

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY



A GUIDE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETIC INTERESTS

Niagara University is responsible for the control and conduct of the intercollegiate athletics program. Your involvement with our athletic program is critical to our success; therefore it is essential for everyone associated with the University to be properly educated on NCAA, MAAC and Niagara University rules and regulations.

You, as an alumnus, friend and/or a representative of athletics interest of the University, share the responsibility equally with University coaches, staff members and student-athletes. As such, you are fully expected to comply with all applicable NCAA, MAAC and University rules and regulations. Please use this document as a reference to many of the NCAA, MAAC and Niagara University rules, related to you as a friend to the University's Office of Athletics. Please keep in mind this guide does not address every rules scenario, therefore, should you have any additional concerns or questions related to the program please feel free to contact the Compliance Office.

The University is proud to have your continued interest and loyal support in our athletic programs. Additionally, we appreciate your assistance in assuring that the eligibility of our student-athletes is not jeopardized by inadvertent rules interpretations.

As always, we look forward to another great year for Niagara Athletics. Always remember, **YOU ROAR, WE'LL SOAR!**

OFFICE OF ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

As an integral part of the Niagara University community, the athletics program strives to create an environment that challenges student-athletes to reach their full academic and athletics potential.

The conduct of the program reflects the core values of the university's Vincentian mission in its emphasis on the intellectual, personal, and spiritual growth of the student-athletes.

Critical character values, including a strong work ethic, leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship, fairness, and service are actively promoted among the student-athletes.

The program is intended to provide esprit de corps among the student body and offer a rallying point for the campus, alumni, and community.

Consistent with the university policy and its Catholic mission, the athletics program does not discriminate against any individual in educational or employment opportunities because of race, gender, age, national origin, religious preference, sexual orientation, status as a veteran, or disability.

NCAA DEFINITIONS

A representative of the institution's athletics interests is an individual who is known by a member of the institution's athletics administration to:

- Have participated in or be a member of an agency or organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.
- Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of that institution.
- Be assisting or to have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospects.
- Be assisting or to have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families.
- Have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletics program.

Prospective student-athlete:

A prospective student-athlete ("prospect") is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution provides such an individual (or the individual's relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally.

A prospect remains a prospect even after he or she signs a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement to attend the University.

Recruited prospective student-athlete:

Actions by staff members or athletics representatives that cause a prospective student-athlete to become a recruited prospective student-athlete of that institution are:

- Providing the prospect with an official visit.

- Having an arranged, in-person, off-campus encounter with the prospect or the prospect's parent(s), relatives or legal guardian(s).
- Initiating or arranging telephone contact with the prospect, the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s) on more than one occasion for the purpose of recruitment.

An enrolled student-athlete:

An enrolled student-athlete is an individual whose enrollment was solicited by a member of the athletics staff or other representative of athletics interests with a view toward the student's ultimate participation in the intercollegiate athletics program. Any other student becomes a student-athlete only when the student reports for an intercollegiate squad that is under the jurisdiction of the athletics department.

PERMISSIBLE/NON-PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS TOWARDS PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

IT IS OK...

- To continue pre-existing relationships with friends and neighbors. Contact with sons and/or daughters of these families is permissible provided they are not made for recruiting purposes or encouraged by Niagara University coaching staff members.
- To attend high school and community college athletic events. You may not have any contact with the prospective student-athlete(s) or their relatives.
- To have telephone conversations with a prospective student-athlete only when the prospective student-athlete initiates the telephone call. This type of a call may not be prearranged by an institutional staff member and you are only permitted to exhibit normal civility during the conversation.
- To contact a prospective student-athlete regarding permissible summer employment provided the prospective student-athlete has signed a National Letter of Intent and the Compliance Office is well aware of your contact related to employment arrangements.

IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE...

- To contact a prospect's coach, principal or counselor in order to evaluate the prospect's academic or athletics eligibility.
- To telephone or write to a prospective student-athlete for the purpose of soliciting his or her participation in our athletics program.
- To make in-person contact with a prospective student-athlete either on or off the University's campus, other than normal civility during an unavoidable or incidental contact.
- To invite prospective student-athletes to alumni events.
- To directly or indirectly become involved in making special arrangements for a prospect and/or for the prospect's relatives and/or friends to receive money

and/or other benefits regardless of whether these benefits are available to the general student-body.

- To provide any form of transportation for a high school, prep school or junior college prospective student-athlete to visit the campus or to attend a Niagara University home or away athletic contest.

Please remember the recruitment of prospective student-athletes is the sole responsibility of the coaching staff at Niagara University. Niagara University coaches who have passed the NCAA Recruiting Rules Exam on a yearly basis are the only individuals permitted to recruit prospects off the university's campus.

PERMISSIBLE/NON PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR REPRESENTATIVES TOWARDS ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

IT IS OK...

- To provide an occasional family home meal on an infrequent and special occasion. All occasional meals must be cleared through the Compliance Office.
- To contribute funds to finance a scholarship or grant-in-aid for a particular sport, but the decision as to how such funds are to be allocated in the sport shall rest exclusively with the institution.
- To provide or arrange for the provision of employment for a Niagara University student-athlete by obtaining authorization from the Niagara University Compliance Office.

IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE...

- To provide "extra benefits" to student-athletes or their families, regardless if similar benefits or arrangements are available to other students. The NCAA considers extra benefits to be: gifts of money or other tangible items; taking a student-athlete out to dinner; providing any gift of material value.
- To buy athletic event tickets from student-athletes.
- The NCAA prohibits a student-athlete from receiving and selling game tickets.
- To provide a student-athlete with compensation for work that has not been performed or at a rate higher than the going rate in your locale for similar services.
- To use the name, picture or guest appearance of a currently enrolled student-athlete to promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service.

Representatives of athletics interests are reminded that NCAA rules regarding enrolled student-athletes remain in effect throughout their entire career, including the summer breaks.

ALUMNI EVENTS

IT IS OK...

- For student-athletes to attend and/or participate in an alumni event provided his or her attendance is related to his or her athletic participation. Additionally, the student-athlete must obtain authorization from the Compliance Office prior to the event.

SPORT AGENTS

In order for an individual to represent an NCAA member institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, he/she must be considered an amateur. A student-athlete may lose all remaining eligibility if he/she enters into a verbal or written agreement with an agent or "advisor" for future representation. A student-athlete, his or her family or friends are not permitted to receive any type of benefit (e.g., meals, transportation, lodging, or loans) from a sports agent, "advisor", or runner. As a supporter of Niagara University, should you ever see or hear of such activity occurring, please contact the Compliance Office immediately!

GAMBLING

The NCAA and Niagara University prohibit student-athletes or Office of Athletics staff members from knowingly providing information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities related to intercollegiate or professional athletics competition. Additionally, student athletes or Office of Athletics staff members may not solicit or accept a bet on any gambling activity involving intercollegiate or professional athletics competition.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ATHLETICS WITH ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO ANY NCAA, MAAC OR UNIVERSITY RULES:

Ed McLaughlin
Director of Athletics
edm@niagara.edu - (716)286-8600

Theresa Berg
Associate Athletic Director, Senior Women's Administrator
tberg@niagara.edu - (716)286-8603

William Morris
Associate Athletic Director for Compliance
wmorris@niagara.edu - (716)286-8602

TO INFORM THE OFFICE OF ATHLETICS ABOUT AN OUTSTANDING PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, PLEASE FORWARD ALL INFORMATION TO:

Niagara University
Office of Athletics
Head Coach (INSERT SPORT)
Upper Level Gallagher Center
Niagara University, NY 14109
(716)286-8600

Niagara University Head Coaches

Chris Chernisky	Baseball	(716) 286-8624
Joseph Mihalich	Men's Basketball	(716) 286-8605
Bill Agronin	Women's Basketball	(716) 286-8618
TBD	M/W Cross Country	(716) 286-8644
Frank Darby	Men's Golf	(716) 286-8318
Dave Burkholder	Men's Ice Hockey	(716) 286-8239
Margot Page	Women's Ice Hockey	(716) 286-8218
Mike Mansour	Women's Lacrosse	(716) 286-7365
Dermot McGrane	Men's Soccer	(716) 286-8661
Peter Veltri	Women's Soccer	(716) 286-8617
Al Dirschberger	Softball	(716) 286-8662
Benjamin Nigro	M/W Swimming & Diving	(716) 286-8053
Kevin Blair	Men's Tennis	(716) 286-8600
Paul Calkins	Women's Tennis	(716) 286-8641
Rocco Lucci	Volleyball	(716) 286-8540

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