



# University of South Carolina Gamecock Compliance

With the professional draft season right around the corner, it is important to remind everyone of the permissible and impermissible activities that surround draft day celebrations and events. Both current and former student-athletes need to be aware of what they may or may not do, as do University of South Carolina boosters. You will find below an overview of some key points to consider, and please remember, always ask before you act!

## KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER RELATED TO DRAFT PARTIES

1. Student-athletes must pay for the benefits or services they receive.
2. This applies to ALL sports, not just football student-athletes.
3. Benefits received by student-athletes from a friend or former teammate could still result in an impermissible benefit violation. Each situation must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

For example, is the type of benefit provided consistent with what was provided when the former student-athlete and the current student-athlete were teammates?

- ⇒ If the answer is “no” then you probably have a violation
- ⇒ If the answer is “yes” then you could be in the clear, but still check with compliance first.

4. Ask before you act! Don't guess about whether or not a benefit or service is a violation...check with compliance before giving such benefits.

**NOTE:** These lessons apply to any situation (e.g., NBA or NFL draft events, other parties or events, etc.) involving benefits or services provided to current student-athletes.



University of South Carolina's athletics programs value your continued support. If you have questions, please do not hesitate in contacting the Office of Compliance Services at 803.777.1519 or [athlcompl@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:athlcompl@mailbox.sc.edu).

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## Issues Related to Benefits from Former Teammates and Agents in Conjunction with Professional Drafts

Educational Column from March 29, 2012

NCAA institutions should note that, each year, parties or other events occur across the country in conjunction with the annual drafts for professional sports leagues. These parties and other events are hosted and/or attended by agents, third parties, professional athletes, and draft prospects. A current student-athlete's attendance at such parties or events may result in violations of NCAA legislation if the student-athlete does not pay for the benefits or services he or she receives.

Travel expenses, lodging, meals and other expenses (e.g., entertainment) provided to a current student-athlete at no charge and financed by individuals meeting the definition of an agent per NCAA Bylaw 12.02.1 (agent) would result in a violation of the benefits from prospective agents legislation. The NCAA enforcement staff is aware of previous draft day parties and events where draft prospects invited friends and former teammates, some of whom were then-current student-athletes, to attend such events. Unbeknownst to the student-athlete, the expenses received (e.g., entertainment, lodging, meals) were financed by individuals meeting the definition of an agent per Bylaw 12.02.1 (agent). Receipt of such expenses constitutes an impermissible benefit from an agent and jeopardizes the student-athlete's NCAA eligibility.

Even if all of the benefits received by a student-athlete associated with attendance at a draft day party or other events came directly from a friend and former teammate, there may still be a violation involving impermissible preferential treatment. The issue of a current student-athlete receiving benefits from a former student-athlete was reviewed by the former NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet Subcommittee on Legislative Review/Interpretations in 2001. At that time, the subcommittee advised the staff that the standard for reviewing cases involving benefits provided to a current student-athlete from a former teammate should be whether the type of benefit provided is consistent with what was provided when the donor and recipient of the benefit were college teammates. This analysis continues to be used when determining whether a student-athlete received impermissible benefits from a former teammate.

[References: NCAA Division I Bylaws 12.02.1 (agent), 12.3.1 (general rule), 12.3.1.2 (benefits from prospective agents) and 12.1.2.1.6 (preferential treatment, benefits or services)]

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