



The University of South Carolina Office of Compliance Services Presents...

# Booster Bulletin

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

Social Media use has grown in recent years, and many Gamecock fans and booster organizations have created web pages that openly discuss recruits. Please remember that NCAA rules prohibit boosters from contacting prospective student-athletes. This month's Booster Bulletin will provide some guidance on permissible uses of social media.

4. Boosters are not permitted to contact prospective student-athletes through any medium of social media, such as Facebook, message boards, chat rooms, or Twitter.

Remember that NCAA rules only allow authorized coaches to recruit on behalf of the institution. Some schools, by nature of their history and general size, will consistently have a larger fan base. Furthermore, because the institution is held responsible for the conduct of its boosters, engaging in such activities would force the University of South Carolina to self-report a violation of NCAA rules.



## Social Media Do's and Don'ts



Boosters *may* utilize social media for the following activities:

- ◆ Boosters can notify coaching staff members about noteworthy prospects in the area.
- ◆ Boosters can speak with a prospect only if the prospect initiates the conversation and the conversation is not related to athletics. Questions about athletics should be referred to a member of the coaching staff.
- ◆ Boosters can follow a prospect on Twitter.
- ◆ Booster groups can create fan/support pages for USC athletic programs (e.g., Swim/Dive Boosters, Dugout Club)

However, boosters *may not* utilize social media for the following activities:

- ◆ Tweeting at or writing a wall post on a prospect's profile or commenting on a prospect's photo
- ◆ Re-tweeting a prospect or mentioning him/her in a tweet (example: @Gamecock\_PSA).
- ◆ Sending messages through the Facebook message or Twitter direct message functions.
- ◆ Creating a fan group that is aimed at enticing a recruit to commit to USC.
- ◆ Instant messaging (or Facebook chat) with a prospect.

## Upcoming Gamecock Athletics Events

### > Men's Basketball

2/2 - vs. Georgia	1:30 PM
2/5 - @ Kentucky	9:00 PM
2/10 - vs. Tennessee	1:00 PM
2/14 - vs. LSU	7:00 PM
2/16 - @ Alabama	4:00 PM
2/20 - vs. Ole Miss	7:00 PM
2/23 - @ Georgia	2:00 PM
2/28 - vs. Missouri	9:00 PM

### > Women's Basketball

2/3- vs. Auburn	3:00 PM
2/7 - @ Alabama	7:30 PM
2/10 - vs. Texas A&M	3:30 PM
2/14 - @ Kentucky	7:00 PM
2/17 - @ Ole Miss	2:00 PM
2/24 - vs. Mississippi St.	3:00 PM
2/28 - @ Missouri	8:00 PM

### > Equestrian

2/2 - vs. Georgia	1:00 PM
2/14 - @ Auburn	2:00 PM
2/23 - vs. Texas A&M	1:00 PM

### > Swimming & Diving

2/2 - @ Alabama/Texas A&M (Tuscaloosa, AL)	11:00 AM
2/19-23 - SEC Championships (College Station, TX)	

### > Women's Golf

2/10-12 - UCF Challenge (Sorrento, FL)
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### > Men's Golf

2/11-12 - Savannah Quarters Individual Intercollegiate (Savannah, GA)
2/22-24 - Bayou City Collegiate Championship (Houston, TX)

### > Track & Field

2/1-2 - Armory Invitational (New York, NY)
2/8 - Washington Invitational (Seattle, WA)
2/8-9 - Tyson Invitational (Fayetteville, AR) TigerPaw Invitational (Clemson, SC)
2/16 - Gamecock Invitational
2/22-24 - SEC Indoor Championship (Fayetteville, AR)

## DOES THIS APPLY TO NLI SIGNEES?

**YES!!!!** The beginning of February is an exciting time for athletics programs around the country, as the hectic recruiting schedules that coaches have maintained start to pay off. Recruits in Football, Track & Field and Soccer will start the process of signing National Letters of Intent (NLI) to play for the University of South Carolina in the future. Many boosters will be compelled to tweet or post congratulations to signees.

However, please keep in mind that signees are still prospects until one of the following occurs:

- The signee enrolls full-time and attends class for a regular academic term (e.g., Spring or Fall).
- The signee enrolls in summer classes at the institution prior to full-time enrollment in the Fall.
- The signee participates in preseason practice with the team.

In short, although a prospect signs an NLI or agreement to receive athletics aid with an institution, please continue to avoid contacting them through social media. Leave the recruiting (and associated contact with prospects) to the coaches!



## Student Athletes and Sale of Apparel and Awards

NCAA rules prohibit student-athletes from selling or trading their awards and apparel for anything of value. In 2010, several Football student-athletes at Ohio State University were suspended five games for selling items, including conference championship rings. To regain eligibility, these individuals were required to pay a charity the amount of money they received for their awards and apparel.

Please do not attempt to purchase any items from our student-athletes. Your cooperation and understanding is essential to the success of our programs. If you have any questions about this information do not hesitate to contact the Office of Compliance Services.

\* Apparel is any clothing items issued to student-athletes, or any clothing items that student-athletes are able to retain at the end of the academic year. Apparel includes, but is not limited to uniforms and warm-ups.

\* An award is anything given to a student-athlete for participation, special achievement, or a championship. It does not matter if the student-athlete's name is not on the award. Examples include, but are not limited to, items received for the following:

- "Lettering" in a sport
- Scholar-Athlete Award
- Bowl Game awards
- Conference championship

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### > Baseball

2/15 - vs. Liberty	3:00 PM
2/16 - vs. Liberty	1:30 PM
2/17 - vs. Liberty	1:30 PM
2/22 - vs. Albany	3:00 PM
2/23 - vs. Albany	1:30 PM
2/24 - vs. Albany	1:30 PM
2/26 - vs. Furman	4:00 PM

### > Softball

2/8 - Stetson (DeLand, FL)	4:00 PM
2/9 - Michigan St. Stetson (DeLand, FL)	1:30 PM 4:00 PM
2/10 - Michigan St. (DeLand, FL)	12:00 PM
2/15 - Florida A&M Stetson (Orlando, FL)	4:30 PM 6:30 PM
2/16 - Central Florida Buffalo (Orlando, FL)	6:00 PM 8:00 PM
2/17 - Texas-Arlington (Orlando, FL)	9:00 AM
2/23 - Wagner Charleston Southern (Mt. Pleasant, SC)	10:00 AM 7:00 PM
2/24 - Radford College of Charleston (Mt. Pleasant, SC)	2:30 PM 4:30 PM

### > Men's Tennis

2/2 - vs. Georgia Tech vs. Wofford	11:00 AM 4:00 PM
2/8 - vs. Wake Forest	4:00 PM
2/10 - vs. NC State	2:00 PM
2/20 - vs. UNC Wilmington	2:00 PM
2/22 - @ William & Mary	6:00 PM
2/24 - @ VCU	1:00 PM

### > Women's Tennis

2/3 - @ Clemson	12:00 PM
2/16 - @ Richmond	10:00 AM
2/17 - @ William & Mary	1:00 PM
2/20 - vs. Furman	5:00 PM
2/23 - vs. College of Charleston vs. Charleston Southern	10:30 AM 4:00 PM

