As a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) at the Division III (DIII) level, Vassar College athletics program must abide by all NCAA rules and regulations. Therefore all coaches, administrators, faculty, staff, student-athletes, as well as “representatives of athletics interests”, must be knowledgeable of and adhere to all NCAA rules. Compliance and adherence to the rules and regulations is the responsibility of everyone associated with Vassar’s athletics program (i.e. institutional staff, faculty, students, student-athletes and representatives of athletics interests).

Detailed information can be obtained from the NCAA website located at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) or through the NCAA Division III Manual. Manuals are provided for all Vassar Head Coaches, Vassar Athletics Administrators and the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). An electronic copy of the DIII manual is available on the NCAA website.

**NCAA Principles for the Conduct of Intercollegiate Athletics**

**GENERAL**

This page provides an overview of applicable information from the NCAA’s Principles for “Conduct of Intercollegiate Athletics”. These principles include but are not limited to: Institutional Control and Responsibility, Student-Athlete Welfare, Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct, Sound Academic Standards, Nondiscrimination, Rules Compliance, Amateurism, Eligibility, Financial Aid and the Economy of Athletics Program Operations.

**Institutional Control:** This principle defines each institution’s responsibility to monitor compliance with NCAA rules and regulations. It is the foundation upon which every institution’s compliance program is built.

Each institution is required to operate its athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the NCAA. The institution’s chief executive officer is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including the budget and audit of all expenses.

The institution’s responsibility for the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics program extends to the actions of its staff members and any other individual or organization engaged in activities promoting the athletics interests of the college.

**BOOSTERS/ REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETIC INTERESTS**

Who is a representative of athletics interest? Any organization, individual, agency, or corporate entity that is known or should have been known by a member of Vassar’s executive or athletics administration to:

- Have participated in or is a member of an agency or organization promoting Vassar’s athletics program.
- Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to athletics booster organizations of Vassar College.
- Be assisting or have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or families;
-Remember, once a booster-always a booster-

✓ A booster may attend a high school, prep school or two-year college athletics events at his/her desire (not at the request of Vassar), but **CANNOT** have any contact with a prospect or his/her parents, relatives or legal guardians.

✓ An athletics representative may notify Vassar’s coaching staff of any prospective student-athlete they believe would be an asset to the program. This can be accomplished by telephone calls directly to the coach, sending newspaper articles, etc. If the coach concurrs with the assessment, he/she will make the appropriate contact with the prospect.

✓ An athletics representative may continue established friendships with families who have youngsters of prospect age, or who are enrolled student-athletes at another institution. It is absolutely not permissible for the athletics representative to encourage a prospect’s participation in Vassar’s athletics program or provide benefits to any student-athlete, (except as per NCAA rules).

✓ If a prospect or his/her parents, relative or legal guardian asks a question of a booster during an encounter, they must direct the prospect to the appropriate Vassar coach.

**BOOSTERS MAY NOT**

✓ Pay or offer to pay, registration fees for summer camps for a prospect.
✓ Provide free tickets or reduced cost tickets, to any Vassar athletics contest (home or away) for a prospect, parent, and/or their relatives or friends.
✓ Have any involvement what so ever in making arrangements for a prospect, the prospect’s relatives or friends, to receive money or financial aid of any kind.
✓ Provide any transportation to prospects, parents, relatives and/or guardians—including transportation to view an athletics contest.
✓ Contact a prospect’s coach, principal or high school guidance counselor for recruitment purposes, (includes picking up videotapes).
✓ Provide cash or loans in any amount or serve as a co-signer of any loan of any prospect or Vassar student-athlete.
✓ Provide gifts of any kind (including birthday/holiday).
✓ Provide special discounts for goods or services of any kind.
✓ Provide the use of transportation of any kind.
✓ Provide free or reduced cost housing/rent.
✓ Entertain prospective student-athletes, their friends and/or relatives.

Boosters may employ prospective and/or enrolled student-athletes within the following guidelines:

- Prospects must have completed their senior year of high school or withdrawn/graduated from their two-year institution.
During the summer, for an enrolled student-athlete.
(Note: You may not provide transportation for those you employ unless you provide transportation for all employees).

Compensation may be made for work actually performed and at the rate commensurate with the going rate in the Vassar locality for similar services. Compensation may not include remuneration for the value or utility that the individual may have, based upon his/her reputation or fame due to their athletics ability.

**Common Questions Asked by Boosters**

1. Can a booster or booster group place an advertisement targeted at a local prospect in a newspaper?
   No, not at all.

2. Can a booster make a financial donation to a high school?
   Yes, as long as the high school is in the booster’s home community and is not connected to Vassar. The funds may not be earmarked for a specific prospect and the funds must be channeled through the normal high school organization.

3. Can I talk to my neighbor who is the star athlete on the high school basketball team?
   Yes, but there are limited exceptions-
   - As long as it is not for the purpose of recruiting the individual
   - The meeting(s) are not prearranged and the meetings do not take place on the educational grounds (i.e. high school) of the prospect or at any site of competition or practice.

4. I gave money to Vassar Athletics twenty-five years ago but I haven’t given any money since. Am I still considered a booster?
   Yes, “once a booster—always a booster”!

   Additional questions or concerns should be directed to:

   Sharon Beverly
   Director of Athletics & Physical Education

   Kim Culligan
   Associate Director of Athletics