

**RIDER UNIVERSITY  
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
OFFICIAL VISIT POLICY**

**I. Outline**

Rider University is committed to operating its athletic program with the highest standards of behavior and practice in all areas, including recruiting. All university personnel and students involved in the recruiting of a prospective student-athlete will conduct all recruiting activities in accordance with this commitment and in compliance with all applicable National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and conference regulations. In pursuit of this goal, Rider University has established this policy to guide staff, coaches, student hosts, and visiting prospects. Further, this policy also establishes a procedure for staff and students to report concerns about recruiting practices, to state the University's intention to deal with any inappropriate recruiting activities swiftly, and to establish education and training in relevant areas to assist staff and students in adhering to these high standards.

**II. Coaches' Responsibilities**

**Screening of Recruits Prior to Visit**

- Coaches are responsible for evaluating a prospect's character and citizenship, and for recruiting individuals who will share Rider University's commitment to the highest standards of behavior and attitude.
- Coaches are required to communicate to prospects and their parents/guardians Rider University's expectations in terms of behavior and attitude prior to any official visit.
- Should a coach discover any questionable behavior in a prospect's background (i.e., arrests, indictments, citations, or any other incidents indicating a lack of character), the coach is to make the Director of Athletics aware of the issues and a joint decision will be made on whether or not recruitment will continue.
- The Official Visit Policy will be provided to the recruit by the coach no later than his/her arrival to campus for the official visit.

**Process of Approval for an Official Visit**

- All coaches must have all official visits approved by the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance prior to the prospect arriving on campus. For a visit to be approved, the coach must complete the Prospective Student-Athlete Official Visit Form, and present valid SAT/ACT scores and a current high school academic transcript to the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance at least two days in advance of the scheduled

visit. Additionally, as per NCAA regulations, all prospects must be registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse ([www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)) and must appear on the Clearinghouse's Institutional Request List (IRL) for Rider before they will be permitted to come to Rider on an official visit.

### **Activities During an Official Visit**

- Coaches are responsible for selecting student hosts who will follow the coach's instructions, NCAA and conference regulations, and avoid inappropriate behaviors.
- Coaches are responsible for informing the student host of New Jersey state laws regarding the restriction against providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.
- Coaches are not permitted to use outside student groups for recruiting purposes during a prospect's official visit, unless they have received prior approval to do so from the Director of Athletics.
- Coaches are expected to share with the prospect the educational components of the visit (e.g., meeting with faculty and /or advisors, reviewing academic expectations, etc.).
- Coaches are expected to inform student hosts of examples of appropriate activities on an official visit.

#### **The following are examples of appropriate activities on an official visit:**

- Taking the prospect to a snack or meal.
- Taking the prospect to the movies.
- Taking the prospect to an on-campus athletic or student event.

#### **The following are examples of inappropriate activities on an official visit:**

- Taking the prospect to adult entertainment venues or paying for escort services or exotic dancers.
- Providing the prospect with alcohol.
- Providing the prospect with excessive meals or transportation, i.e. limousines.
- Participating in those unethical or illegal activities which violate criminal law or NCAA or conference rules, such as the provision of drugs or participation in gambling activities.

### **III. Travel, Meals, Lodging, Recruiting Aides, Prospects and Student Host Forms**

- Prospects utilizing air transportation to visit campus will use coach class on commercial airlines.
- For on-campus transportation, only the following vehicles will be used: vehicles normally used by the offices of Admissions and Student Financial

Services to transport prospective students during campus visits; personal vehicles of student-athletes; personal vehicles of coaches; and Department of Athletics vehicles.

- All prospects and their parents/guardians will be housed in standard lodging available to all guests at a given hotel.
- All meals provided to prospects and their parents/guardians will be comparable to meals provided to student-athletes during the academic year.
- No personalized recruiting aides may be used for recruitment purposes during a visit, i.e. personalized jerseys and personalized audio or video scoreboard presentations.
- Student hosts are required to read and sign a *Student Host Instructions/Receipt Form* prior to receiving student host money.
- Student hosts are to use student host money to entertain the prospect in a manner pursuant to the policies outlined in this document.
- Following any entertainment activities, the student host must return the prospect safely to his/her place of lodging at a reasonable hour or by a curfew established by the coach.
- Any unused student host monies are to be returned to the coaching staff.
- Student hosts are to inform the coaching staff of all entertainment activities that occurred during the visit.

#### **IV. Oversight, Monitoring, and Enforcement**

While the control of the intercollegiate athletics program rests with the Rider University President and the Director of Athletics, others at the institution have important roles to play in preventing and reporting recruiting abuses.

- The responsibilities of all head and assistant coaches are clearly stated above.
- The Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance is responsible for monitoring all recruiting activities to ensure coaches are fulfilling their responsibilities, as detailed above.
- Staff, coaches, and student-athletes are encouraged to inform the Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance or the Faculty Athletics Representative of any concerns they may have related to the recruiting process. In cases of potential NCAA or conference violations, already established institutional investigative and enforcement policies will be followed. If circumstances warrant further action, appropriate campus and/or law enforcement authorities will be informed.
- Staff, coaches and/or student-athletes found to be in violation of these policies will face appropriate disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment and cancellation of athletic aid. All disciplinary action taken against bargaining unit members will be in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

## V. Education

In order for these guidelines to be effective, they must be well understood and widely distributed.

- The Director of Athletics will reinforce these policies periodically throughout the year.
- The Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance will arrange for annual recruiting policy review sessions for all coaches and each team.
- The Director of Athletics will review his expectations for student host behavior with all student-athletes at the annual fall all-sports meeting.
- This recruiting policy will be included in the Rider University Student-Athlete Handbook, in the Department of Athletics Policies and Procedures Manual, and on the Department of Athletics web site.

## VI. Recruiting Policy Review Procedures

These policies have been reviewed and approved by the Rider University President, Director of Athletics, Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance, Faculty Athletics Representative, and Provost. A copy has also been provided to the conference office.

These policies will undergo an annual review by the Director of Athletics, Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance, Faculty Athletics Representative, and Provost.

The conference office shall review Rider University's official visit policies at least once every four years.

Approved Signatures:

*Dr. Mordechai Rozanski*

Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, President

*Don Harnum*

Don Harnum, Director of Athletics

*GD Busch*

Greg Busch, Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance

*Dr. Jonathan Husch*

Dr. Jonathan Husch, Faculty Athletics Representative