

Policy on Student-Athlete Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL)

Policy Title	Policy on Student-Athlete Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL)
Policy #	06.101.4
Policy Owner	Chief NCAA Compliance Officer
Contact Information	Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Chief NCAA Compliance Officer at (401) 874-5457
Approved By	President of the University of Rhode Island
Effective Date	October 10, 2024
Next Review Date	No later than October 31, 2029
Who Needs to Know About this Policy	All staff and students of the University of Rhode Island, particularly student-athletes, as well as contractors, representatives, and Agents associated with Athletics, and other Representatives of Athletics Interests ("boosters").
Definitions	<p>Agent. Any individual who, directly or indirectly: (a) represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing their athletics ability or reputation for financial gain as a professional athlete; or (b) seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospective student-athlete's enrollment at an educational institution or from a student-athlete's potential earnings as a professional athlete.</p> <p>Compensation. Remuneration or payment in any form, including cash, credit, cryptocurrency, product, or other benefit.</p> <p>Endorsement. An act, either expressed or implied, that indicates one's public approval or support of a product or service.</p> <p>Mark. A name, trademark, service mark, logo, seal, symbol, phrase, tagline, insignia, or other distinguishing or identifying words, objects, or device denoting or uniquely associated with the University or its goods, services, activities, or business. These Marks may also be known as, and are referred to in certain University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees resolutions and other University of Rhode Island policies as "University-referencing and identifying trademarks."</p> <p>Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL). Terminology frequently used to describe a legal concept known as "right of publicity." Right of publicity involves situations where permission is required of a person to use their name, image (e.g., a picture or video), or likeness (e.g., a cartoon, avatar, or sculpture); the requirement of permission also means that the person whose NIL is being used may demand Compensation by a third party in return for use of one's NIL.</p>

	<p>NIL Activity. A NIL Activity is any activity in which a student-athlete's NIL or personal appearance is used for promotional purposes by an entity other than the University, including for use by the individual student-athlete, a commercial entity, or a nonprofit or charitable entity (other than the University), regardless of whether such use is compensated or uncompensated.</p> <p>Professional Service Provider. Individuals who provide any of the following professional services to student-athletes: (a) advice regarding NIL activities, (b) representation in contract negotiations related to NIL activities, and (c) marketing of the student-athlete's NIL.</p> <p>Representatives of Athletics Interests. Also known as "boosters," are individuals or entities who support or promote the athletics department/specific athletic programs, assist with recruitment, or have provided benefits to student-athletes or their families.</p>
Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy	NCAA Bylaw 22 (effective August 1, 2024)
Reason for Policy / Purpose	Under recent NCAA Bylaw and policy changes, University of Rhode Island student-athletes may begin to receive Compensation from third parties (but not from the University) for use of their NIL in Endorsements or NIL Activities.
Forms Related to this Policy	Information regarding software available for disclosure may be found Procedures that accompany this policy.

Policy Statement

The University of Rhode Island Department of Athletics is committed to supporting student-athletes and their pursuit of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) activities in accordance with applicable NCAA rules and/or state and federal laws while continuing to further the mission of the Department of Athletics: to lead a Division I Intercollegiate Athletics program that positively influences University of Rhode Island (also, "University") student-athletes, aligns with the mission of the University, and demonstrates its value by enhancing the University's local, regional, and national reputation. The University will help to broadly educate its student-athletes in partnership with the Atlantic 10 Conference and will include professional development in the areas of decision-making, due diligence, money, and contracts.

This policy applies to all student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletic programs at the University. It outlines the expectations surrounding a student-athlete's involvement in NIL Activities while encouraging these student-athletes to take advantage of these new opportunities. As some of the University's most visible ambassadors, student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively upon themselves, their families, their coaches, their teammates, the Department of Athletics, and the University as a whole.

This policy applies to student-athletes at the University when they initially enroll as a full-time student or when they begin official practice at the University, whichever occurs first.

1. Guidelines

a. Compensation for Services

A student-athlete may receive Compensation from a third party (but not from the University) for NIL Activity as long as such Compensation is provided in exchange for services, activities, appearances, intellectual property, or other value provided by the student-athlete. A student-athlete may not receive Compensation in exchange for athletic performance. Compensation that is provided in exchange for athletic performance or that otherwise does not meet the requirement of Compensation for services described above could be deemed “Pay for Play” and may lead to a determination of ineligibility to participate in college athletics. Examples of impermissible Compensation include:

- A \$100 payment to a soccer student-athlete for each goal scored
- A \$10,000 payment to a basketball student-athlete for receiving the Player of the Year award
- Free use of a car from a car dealer for a student-athlete when the student-athlete has not provided any service to the car dealer in exchange

b. Disclosure

Student-athletes must disclose any NIL Activity in accordance with Procedures accompanying this policy, applicable NCAA rules, and any applicable state and/or federal laws.

c. Role of the University of Rhode Island

The University, including its employees, contractors, representatives, and Agents must comply with all applicable NCAA rules and state and/or federal laws relating to student-athlete NIL Activity. The Procedures accompanying this policy set forth specific guidelines for the University’s (and its employees’, contractors’, representatives’, and agents’) involvement with student-athlete NIL Activity.

d. Professional Service Providers

Student-athletes may utilize the services of a Professional Service Provider for assistance with NIL Activity. However, an individual or entity who serves as a student-athlete’s Professional Service Provider for NIL Activity may not also serve as the student-athlete’s Agent. Student-athlete use of Agents must be consistent with current NCAA rules governing Agents (for example, they must be registered in the State of Rhode Island and cannot be used for future professional athletic contract negotiations).

e. Use of University Name or Marks

The University has the right to control the use of its Marks within any endorsement, including the right to revoke their use. Endorsements using University Marks that may reasonably be construed as objectionable to NCAA Mission and Priorities or the [University’s Mission, Foundational Values](#), or current [Strategic Plan](#).

Student-athletes at the University may state that they play “[name of sport] at the University of Rhode Island” or that they are “a member of the [name of sport] at the University of Rhode Island” to identify themselves in connection

with NIL Activity. Student-athletes will only be allowed to use University or Athletic Department related marks and logos, the Keaney Blue and navy blue color scheme, team or player photographs and videos, any and all aspects of the uniform, including but not limited to, team colors, designs, and player numbers, if those rights have been secured with written permission from the University, which permission will be for a defined purpose and may be revoked by the University at any time in its discretion. Use of University Marks must comply with the University's policy on Trademarks and Licensing. Student Athletes may contact the University's Associate Athletic Director for Marketing for more information. Additional information regarding the University's current licensee base, the University style guide, and the University's current trademark/licensing Agent (CLC) can be found below:

- [Current Licensee List](#)
- [University of Rhode Island Style Guide](#)
- [CLC](#)

f. Conflict with Current University Contracts

Student-athletes at the University may enter Endorsements or NIL Activities with sponsors of the University or entities that compete with sponsors of the University. However, the University's student-athletes are required to wear footwear and apparel mandated by any current University contracts while training, competing, or doing promotions on behalf of the University, unless any of those vendors have provided 1) a team exemption due to lack of product or 2) an individual exemption for medical reasons. Additionally, student-athletes entering into partnerships with brands that compete against the exclusive beverage provider of the University will not be permitted to 1) endorse that brand on campus in any capacity or 2) wear University provided gear that shows association with another beverage provider while endorsing that brand digitally or off-campus.

g. Prohibited Endorsements

Endorsements in violation of University policies, University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees regulations, or NCAA bylaws are prohibited.

h. Conflict of Commitment

Student-athletes may not miss class or other mandatory academic requirements or required team activities to engage in NIL Activities.

i. Recruiting Inducement and Boosters

The University and any Representatives of Athletics Interests, often known as "boosters," must comply with any applicable and operative NCAA rules regarding the use of NIL Activity or a promise related thereto in any manner that could be deemed an inducement for a prospective student-athlete to attend the University or for a current student-athlete to remain enrolled at the University.

j. International Student-Athletes

Whether international student-athletes may receive NIL Compensation from a third party will depend upon several factors including the nature of the specific NIL Activity, the student-athlete's immigration status, and specific

provisions of state and federal law as well as NCAA rules. Before engaging in any compensated NIL Activity or executing an agreement for future Compensation for NIL Activity, international student-athletes should contact the University's Office of International Student and Scholars for additional information and should seek the advice of an experienced immigration attorney.

k. University Promotional Activities

Student-athletes may be asked to participate in University promotional activities such as appearances, autograph signings, digital content creation, photo shoots, and similar activities in accordance with existing NCAA rules. Student-athletes may not be paid by the University to participate in such activity unless otherwise permitted by NCAA rules. Student-athletes may opt out of any such University promotional activities by notifying their head coach or the University of Rhode Island Office of NCAA Compliance.

l. Sale of University-Provided Apparel or Tangible Goods

Student-athletes are permitted to sell their own personal items, but may not sell items issued by the University (apparel, awards, equipment) until the student-athlete's eligibility is exhausted. The University and its representatives may not purchase items from its student-athletes, including items originally issued by the University (for example, the University cannot purchase awards back).

2. Legal Provisions

a. Equity

The University of Rhode Island and the Department of Athletics are committed to equity in the provision of all permissible institutional services under this policy. However, the University is not responsible for monitoring, overseeing, or enforcing equity in opportunities, Compensation, or other consideration provided by non-University entities.

b. Withholding, Tax & Financial Aid

Student-athletes are responsible for all tax, withholding, reporting, licenses, permissions, permits, expenses, fees, and any other obligations, liabilities, or costs associated with NIL Activity. Student-athletes should be aware that receiving Compensation for NIL Activities could have an impact on their financial aid, especially for those receiving Pell Grants. Student-athletes are encouraged to consult with the Office of Enrollment Services to fully understand these potential impacts.

c. Disclaimer

The University is not liable or otherwise responsible to any student-athlete, non-University entity that partners with a student-athlete, Professional Service Provider, or other entity involved with NIL Activity.

3. Consequences

- a. Violations of this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Procedures accompanying this policy. Student-athletes may also be subject to NCAA sanctions, up to and including permanent ineligibility to participate in college athletics, and may be subject to associated University sanctions, up to and including cancellation of athletics financial aid, if they are deemed ineligible.

Exceptions

None

Policy Review and Revisions

(Versions earlier than the first policy number may be paper only)

Policy #	Effective Date	Reason for Change	Changes to Policy
06.101.1	November 9, 2021	n/a	n/a
06.101.2	January 3, 2023	Schedule Review; updated NCAA guidance.	Updates to policy to align with NCAA guidance including new language clarifying the University's role in supporting NIL Activities; clarification on conflicts with other University contracts.
06.101.3	March 18, 2024	Changes to NCAA rules.	Changes to language regarding Recruiting Inducement and Boosters and compliance with NCAA rules.
06.101.4	This Policy Date	Changes to NCAA rules.	The proposed changes to the current policy reflect adoption of NCAA proposal 2024-3, effective August 1, 2024; removal of specific endorsement prohibitions; add'l language on use of University Marks.