

# MESSAGE TO FANS

## Dear Penn State Fan:

As a member of the NCAA, Penn State is responsible for exercising institutional control over its intercollegiate athletics program. Our efforts to exercise institutional control include educating boosters and fans of NCAA rules and regulations. Included on this page you will find important definitions and information regarding restrictions that are in place for both boosters and fans involving prospective student-athletes, current student-athletes and/or their family.

First, a **prospective student-athlete** is any individual who has started classes in the ninth grade of high school, regardless of whether they participate in a sport. An individual remains a prospective student-athlete until they officially enroll and attend classes full-time at a four-year collegiate institution.

Second, a **current student-athlete** is an individual whose enrollment was solicited by the institution with a view toward the student's ultimate participation in an athletics program. Any other student becomes a student-athlete only when the student reports for practice/competition for an athletics team that is under the jurisdiction of the athletics department. This most commonly includes student-athletes on athletic rosters, regardless of whether the student-athlete is on an athletics scholarship.

Third, a **booster** (i.e., representative of athletics interest) is defined as any individual or organization who has engaged in any of the following activities:

- Purchased tickets to a Penn State athletics program;
- Member of a Penn State athletic booster club/organization;
- Involved in promoting a Penn State athletics program; and/or
- Has made contributions to any Penn State booster club/organization or to the Penn State athletics department.

The list below, which is not an exhaustive list by any means, is meant to give you some insight on what is permissible/impermissible for you to do in regards to prospective/current student-athletes and their family:

### **On or Off-Campus Contact**

**A booster is not permitted to have on or-off campus contact with a prospective student-athlete or their family** (the only exception to this rule is former Penn State student-athletes may have on-campus contact with a prospective student-athlete and their family). Examples of what is considered "contact" with prospective student-athletes and their family include:

- While enjoying a tailgate, you come across a prospective student-athlete and their family when striking up a conversation.
  - In this instance, you should cease contact with the prospective student-athlete and their family as quickly as possible, as any conversation other than an incidental greeting is considered an NCAA violation.
- While in the arena during pregame warm-ups, a prospective student-athlete's parent approaches you and begins a conversation.
  - In this instance, you should cease contact with the prospective student-athlete's parent as quickly as possible, as any conversation other than an incidental greeting is considered an NCAA violation.

Although it is permissible to interact with **current student-athletes** and their family; such contact shall only occur on a **limited basis**, unless a pre-existing relationship form is on file and approved by the Compliance Office. If you wish to file a pre-existing relationship form so you can interact with a prospective or current student-athlete, please contact the Compliance Office.

### **Extra Benefits**

**A booster may not provide a prospective student-athlete or a current student-athlete an extra benefit at any time; unless the same benefit is available to the general public and cleared through the Compliance Office.** An extra benefit is anything given to a prospective student-athlete or current student-athlete that is not available to the general public and/or the general student body (e.g., free or reduced transportation, money, loan, co-sign on a loan and etc.). Here are a few examples of extra benefit issues we have seen in the past:

- Providing free or reduced game tickets to a prospective student-athlete and their guests or to friends and family of a current student-athlete.
- Providing free or reduced lodging to a prospective student-athlete and their guests or to friends and family of a current student-athlete.
- Providing restricted area access to a prospective student-athlete and their guests or to friends and family of a current student-
- Providing food/refreshments to a prospective student-athlete and their guests or to friends and family of a current student-athlete.
- Providing compensation in any form (e.g., gift cards, cash, etc.) to a prospective student-athlete and their guests or to friends and family of a current student-athlete.

On a separate note, under Pennsylvania State law, a student-athlete (athlete enrolled in college) may utilize their name, image and likeness for personal gain, which does allow a student-athlete to agree to terms with a company and receive compensation for the use of their name, image and likeness. The most convenient option is to go to the official Penn State Athletics website ([gopsports.com/sports/2021/9/28/statement](https://gopsports.com/sports/2021/9/28/statement)) for all available options.

Through ongoing education, our student-athletes are knowledgeable of NCAA rules and state laws that govern their activities, and we expect them to comply with these regulations. However, we ask you to join us in our efforts to protect the eligibility and welfare of our student-athletes, as well as the integrity of our University. Compliance with NCAA regulations is a shared responsibility, and your help is essential to ensuring the continued growth and success of Penn State Athletics.

**PENN STATE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS**  
**Athletics Compliance Office: 814-863-8048**



# EXTRA BENEFITS



## WHAT IS AN EXTRA BENEFIT?

A special discount or arrangement given to a student-athlete (or their friends or family) that is NOT available to the general student body and/or the public.

## EXAMPLES OF EXTRA BENEFITS

- Discount or credits on items
- Free or reduced-cost services, access, or meals
- Preferential Treatment (e.g., first to pick an item, or be selected) inconsistent with normal business practices

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

If a student-athlete receives any extra benefit, they may be declared **INELIGIBLE** for intercollegiate competition and potentially face **SUSPENSION**.



Please do not hesitate to contact the Compliance Office with any questions or concerns.

Phone: 814-863-8048 Email: [compliance@athletics.psu.edu](mailto:compliance@athletics.psu.edu)



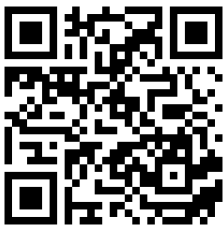
# NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS

## WHAT IS NIL?

The ability for intercollegiate student-athletes to profit from their Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) for personal gain in ways permitted within institutional and state legislation.

### HOW TO CONNECT WITH STUDENT-ATHLETES

Visit INFLCR - The Nittany Lion Exchange



### WHAT IS AN EXTRA BENEFIT?

Any special discount or arrangement given to a student-athlete (or their friends/family) that is not available to the general public or general student body. To be considered NIL, there must be quid pro quo in exchange for the benefit or payment.

### REMINDERS

- Per NCAA legislation, NIL may not be used as a recruiting inducement or as a form of pay-for-play
- NIL must be disclosed to PSU
- Business and/or student-athletes must receive permission from PSU in order to use PSU marks, logos, facilities, etc.

### ALLOWED

- Engage in NIL deals with student-athletes
- Connect with student-athletes via social media, websites, or in-person to have conversations regarding NIL deals
- Provide compensation or products to a student-athlete in exchange for NIL activity

### NOT ALLOWED

- Promising deals/dollar amounts to current or prospective student-athlete as a form of pay for play or recruiting inducement
- Providing compensation or extra benefits to a student-athlete without quid pro quo

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Compliance Office with any questions or concerns.

Phone: 814-863-8048

Email: [compliance@athletics.psu.edu](mailto:compliance@athletics.psu.edu)