

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE ATHLETICS



**GUIDE TO NCAA RULES FOR ALUMNI,
FACULTY, STAFF, FANS, and FRIENDS**

Introduction

The NCAA constitution provides that each institution will be responsible for ensuring “institutional control” for its intercollegiate athletics program. This means that every member of its staff, cadet-athlete, coach, booster, friend and other individual or group representing the institution’s athletics interest must comply with the rules and regulations of the NCAA.

This document is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of the NCAA rules that apply to all fans, alumni, cadets, and friends of the Virginia Military Institute. This publication does not include all NCAA rules or discuss all types of possible situations and therefore should not be relied upon exclusively.

VMI needs your help in complying with all the NCAA rules. Please utilize this publication as a guide to prevent violations of NCAA legislation. If you have questions about NCAA rules or specific situations involving prospective or currently enrolled cadet-athletes please contact me.

Cliff Wade
Associate Athletic Director (NCAA Compliance)
Virginia Military Institute
540-464-7035
wadecl@vmi.edu

Definitions You Need To Know

Representative of Virginia Military Institute’s Athletics Interests (Booster)

You are a “representative of the Institute’s athletic interests” if you (Bylaw 13.02.13):

- Have ever made any type of financial contribution to the athletic department, a specific sport program, or to an athletic booster organization; or
- Are or have been a member of any organization promoting the institutions intercollegiate athletic program (Keydet Club); or
- Have ever helped arrange employment for a cadet-athlete, prospect, or their parents or relatives; or
- Have ever assisted in the recruitment of a prospective cadet-athlete
- Have ever provided benefits for a cadet-athlete, prospect, or their parents or relatives; or
- Have been involved, in any way, in the promotion of the athletics program.

*You should know that some of the actions listed above could be violations of NCAA rules.

*You should also know that once a person is identified as a representative of Virginia Military Institute’s athletic interests (booster), you retain that identity **forever**.

Prospective Cadet-Athlete

A “prospect” (Bylaw 13.02.11) is any individual who has begun classes for the ninth grade. A prospect can also be any student who is currently enrolled at a two-year college or at a four-year college other

than VMI. The person remains a prospect, even after signing a National Letter of Intent, until he reports for the first day of classes or begins official practice prior to the start of classes.

Enrolled Cadet-Athlete

An “enrolled cadet-athlete” (Bylaw 13.02.5) is an individual whose enrollment was solicited by a member of the athletics staff or other representative of athletic interests with a view toward the cadet’s ultimate participation in the intercollegiate athletics program. Any other cadet becomes a cadet-athlete only when he reports for an intercollegiate squad that is under the direct jurisdiction of the athletics department.

Recruiting

Recruiting (Bylaw 13.02.12) is defined as any solicitation of a prospect, or a member of the prospect’s family, for the purpose of securing the prospect’s enrollment and participation in the athletics program. ***All recruiting must be executed ONLY by designated VMI athletics department staff members.***

Contact

A “contact” (Bylaw 13.02.3) is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect, or a member of the prospect’s family (or legal guardians), and an institutional staff member or booster during which any conversation occurs in excess of a greeting.

In addition, a simple exchange of greetings is considered a “contact” if it is prearranged or takes place:

- One the grounds of a prospect’s educational institution, or
- At the site of organized competition or practice involving the prospect or the prospect’s high school, preparatory school, two-year College, or all-star team.

Evaluation

An “evaluation” (Bylaw 13.02.6) is any off-campus activity designed to:

- Assess the academic qualifications or athletics ability of a prospect, including any visit to a prospect’s educational institution (during which no contact occurs) or,
- Observation of a prospect participating in any practice or competition at any site.

Extra Benefit

An “extra benefit” (Bylaw 16.02.3) is any special arrangement to provide a cadet-athlete or his relative(s) or friend(s) a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit is not a violation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to VMI cadets or their relatives or friends or to a particular segment of the Corps (e.g., foreign cadets, minority cadets) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability. Examples of prohibited extra benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Special discount, payment arrangement or credit on a purchase (e.g., airline ticket, clothing) or a service (e.g., laundry, dry cleaning) (Bylaw 16.11.2.2)

- Professional services (for which a fee normally would be charged) without charge or at a reduced cost (Bylaw 16.11.2.2.2)
- Use of a telephone or credit card for personal reasons without charge or at a reduced cost
- Receipt of services (e.g., movie tickets, dinners, use of car) from commercial agencies (e.g., movie theaters, restaurants, car dealers) without charge or at reduced rates, or free or reduced cost admission to professional athletics contests from professional sports organizations (Bylaw 16.11.2.2.3)
- A loan of money (this and all subsequent bullets are covered in Bylaw 16.11.2.3)
- A guarantee of bond
- An automobile or use of an automobile
- Transportation (e.g. a ride home), except for reasonable local transportation on an occasional basis
- Signing or cosigning a note with an outside agency to arrange for a loan

Rules Governing Recruiting Prospects (Things NOT to do)

As a representative of the Virginia Military Institute's athletics interests, you:

- Are prohibited from making in-person, on- or off-campus recruiting contacts, or written or telephonic communications with a prospect, his family or legal guardians (Bylaw 13.01.4)
- Are prohibited from making telephonic communications with a prospect or the prospect's relatives or legal guardians (Bylaw 13.1.3.5.1)
- May not contact a prospect's coach, principal, or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the prospect (Bylaw 13.1.2.4 (c))
- May not visit a prospect's educational institution to pick up film/videotape or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's academic eligibility or athletics ability (Bylaw 13.1.2.4 (d))
- Are prohibited from providing entertainment and by making contact during a prospect's official visit (Bylaw 13.6.7.1)
- Are prohibited from providing cash to a prospect for entertainment purposes (Bylaw 13.6.7.4)
- Shall not provide an automobile for use by a prospect or the cadet host (Bylaw 13.6.7.5.4)
- Are prohibited from providing financial aid, benefits, and/or making arrangements to include, by not limited to, the following (Bylaw 13.2.1.1):
 - (a) An employment arrangement for a prospect's relatives
 - (b) Gift of clothing or equipment
 - (c) Cosigning of loans
 - (d) Providing loans to prospect's relatives or friends
 - (e) Cash or like items
 - (f) Any tangible items, including merchandise
 - (g) Free or reduced-cost services, rentals or purchases or any type
 - (h) Free or reduced-cost housing
 - (i) Use of VMI's athletics equipment (e.g., for a high school all-star game)
 - (j) Sponsorship of or arrangement for an awards banquet for high school, preparatory school or two-year college athletes
 - (k) Expenses for academic services to assist in the completion of initial-eligibility or transfer-eligibility requirements or improvement of the prospect's academic profile in conjunction with a waiver request

Rules Governing Recruiting Prospects (Activities Which are Permitted)

As a representative of the Virginia Military Institute's athletics interests, you:

- May speak to a prospect via the telephone only if the prospect initiates the telephone conversation and the call is not for recruiting purposes. Under such circumstances, the representative must refer questions about VMI's athletics program to the athletics department staff (Bylaw 13.1.2.4 (a))
- May view a prospect's athletics contest on his own initiative, subject to the understanding that the athletics representative may not contact the prospect on such occasions (Bylaw 13.1.2.4 (b))
- May make contact with a prospective cadet-athlete if you are an established family friend or neighbor, it being understood that such contacts are not made for recruiting purposes and not initiated by a member of VMI's coaching staff (Bylaw 13.1.2.2(d))

Permissible Benefits to Cadet-Athletes

A cadet-athlete may receive an occasional family home meal from a representative of athletics interests on infrequent and special occasions under the following conditions (Bylaw 16.11.1.5):

- The meal must be provided in an individual's home (as opposed to a restaurant) and may be catered
- Reasonable local transportation to attend the meal function only if the meal function is at the home of that representative

Occasional meals to team members provided by the parent of a cadet-athlete at any location (Bylaw 16.11.1.12)

Alumni Organizations

Bona Fide alumni organizations of VMI may sponsor luncheons, teas, or dinners at which prospects (athletes and non-athletes) of that immediate locale are guests (Bylaw 13.14.5).

Contributions by Donor

An individual may 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 VMI. It is not permissible for a donor to contribute funds to finance a scholarship or grant-in-aid for a particular cadet-athlete (Bylaw 15.01.4).

Note: all donations, regardless of purpose (e.g., whether to finance a scholarship; provide money for the Athletic Operating Fund, either general fund or sport-specific fund) must be made payable to, and sent directly to, the Keydet Club. Coaches are not to be the collection point for donations.

Employment

Compensation may be paid to a cadet-athlete (Bylaw 12.4.1):

- Only for work actually performed
- At a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services

Such compensation may not include any remuneration for value or utility the cadet-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following that he has obtained because of athletics ability (Bylaw 12.4.1.1)

Promotional Activities

VMI, a recognized entity thereof (e.g. Keydet Club), or a nonprofit agency may use a cadet-athlete's name, picture, or appearance to support its charitable or educational activities or to support activities considered incidental to the cadet-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics, provided the following conditions are met (Bylaw 12.5.1.1)

- The cadet-athlete receives written approval to participate from the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics
- The specific activity does not involve cosponsorship, advertisement, or promotion by a commercial agency other than through the reproduction of the sponsoring company's officially registered trademark or logo on printed materials such as pictures, posters, or calendars. The company's emblem, name, address, telephone number, and Web site address may be included.
- The name or picture of cadet-athlete with remaining eligibility may not appear on VMI's printed promotional items that includes a reproduction of a product with which a commercial entity is associated.
- The cadet-athlete does not miss class
- The cadet-athlete's name, picture, or appearance is not used to promote the commercial ventures of any nonprofit agency
- Items that include an individual cadet-athlete's name, picture, or likeness (e.g., name on jersey, name or likeness on a bobble-head doll), other than informational items (e.g, media guide, schedule cards) may not be sold
- The cadet-athlete and an authorized representative of the charitable, educational, or nonprofit agency sign a release statement ensuring that the cadet-athlete's name, image, or appearance is used in a manner consistent with NCAA bylaws

Eligibility Effects of NCAA Violations

A student is responsible for his involvement in a violation of NCAA regulations during the student's recruitment, and involvement in a major violation may cause the student to become permanently ineligible for intercollegiate athletics competition (Bylaw 13.01.1)

A cadet-athlete who receives an impermissible benefit in which the value of the benefit is \$100 or less shall be ineligible for intercollegiate competition from the time VMI has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the cadet-athlete repays the benefit (Bylaw 13.6.7.2.6 to site on example)

The Keydet Club, having been certified by the Superintendent as a bona fide part of the Institution, is subject to all of the limitations placed upon VMI by NCAA legislation. A violation by any member of the Keydet Club shall be a violation by VMI (Bylaw 13.14.5.1)