Indiana University, as a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), is responsible for insuring that our various constituencies (i.e., staff and faculty, student-athletes, fans, friends, alumni, and local merchants) abide by NCAA rules and regulations. According to the NCAA, these different types of constituencies are called “representatives of IU’s athletics interests,” or more traditionally known as “boosters” or “reps.” Provided below are commonly asked questions and their answers that will hopefully help you to better understand the basic rules and regulations that are placed upon a rep. Since it is impossible to address every situation to insure total NCAA compliance, any additional questions or concerns can always be directed to our office (see below for contact information).

Q: How do I know if I am a representative of IU’s Athletics interests?
A: You are considered a representative of Indiana’s athletics interests (“rep”) just by being an alumnus, friend, or fan. Also, the NCAA definition of a rep includes any IU faculty or staff member, any person who has made a financial contribution to IU, any student-athlete past or present, any ticket purchaser to an IU athletic event, or any person who has been requested by any coach or staff member of IU Athletics to assist in the recruitment process. Reminder: Once you are considered a representative of IU’s athletics interests, you retain that identity indefinitely.

Q: What is the basic NCAA rule regarding reps and recruiting?
A: In Division I, reps are prohibited from making in-person, on- or off-campus recruiting contacts, or written or telephonic communications for purposes of recruitment, with a prospective student-athlete or his or her relatives or legal guardians. This is more commonly referred to as the “booster ban.”

Q: Who is a prospective student-athlete?
A: A prospective student-athlete (“prospect”) is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade and has been recruited by an institutional staff member or representative of IU’s athletics interests. Additionally, any student not yet in the ninth grade becomes a prospect if he or she receives any financial aid or other benefits that are not generally provided to prospective students.

Q: What is the NCAA rule regarding reps and their interaction with current student-athletes?
A: A rep may not provide an extra benefit to an enrolled student-athlete or his or her family that is not available to the general student population at IU. An extra benefit would include provision of any monies, transportation, meals, clothing, special discounts, entertainment, telephone calling cards, or preferential loan terms. Simply put, do not treat a student-athlete differently from an IU student who does not participate in athletics.

Most of you are probably familiar with the situations at various institutions around the country that are currently being investigated for improprieties involving boosters and student-athletes. Some of the alleged violations include payments of cash to prospects or currently-enrolled student-athletes, reducing rent in exchange for being placed on the student-athletes complimentary admission list at home or away contests, payment of college expenses, special discounts for student-athletes at clothing or shoe stores, paying for student-athletes’ meals at restaurants, providing loans, and providing use of cars and/or personal property. Any one of the above actions will not only jeopardize a student-athlete’s eligibility, but can also jeopardize a team’s victory if the student-athlete participated while ineligible due to the receipt of extra benefits.

Indiana University has a strong tradition of integrity that we hope to maintain while we strive to provide championship opportunities for our student-athletes. We, here at the Indiana University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, appreciate the support and encouragement from our reps. Please remember that we are governed by NCAA rules and there are strict limits on how you may support our institution. When a violation occurs, intentional or unintentional, we are responsible for the actions of our reps. Further, if a prospective or currently enrolled student-athlete accepts any benefit because of his or her athletic ability, that student-athlete may lose all eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Remember that this is only a very basic overview of some of the NCAA rules and regulations governing reps. A good motto is “When in doubt, Find Out!” We are always glad to answer any questions you may have. If leaving a voice or e-mail message, please describe in detail your question or situation so that we may more thoroughly research our answer prior to calling you back. Thanks again for your support. Go Hoosiers!

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Handling Difficult Questions
Mary Ellen Anderson, Director, Office of Admissions

All of you are aware that as a national and international university, Indiana University receives its fair share of media coverage. Most of it is extremely favorable, but, unfortunately, sometimes we have negative coverage as well. Two major stories this past year were about IU receiving a No. 1 Party School ranking from Princeton Review, and the discovery that some footage for a pornographic movie was shot in an IU residence hall (as well as at other colleges and universities). As surprising as it may seem, it is very rare for us to be asked questions about these two things, either on campus during campus visits, or on the road around the country at college fairs and events. However, once in a while they do come up, and I wanted to share some information with you to help you address those questions should you get them at spring events or in the future.

If someone asks about the No. 1 Party School ranking, our responses include the following points:
• It was a complete surprise to the student body and the administration at IU;
• IU has not been on any party-school list for years and suddenly went from not even on a list to No. 1 on this one;
• A survey that a very small sampling of IUB students completed took place during IU’s run to the Final Four last spring, and it was certainly an atypical time on campus;
• It is especially surprising since it is well known that IU has taken a very decisive and proactive approach to addressing alcohol issues on campus.

In terms of the video:
• IU was initially completely unaware that this filming was taking place;
• Once the nature of the filming was discovered, the university immediately started an investigation and will be using the campus judicial system to deal with the few students involved;
• IU takes the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct seriously, and any student found to be in violation of that will face consequences.

It is important for you to know as alumni recruiters that these stories have in no way negatively affected IU’s recruitment efforts. Students who are interested in a particular university will not suddenly dismiss that university due to a story such as this, when the reasons they are considering it are so much greater – academic programs, opportunities for involvement, and campus environment. However, we felt that it was important for you to be prepared should the questions arise. As always, if a student or parent continues to ask you questions about this (or any topic that you are unable to answer), never hesitate to refer them to the office of admissions. Thank you for everything that you do for IU and our office!

Spring Events

As of March 1, alumni student recruiters are already set to represent Indiana University at Spring 2003 college fairs in the following areas: Fairfield, Conn.; Boston; Livingston, N.J.; Philadelphia; New York City; Toledo, Akron, and Cleveland, Ohio; Seattle; Chicago; Omaha, Neb.; Minneapolis; Washington, D.C.; Detroit; Kansas City, Kan.; St. Louis; Atlanta; Houston; Los Angeles; San Diego; and even Mumbai, India!

There are other spring fairs pending, and more will be coming.