

Guidelines for MIT Alumni and Friends on Recruiting for Crew October 2003

Summary:

MIT's coaches and DAPER are exclusively responsible for athletics recruiting. It is the responsibility of MIT coaches and Department of Athletics Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER) to conduct its athletics and athletics recruiting programs in compliance with all the rules and regulations established by the NCAA. MIT must insure that all staff, coaches, Friends, and Alumni follow all NCAA rules. Note that NCAA rules hold MIT responsible for actions of its "athletics representatives" (including Friends and Alumni).

Coaches drive the recruiting process. Only coaches and athletic department staff are permitted to recruit a prospective student-athlete (prospect).

Alumni and Friends may assist with recruiting in limited ways. This document should help alumni and friends to understand the ways they can assist with recruiting (what's legal under the NCAA rules) and the ways that the coaches would like assistance from alumni and friends.

Definitions:

Representative of Athletics Interests

Under the NCAA rules, a "representative of the institution's athletics interests" or an "athletics representative" or a "booster" (all equivalent terms) is any individual who has ever (1) contributed to MIT, DAPER, or Friends of MIT Crew (FOMITC); (2) provided benefits (such as summer jobs) to prospective or enrolled student-athletes or their families; (3) assisted, in any manner, in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes; or (4) promoted the MIT Department of Athletics Physical Education and Recreation in any manner

Prospect

A prospective student-athlete (prospect) is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade, and has been recruited by an MIT coach or faculty member. Actions by a coach that will cause a prospect to become a "recruited" student-athlete include, but are not limited to the following: (1) Providing transportation to the prospect to visit MIT. (2) Entertaining the prospect in any way on campus, except for athletic events when MIT is competing and when the prospect visits campus as a member of a group tour. (3) Initiating or arranging a telephone contact with the prospect, family member or guardian for the purpose of recruitment. (4) Visiting a prospect, family member or guardian for the purpose of recruitment, or (5) Entertaining family members or guardians of a prospect on campus. Note that a prospect remains a prospect even after they have agreed to attend MIT. The prospect does not lose his/her prospect status until the start of classes at MIT or the first official team practice immediately prior to the start of classes.

Guidelines for Friends and Alumni:

The MIT coaches encourage Friends and Alumni to assist them with recruiting according to the following guidelines:

DO become an Educational Counselor (EC) for MIT. ECs are alumni who help the admissions office by interviewing applicants to MIT. Contact Stu Schmill (stucrew@mit.edu, 617-258-5529) to get involved as an EC.

DO communicate with a coach if you become aware of applicants to MIT or matriculating students who might be interested in rowing at MIT. The MIT coach will follow up.

DO contact MIT coaches with information about local high school coaches. Coaches are interested in communicating with high school coaches and alumni can assist with introductions.

DO offer assistance to a MIT coach who may be recruiting in your area, such as providing the coach with a car or meal, or suggesting people to contact for information on prospective student-athletes.

DO make yourself available as a career mentor to students.

DO invite a MIT crew to dinner where they will meet alumni or friends in a city where they are competing or training. Student-Athletes may participate in such events and receive, as a team, benefits which individual student-athletes may not. Always make such arrangements through the Head coaches.

DO provide an occasional family home meal for a team. The meal must be provided in an individual's home and must be restricted to infrequent and special occasions (such as Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner). Please contact the Head Coach before inviting any group of student-athletes to your home

DO provide summer employment for prospective and currently enrolled student-athletes during permissible time periods and at regular rates of pay for similarly situated non-athlete employees.

DO speak with prospects on the telephone only if the call is initiated by the prospect. You may answer general questions about MIT and discuss academics. However, you may not discuss MIT crew or DAPER. Refer all questions about the rowing program to the coaches.

DO attend high school and junior club athletic events. NCAA rules do not prohibit you from attending, but the rules do restrict contact with a prospect or a prospect's family. If a prospect or family member initiates communication with you, you should respond in a civil manner. However, you should not discuss

MIT's athletic department or crew program. Instead, explain the NCAA rules and refer questions to the coaches.

DO engage in all of your normal activities. Incidental contact with prospects (or members of their families) is not prohibited. If you find yourself at a neighborhood barbeque with a prospect's father, for example, don't worry. Explain that according to NCAA rules, you can not discuss the MIT athletic department or crew programs, but that you can refer them to a coach.

DO NOT make in-person contact with a prospect on or off MIT's campus.

DO NOT telephone or write to a prospect for the purpose of soliciting their participation in the MIT crew program. If a prospect initiates a telephone conversation with you, you should refer him/her to the coaches. You should inform the student that NCAA rules prohibit recruiting contacts with anyone but the MIT athletic department and coaching staff.

DO NOT contact a prospective student-athlete's coach, principal, teacher or counselor in an attempt to evaluate the prospect or visit the prospect's school seeking information about the prospect's academic records or athletic ability.

DO NOT invite *selected* high school student-athletes to alumni events. Alumni and friends may entertain prospective students under certain conditions that do not involve singling out athletes for special treatment, such as inviting ALL high school juniors who have rowed for a given school or junior program to an MIT sponsored event.

DO NOT contact enrolled student-athletes at other four year institutions for the purpose of exploring the possibility of their transferring to MIT. If a student-athlete at another institution contacts you about the possibility of transferring to MIT, refer him/her to the coaches.

DO NOT pay or arrange for the payment of transportation costs incurred by a prospect or the relative or friends of a prospect to visit MIT.

DO NOT mail anything to a prospect, such as newspaper clippings, posters, programs etc. The NCAA restricts the type of materials which may be sent to prospects and there are rules about distributing such materials or communicating with prospects in writing.

DO NOT provide gifts or awards to student-athletes based on their athletic performance.