



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

Booster Bulletin

October 2012

Volume III, Issue 1

Dear Fans:

The Fall 2012 term is in full swing; student-athletes are going to class and participating in workouts with their teams. With the flurry of activity, the University of South Carolina Office of Compliance Services would like to take the time to review the definition of a booster.

The term "booster" has become prevalent due to recent NCAA major infractions cases across the country. These cases can be costly for the student-athletes as well as the athletics programs. The Office of Compliance Services has the responsibility of educating and monitoring those individuals who fall under the definition of "booster." By doing so, our office hopes to prevent these issues and protect the student-athletes and our great university.

So what exactly is a booster? According to the NCAA, there are several ways to trigger this status. Below we have listed some determining factors in identifying a booster. They are as follows:

You are a Booster / Representative of Athletics Interest if you:

- Contribute to the Athletics Department or its booster organizations (e.g., Gamecock Club)
- Join or participate in South Carolina's various Athletics Department booster groups (e.g., sport specific groups, Dugout Club, Swim/Dive Boosters, etc.)
- Hold or have ever held season tickets
- Have a guardianship role over a student-athlete (i.e., parent or legal guardian)
- Provide permissible benefits (e.g., summer jobs) to enrolled student-athletes
- Promote Gamecock Athletics in any way

Do you fall into one of the categories above? If yes, you have triggered booster status. Once you trigger booster status, you are one forever!

Occasionally fans say, "I have never purchased season tickets or been a member of the Gamecock Club... I can do anything I want, the NCAA rules don't apply to me." Fans are boosters and therefore must abide by NCAA rules pertaining to boosters. If you have doubts about a situation, you should always ask before you act.

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Top Tips for Fans & Friends of South Carolina Athletics

1. You may not be involved in recruiting prospective student-athletes on behalf of South Carolina. You may contact the South Carolina coaching staff via telephone or email to inform them about talented prospects in your area.
2. It is impermissible to use the name, image, or likeness of a student-athlete for commercial purposes. Additionally, you may not sell memorabilia (i.e., pictures or items) signed by the student-athlete.
3. You may not become involved in arranging for a prospect, a student-athlete, or his/her family to receive money, financial assistance of any kind, or any other impermissible benefits.
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.
5. You may employ student-athletes, provided they are compensated for work actually performed. It is not permissible to employ prospective student-athletes.
6. You may not provide transportation to a prospect, student-athlete, or his/her friends and family members.
7. You may not provide entertainment to prospects, student-athletes, his/her friends and family members, or prospects' coaches.
8. You may continue established relationships with friends and neighbors whose children are prospective or current student-athletes. You may not recruit the prospect to USC or exchange benefits unless the relationship meets the NCAA guidelines for a pre-existing relationship.
9. Always ask before you act! The NCAA holds the University of South Carolina accountable for the actions of its fans and friends.

Each month, the Office of Compliance Services will examine one of the Top Tips for Fans and Friends of South Carolina Athletics listed above in depth.

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