



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

Booster Bulletin

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

Last month the Booster Bulletin newsletter outlined do's and don't's for providing transportation expenses or modes of transportation for current student-athletes, prospects, and their family members. April 2014 will focus on the following Top Tip for Boosters:

- 7) You may not provide entertainment to prospects, student-athletes, his/her friends and family members, or prospects' coaches.

Please read through the following information for further tips on avoiding violations by staying within entertainment rules.

Q & A: Entertainment for Current Student-Athletes

Q: I have extra tickets to a professional sporting event that I would like to give to a team to congratulate them on a fine season. Can I do this?

A: Generally, no. NCAA regulations allow an institution to provide reasonable entertainment to a student-athlete or team during the declared playing season. For this to happen permissibly the booster would need to donate the entertainment to the Gamecock Club through the Gift In Kind process. The institution would then provide the reasonable entertainment to the student-athlete or team. Check with the Office of Compliance Services or the Gamecock Club to ensure this activity is permissible prior to donating through the Gift In Kind process..

Q: Am I allowed to provide a meal to a USC team before the academic year is over?

A: As a booster, you are permitted to host an occasional meal for a team, provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) The meal must be provided in your home, on-campus, or at a facility regularly used for home competition. It may not be held at an off-campus restaurant. It may, however, be catered;
- (b) You may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend the meal, but only if the meal is being held at your home; and
- (c) Approval for the meal must be granted beforehand by the Office of Compliance Services. Please contact OCS for a copy of the Occasional Meal Request Form.

Q: I own a local restaurant/bar and want to have a night to celebrate Gamecock Athletics. Can I offer discounted food and drink to USC athletes only?

A: No. The provision of discounted food and drink to only USC athletes would constitute an extra benefit to these athletes and, therefore, is not permissible. You may, however, provide student-athletes with discounts that are available to the general student body.

Upcoming Gamecock

Baseball

- 4/1— Appalachian State
- 4/3— at Arkansas
- 4/4— at Arkansas
- 4/5— at Arkansas
- 4/8— Furman, Greenville, SC
- 4/11— Florida
- 4/12— Florida
- 4/13— Florida
- 4/15— Charleston Southern
- 4/18— at Auburn
- 4/19— at Auburn
- 4/20— at Auburn
- 4/22— Davidson
- 4/23— USC Upstate
- 4/25— Alabama
- 4/26— Alabama
- 4/27— Alabama

Equestrian

- 4/17— NECA National Championship
- 4/18— NECA National Championship
- 4/19— NECA National Championship

Football

- 4/12— Garnet and Black

Men's Tennis

- 4/4— Ole Miss
- 4/6— Mississippi State
- 4/11— at Kentucky
- 4/13— at Vanderbilt
- 4/16— SEC Tournament
- 4/17— SEC Tournament
- 4/18— SEC Tournament
- 4/19— SEC Tournament
- 4/20— SEC Tournament

Women's Tennis

- 4/4— at Ole Miss
- 4/6— at Mississippi State
- 4/11— Kentucky
- 4/13— Vanderbilt
- 4/16— SEC Tournament
- 4/17— SEC Tournament
- 4/18— SEC Tournament
- 4/19— SEC Tournament
- 4/20— SEC Tournament

Track

- 4/3— Pepsi Florida Relays
- 4/4— Pepsi Florida Relays
- 4/5— Pepsi Florida Relays
- 4/11— Bill Carson Invitational
- 4/12— Bill Carson Invitational
- 4/19— USC Outdoor Open
- 4/24— Penn Relays
- 4/25— Penn Relays
- 4/26— Penn Relays

Q & A: Entertainment for Prospective Student-Athletes

- Q:** May I invite a prospective student-athlete and his/her family to an occasional meal that I am hosting.
- A:** No. On- or off-campus contact with prospects or their family or friends may not take place until the prospect is in classes, even if he/she signs a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement to attend USC.
- Q:** A classmate of my child has just signed with USC, and I would like to take him to a local Gamecock Club meeting to introduce him to my fellow Gamecock Athletics supporters. Is this allowed?
- A:** No, it is not. Please remember that NCAA recruiting regulations still apply to a prospect, even after he or she signs a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement to attend USC.

Entertainment for Coaches of Prospective Student-Athletes

Boosters are not permitted to provide any expenses to an individual who coaches prospective student-athletes. In fact, the only entertainment that may be provided is institution is restricted from providing any expenses with the exception of a complimentary admission to a USC home contest that takes place within 30 miles of campus. Please do not provide these individuals with any other entertainment expenses (drinks at a bar, movie tickets, etc.).

NCAA DEFINITION CENTER

Extra Benefit (n): special arrangement by an institutional employee or a booster to provide a student-athlete or a student-athlete's family or friends a benefit not generally available to the institution's general student body or their relatives or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability

Preferential Treatment (n): occurs when a student-athlete receives benefits or services at a reduced cost based on their athletics status or ability.

* Unlike the provision of extra benefits, preferential treatment results when the institution does not have knowledge of the treatment, benefit or service being provided to the student-athlete.


Academic Honor Roll
 181 Dean's List
(3.5 GPA)
 61 President's List
(4.0 GPA)

18
Academic All-Americans

3.2
Average GPA

669
Student Athletes

3
Conference Titles

University of South Carolina Office of Compliance Services

Rice Athletics Center
 1304 Heyward Street
 Columbia, SC 29208

Phone: 803-777-1519
 Fax: 803-777-9070
 ATHCOMPL@mailbox.sc.edu



> **Softball**

- 4/1— Georgia Southern / Presbyterian
- 4/4— at Georgia
- 4/5— at Georgia
- 4/5— at Georgia
- 4/8— Campbell
- 4/11— at Arkansas
- 4/12— at Arkansas
- 4/13— at Arkansas
- 4/15— Winthrop
- 4/18— Louisiana State
- 4/19— Louisiana State
- 4/20— Louisiana State
- 4/22— Georgia Southern
- 4/23— South Carolina state
- 4/25— Longwood
- 4/26— Longwood

Men's Golf

- 4/5— Augusta State Invitational
- 4/6— Augusta State Invitational
- 4/18— SEC Championship
- 4/19— SEC Championship
- 4/20— SEC Championship

> **Women's Golf**

- 4/4— Ping ASU Invitational
- 4/5— Ping ASU Invitational
- 4/6— Ping ASU Invitational
- 4/25— SEC Championship
- 4/26— SEC Championship
- 4/27— SEC Championship

> **Women's Sand Volleyball**

- 4/5— Florida State, Charleston, SC
- 4/5— C of C, Charleston, SC
- 4/6— Georgia State, Charleston, SC
- 4/22— C of C
- 4/5— Florida State, Charleston, SC
- 3/29— Florida State/Jacksonville/LSU/Stetson, Tallahassee, FL
- 3/30— Florida State/Jacksonville/LSU/Stetson, Tallahassee, FL

