

## Oklahoma Panhandle State University Booster Information and Guidelines

The purpose of the OPSU Aggie Booster club is to support in a positive manner the student athletes, coaches, sports, and administration of OPSU athletics through attendance at home and away games, financial contributions, and activities which provide and promote fellowship among Aggie fans from all constituencies. Members of the Aggie Booster Clubs endorse and support the Positive Game Environment, RESPECT, and sportsmanship initiatives of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, the NCAA, and the Heartland Conference.

In keeping with supporting OPSU athletics and the University in a positive manner and the various sportsmanship initiatives mentioned above, the use of e-mail, social media, and other forms of communication by Booster club participants should always be positive and supportive of OPSU. Attempts to influence athletic or University decisions or policies through mass mobilization of Booster input may be counterproductive and are strongly discouraged.

The use of University logos and trademarks and/or the sale of OPSU apparel or merchandise requires **prior** written approval by the University administration. Any proceeds from the sale of OPSU apparel or merchandise must be used to directly benefit athletic or other official University programs.

### Who is a "booster?"

An individual is a booster if he/she meets any of the following conditions:

- A) Have ever been a member of any organization that promotes OPSU athletics.
- B) Have made a financial contribution to the OPSU athletics department or one of its booster organizations.
- C) Former OPSU coach or student-athlete.
- D) Have provided benefits (e.g., summer jobs or occasional family meals) to enrolled student-athletes.
- E) Have ever, in any way, promoted the athletics program at OPSU  
An OPSU Season Ticket holder in any sport.

A booster can be an individual, independent agency, corporate entity (e.g., apparel or equipment manufacturer) or other organization who is known to have met the above conditions. The NCAA refers to boosters as "representatives of athletics interest."

### How long do I retain my "booster" status?

Once an individual or any other entity has been identified as a booster, they retain that identity indefinitely, even if they quit or leave the "booster" club.

### Can Booster Club members offer a student-athlete a gift?

**No.** Booster club members are forbidden from offering **extra benefits** (including greeting cards, food, cash, or even rides in your car) to student-athletes.

An extra benefit is any item or service not available to the general public or general student body provided to a student-athlete, or his/her friends or relatives or one or more teams. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- A) cash, special discount or payment arrangements;
- B) free or reduced price on any item (e.g., clothing, etc.) or service (e.g., laundry, dry cleaning, etc.);
- C) use of a telephone or other electronic device or credit card for personal reasons without charge or at a reduced rate;
- D) entertainment services (movie tickets, dinners, use of car) from commercial agencies, such as a business owned by the booster (theaters, restaurants, car dealers) without charge or at reduced rates, or free or reduced-cost;
- E) signing or co-signing a note with an outside agency to arrange a loan; preferential treatment, benefits or services based on his/her athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a future professional;
- F) free or reduced-cost athletics equipment, supplies or clothing directly from a manufacturer or commercial enterprise;
- G) free or reduced cost of tuition, room and/or board;
- H) payment or other compensation for work not performed or limited work performed; employment arrangements for a student-athlete or prospect's relatives or friends;
- I) use of personal property (boats, summer homes, cars, computers, stereos);
- J) holiday or birthday presents;
- K) promise of employment after college graduation;
- L) purchase of items or services from a prospect/student-athlete or their relatives at inflated prices;
- M) payment or arrangements for payment of transportation costs incurred by a student-athlete or prospect's relatives or friends; or **anything** given because an individual is a student-athlete.

**As a parent, may I offer my child a gift, ride or coffee?**

**Yes, of course.** Parents of student-athletes may interact with their own child as you normally would. This means that as a parent may give gifts to your own child.

**May I have the team or a small group of student-athletes for a meal at my home?**

**Yes.** Boosters are allowed to have a team or a group of student-athletes to their homes for a meal on an infrequent and “special occasion” basis. The meal must be at the home of the booster, but it may be catered. Prospects may not attend such a meal.

**Can Booster members talk with recruits or their parents?**

**No.** NCAA rules prohibit boosters from having contact with prospects. Prospects are those potential student-athletes in Grades 9 through 12 of secondary school. Booster club members should never engage in recruiting activities on behalf of OPSU. This rule applies to Home and

Away meets, and in any other venue where Booster Club members may encounter eligible prospective student-athletes... including your local high school and athletic clubs or community organization teams. Recruiting activities include such things as phoning or e-mailing or texting potential prospects, contacting parents or coaches of prospects about OPSU athletics, holding parties or events for prospects and their parents on behalf of OPSU.

**Can Booster members send coaches films and names of prospects and coaches?**

Yes. Boosters who attend games in their local area may send OPSU coaches films of those games, names of prospects, and names of prospects' coaches. Boosters may not contact prospects' coaches or principals or pick up or deliver items to or from the prospects' schools for the prospects or OPSU coaches.

**May a booster have in-person, off-campus contact with a prospect who has signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI), but has not yet taken any classes at the university?**

No. Boosters may not have any contact with prospects until he/she has begun classes as a full-time student at the university. Additionally, if the prospect is attending summer classes, they are still considered prospects and a booster may not have contact with that student-athlete until the fall semester begins.

**Can Booster Club members talk and interact with the student-athletes after the student-athletes return to campus and school begins?**

**Yes!** We want you to interact and enjoy watching, cheering and congratulating the Aggies! During your interactions you may not offer any inappropriate gifts. Offer your praise and encouragement and celebrate Aggie success!

**Can Booster Club members contribute money or raise money for individual athletics programs or sports, specific equipment, or scholarships?**

**Yes!** However, there are some NCAA restrictions on how such money may be used or kept. All funds raised for the use of OPSU athletics need to be deposited into one of the Panhandle State Foundation athletic accounts. Money may not be kept in a separate account outside of the University for use by individual coaches or sports. The club may not donate or loan money directly to an individual coach or student athlete or prospect.

**May the Booster Club create items to sell to parents, student-athletes, fans, donors?**

**Yes.** However, any use of an OPSU or Aggie logo on any item for sale or to be given away must be approved in writing through the President's Office. No item may be sold below cost or at a loss to student-athletes or their parents. They may, however, be sold at a discount from the planned retail price, i.e. discount price for booster club members, a higher one for general public.

Remember, **when in doubt, ask first! You ask... OPSU wins!** Help maintain and protect the Compliance of our student-athletes and the OPSU Athletics Department with Heartland Conference and NCAA Division II rules.

If you have questions about these rules or guidelines or any other aspect of being an OPSU booster or booster club, please contact Dr. Kathy Turner, Faculty Athletics Representative at [kdturner@opsu.edu](mailto:kdturner@opsu.edu) or 580-349-1494.