As a member of the NCAA, it is our responsibility to ensure that alumni, boosters and friends of the university are well informed about the NCAA rules and regulations. Under those rules, alumni, boosters and friends are categorized as "representatives of Kean University athletics interests." The NCAA has explicit guidelines for what a Representative of Athletics Interests, traditionally known as boosters, can and cannot do. An inappropriate contact or inadvertent action on a booster’s part can jeopardize the eligibility of student-athletes and prospects and the compliance of the University with NCAA regulations.

Intercollegiate Athletics Programs and Eligibility Standards

Kean University is proud to have the loyal support and continued interest in its athletics programs by our alumni, boosters and friends. As we strive for excellence, we must always seek the highest standard of ethical conduct.

You are a Representative of Athletics Interests (booster) if you:

- Participate in or have ever been a member of Kean University Alumni Association
- Make or have made a donation to any of our intercollegiate programs
- Provide or have helped to arrange employment for student-athletes
- Have ever contacted (by letter, telephone or in-person) a high school student, grades 9-12, for the purpose of encouraging the student to participate in Kean Athletics (Please note that this action is not permitted by NCAA rules)
- Have ever assisted in providing any benefit to enrolled student-athletes or their families
- Are the parent(s) or legal guardians of an enrolled student-athlete
- Have ever been involved in any way with the Kean athletic program (former student-athlete)

ONCE A BOOSTER...ALWAYS A BOOSTER

According to the NCAA, once an individual has been identified as an Athletics Representative, he or she retains this identity forever, even if that person no longer contributes to the athletics program.
The Rules to Remember:

- An athletics representative cannot provide an extra benefit or special arrangement to an enrolled student-athlete that is not available to all other students at the University. An athletics representative cannot provide room and board or any type of transportation during the academic year or summer for a student-athlete with eligibility remaining.

- An athletics representative cannot provide room and board or transportation costs incurred by relatives or friends of an enrolled student-athlete to visit campus or attend an away athletic contest.

- An athletics representative cannot expend funds to entertain student-athletes, their relatives or friends. You are not even permitted to buy a soda or a cup of coffee for them.

- It is not permissible to use the name, picture or appearance of an enrolled student-athlete to directly advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind. Even the sale of a picture of an enrolled student-athlete would jeopardize eligibility. All promotional activities must be approved in advance by the Department of Athletics & Recreation.

- An athletics representative may not provide any transportation, payment of expense or loan of any automobile for a student-athlete to return home or to any other locations for any reason.

- An athletics representative may not provide awards or gifts to a student-athlete for his or her athletics performance. All awards must conform to NCAA regulations and must be approved in advance by the Department of Athletics & Recreation.

- It is not permissible to provide an honorarium to a student-athlete for a speaking engagement. Only necessary travel expenses can be given when speaking to educational or charitable groups. All speaking engagements must be approved in advance by the Department of Athletics & Recreation.

- An athletics representative may not permit a student-athlete, their relatives or friends to use your telephone to make free long distance telephone calls.

- If a student-athlete accepts any benefit based on his or her athletic ability, that student-athlete will jeopardize his or her eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition.

- If a student-athlete has completed eligibility, the institution is responsible and may receive penalties applied to the Department of Athletics & Recreation. Additionally, the athletics representative involved may be required to disassociate themselves from Kean University athletics program. Disassociation would result in a loss of any benefits or privileges related to the University and the Department of Athletics & Recreation.
• An athletics representative may invite a student-athlete to their home for an occasional home meal but only for infrequent and special occasions (e.g. birthday, holidays). You may provide reasonable local transportation to the student-athlete for this occasional home meal only if the meal is in your own home. All occasional home meals must be approved in advance by the Department of Athletics & Recreation.

**What Boosters are permitted to do for Student-Athletes:**

For the PROSPECTIVE student-athlete, a booster may...

1. Contact a prospect for the purpose of arranging summer employment after he or she has begun classes at Kean. However, initial contact should be made through the Career Services Office.
2. Provide a specific coach with names or newspaper clippings of talented prospective student-athletes in your area.

For the ENROLLED student-athlete, a booster may...

1. Have contact with enrolled student-athletes on campus.
2. Invite a student-athlete(s) or the entire team to your home for a meal. The meal, which may be catered, should be limited to infrequent and special occasions (e.g. birthday, holiday). Please note that all occasional home meals must be approved in advance by the Department of Athletics & Recreation.

**Rules to Remember Regarding Employment:**

An athletics representative is not permitted to employ or arrange for the employment of a prospective or enrolled student-athlete without checking first with the Kean University Department of Athletics & Recreation. The Department of Athletics & Recreation is permitted to make arrangements for summer employment for prospects prior to enrollment as freshman under certain circumstances. Stringent rules apply in these instances and written records must be kept regarding employment. Before the commencement of employment, the student-athlete and the employer must sign a written statement to be kept on file in the Department of Athletics & Recreation, which specifies that the student-athlete has not been hired based on the value or utility he or she may have for the employer based on publicity, reputation, or fame that he or she has obtained because of athletics ability, and that the student-athlete is to be compensated only for work actually performed at the going rate for similar services.

An athletics representative is not permitted to provide transportation for prospects or student-athletes in your employment unless transportation is provided for all other employees.