative for athletics purposes. Example, if the student is part of a class that is invited or a group (non-athletes) in the class, this would be permissible. If the student is being offered because they won their conference tournament that would be impermissible.
6. Members of the Department of Athletics staff or an athletics representative are not permitted to complete papers or type reports, papers, letters, etc. for a student-athlete.
7. A student-athlete cannot receive a special discount, payment arrangement or credit on a purchase (e.g., airline ticket, clothing), or service (e.g., laundry, dry cleaning, legal service) from an employee of CCSU or an athletics representative.
8. A CCSU employee or a representative of CCSU's athletics interests cannot provide a student-athlete with a loan of money, a guarantee of bond, the use of an automobile or the signing or co-signing of a note to arrange a loan, or pay or provide other compensation for work not performed or at unreasonable levels for work performed.

9. A CCSU employee or a representative of CCSU's athletics interests may not pay or provide the expenses (e.g., lodging, meals, transportation) incurred by friends or relatives to visit an enrolled student-athlete.
10. A CCSU employee or a representative of CCSU's athletics interests may not give gifts of any kind (e.g., birthday, Christmas) to a student-athlete or his or her friends or relatives.

Additionally, an athletics representative is prohibited from arranging for another individual to provide benefits for an enrolled student-athlete (or the student-athlete's relatives or friends), inasmuch as such activity constitutes a special arrangement by an athletics representative to arrange for an extra benefit not authorized by NCAA legislation. In this scenario, the individual providing the benefit also becomes an athletics representative of the institution. For example, if you (who are an athletics representative of CCSU) were to give the name of a car dealer, who happens to be a very good friend of yours, to the brother of a CCSU student-athlete who was looking to purchase a car and the brother purchased a car from that dealer at a highly reduced cost, you would have provided an extra benefit to the brother of a student-athlete and the dealer would become a representative of CCSU's athletics interests.

Central Connecticut State University appreciates your loyal support and continued interest in our athletics program, but we need to emphasize that an inappropriate or inadvertent action on your part could jeopardize the eligibility of our enrolled student-athletes (loss of ability to play in competitions, loss of team membership, loss of scholarship, etc). On the flip side, if ever you have an issue with a student-athlete, we ask that you do as you would with any other student inasmuch as sending them to the Judicial Officer, contacting the Head Coach, etc.

Always remember to **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT.** If you have questions regarding extra benefits or any other issues relating to your involvement with our student-athletes, please call CCSU's Office of Athletic Compliance, Amy Strickland, Associate AD/Compliance at (860) 832-3019.