



This tipsheet is intended to provide a summary of NCAA rules related to official visits. Please remember to contact the Office of Compliance Services if you have any questions as the applicable NCAA, SEC and South Carolina rules change over time.

General Requirements (consult the cited NCAA Bylaws for further explanations)

- All occasional meal requests must be submitted to the Office of Compliance Services for approval prior to the meal occurring.
 - Occasional meals that do not receive prior approval are violations of extra benefit and preferential treatment legislation.
 - The Southeastern Conference has defined “occasional” for the purposes of NCAA legislation as an average of one time per month. Therefore, the maximum number of occasional meals a student-athlete may receive in an academic year (August - July) is twelve (12).
- It is only permissible for prospective student-athletes to receive an occasional meal if it occurs during their official visit to South Carolina and is provided by a coaching staff member
- It is not permissible for the parents of a student-athlete to receive an occasional meal
- Athletics staff members may provide an occasional meal for a student-athlete or an entire team in the locale of the institution and may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend such meals (16.11.1.5)
- Other institutional staff members may provide an occasional meal for a student-athlete or an entire team in the locale of the institution and may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes (16.11.1.5)
- Parents of a student-athlete may provide an occasional meal for a student-athlete or an entire team at any location no more than once a month during the academic year (16.11.1.12)
- Representatives of athletic interests (boosters) may provide an occasional meal for a student-athlete or an entire team in his or her home, on campus or at a facility regularly used for home competition and may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend such meals (16.11.1.15)
- Any other activity associated with the occasional meal (i.e.: playing videogames, use of jet skis, playing golf, use of vehicle, use of pool/lake, etc.) or continued social activities with student-athletes is considered an extra benefit and preferential treatment and is prohibited unless it is demonstrated that the same benefit is available to the general public or student body (16.02.3 & 12.1.2.1.6)

Not Permissible	Permissible
Coaching staff members providing a meal outside of the thirty (30) mile radius of South Carolina’s campus (outside the locale of the institution)	Coaching staff members providing a meal at a restaurant inside of the thirty (30) mile radius of South Carolina’s campus (inside the locale of the institution)
The parents of a student-athlete providing a meal for their student-athlete son/daughter and teammates once a week	The parents of a student-athlete providing a meal for their student-athlete son/daughter once a week and teammates once a month.
Boosters continued social activity with student-athletes that involves treatment/benefits not available to the general public or student body	Boosters providing a meal to student-athletes five (5) times per academic year
Boosters providing a meal for student-athletes at a restaurant	Boosters providing a meal for student-athletes at his or her home
Boosters providing transportation to student-athletes to attend a meal that they are providing on campus	Boosters providing transportation to student-athletes to attend a meal that they are providing in their home
Boosters providing meals or snacks without prior approval from the Office of Compliance Services	Boosters providing meals or snacks that have been approved by the Office of Compliance Services and that count towards the permissible number of occasional meals per year
Booster or parent providing an occasional meal to a prospective student-athlete at any time	Coaching staff member providing an occasional meal to a prospective student-athlete during his or her official visit to South Carolina
Coaching staff member providing an occasional meal to a prospective student-athlete at any time other than during his or her official visit to South Carolina, including unofficial visits to South Carolina	
Parents hosting a meal for student-athletes at a location where there is prospective student-athletes present, including family homes with prospect aged siblings	Parents hosting a meal for student-athletes in their family home with no prospective student-athletes in attendance, including prospect aged siblings