

International Student-Athletes and Name, Image, Likeness Activities:

Student-athletes MUST consult with an advisor in International Student & Scholar Services to understand the implications of any NIL activity on their F-1 visa.

Student-athletes should also consult with an immigration attorney BEFORE undertaking any Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) activity. Only an immigration attorney can declare an NIL activity as permissible and/or impermissible. You can find an immigration attorney by using the [immigration lawyer search](#) on the American Immigration Lawyers Association website.

United States law requires that F-1 students come to the U.S. “solely for the purpose” of pursuing their course of study. This law limits the employment and income-generating opportunities available to international student-athletes at OHIO University while in the United States including NIL activities.

OHIO University student-athletes may be able to perform income-generating NIL activities in their home country. However, no further action or activity may be undergone in relation to the NIL income-generating opportunity once the student-athlete is in the United States. If an income-generating opportunity is set-up while the student-athlete is in their home country then no further action can be taken to manage or promote it while in the U.S. Any active operation, updating, or promotion in the U.S. may be taken as operation of a business.

An F-1 student-athlete may be able to sign autographs, make appearances, endorse products, provide lessons, etc. **outside the United States** provided such activities are in compliance with applicable OHIO Athletics and NCAA rules and applicable federal and/or state law.

Commercials or Product Endorsements:

- Cannot be performed in the United States.
- May be able to perform in home country.

Personal Appearance at an Event:

- Cannot be performed in the United States.
- May be able to perform in home country.

Private Lessons, Camps, or Clinics:

- Cannot be performed in the United States.
- May be able to perform in home country.

Signing Autographs:

- Cannot be performed in the United States.
- May be able to perform in home country.

Establishing own Business to Sell Products and/or Services:

- Cannot be performed in the United States.
- May be able to perform in home country.

Selling of team-issued apparel, equipment, awards, or other items issued by OHIO University or NCAA ONCE eligibility is exhausted:

- Yes – as long as it is not done as a regular act of business.
 - May be done in United States & home country.

Personal Crowdfunding Page to Raise Money for Charity:

- Yes – provided all compensation goes to the charity and the student-athlete is not benefitting in any way.

Allowing third parties to sell merchandise with your Name, existing Image, or Likeness in exchange for a royalty:

- This MAY be permissible. NO activity may be taken to promote the activity, business, or product in any way. This could be considered as work in exchange for compensation and could be an F-1 violation.
- Students should work with potential third-party vendors to make sure that all requirements as well as any payments are detailed in a contract.
- All potential contracts should be reviewed by an immigration attorney to ensure all requirements and income are allowed under current visa type.

FOR ALL OF THESE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONSULT WITH AN ADVISOR AND/OR AN IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY BEFORE UNDERGOING THE ACTIVITY TO ENSURE YOU ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR F-1 STATUS.