

GAMECOCK INSIDER

**YOUR GUIDE TO SOUTH
CAROLINA ATHLETICS**



REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS



YOU ARE A REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTEREST (BOOSTER) 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 "FRIENDS OF" GROUPS, ETC.)
- HOLD, OR HAVE EVER HELD SEASON TICKETS
- HAVE A GUARDIANSHIP ROLE OVER A STUDENT-ATHLETE (I.E., PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN)
- PROVIDE ALLOWABLE BENEFITS (E.G., SUMMER JOBS) TO ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES
- PROMOTE GAMECOCK ATHLETICS IN ANY WAY

REMEMBER, ONCE YOU ARE IDENTIFIED AS A BOOSTER, YOU RETAIN THAT IDENTITY FOREVER. BOOSTERS ARE BOUND BY NCAA, SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA RULES. AS A RESULT, BOOSTERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES OF ANY POTENTIAL RULES VIOLATIONS. EVEN IF A VIOLATION IS UNINTENTIONAL, THE ELIGIBILITY OF A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE (RECRUIT) OR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETE COULD BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY.

PARENTS OF ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE CONSIDERED BOOSTERS; THEREFORE, GENERALLY THEY MAY NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE RECRUITING PROCESS OFF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA CAMPUS.

IF PARENTS OF A PROSPECT SHOULD CONTACT YOU WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER'S ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE AT SOUTH CAROLINA, YOU SHOULD DIRECT THEIR QUESTIONS TO THE COACHING STAFF.

IF YOU ARE A SOUTH CAROLINA ALUM, YOU MAY DISCUSS YOUR GENERAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES AT CAROLINA; HOWEVER, YOU MAY NOT DISCUSS ATHLETICS.

REPRESENTATIVES OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS



FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY STAFF MEMBERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RECRUIT OFF-CAMPUS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JOINING A PROSPECT FOR A MEAL DURING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMPUS. THEY MAY HAVE ON-CAMPUS CONTACT WITH PROSPECTS IN ALL SPORTS. INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT STAFF MAY HAVE RECRUITING CONTACT ON-CAMPUS. ONLY THOSE COACHES CERTIFIED TO RECRUIT OFF-CAMPUS MAY CONTACT OR EVALUATE PROSPECTS.

A SPOUSE OF A COACH OR STAFF MEMBER MAY MAKE CONTACT WITH A PROSPECT ON-CAMPUS. ADDITIONALLY, HE OR SHE MAY MAKE AN OFF-CAMPUS CONTACT WITHIN A 30-MILE RADIUS OF THE INSTITUTION'S CAMPUS DURING THE PROSPECT'S OFFICIAL VISIT. THE SPOUSE MAY NOT HAVE ANY WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE (FOLLOW-UP LETTER AFTER VISIT, ETC.) WITH THE PROSPECT.

ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES AND ENROLLED STUDENTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE BOOSTERS AS LONG AS ANY CONTACT WITH A PROSPECT IS INCIDENTAL AND DOES NOT OCCUR AT THE DIRECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT. STUDENT-ATHLETES AND STUDENTS MAY NOT MAKE OR PARTICIPATE IN TELEPHONE CALLS TO PROSPECTS AT THE DIRECTION OF A COACHING STAFF MEMBER OR FINANCED BY SOUTH CAROLINA OR A BOOSTER. STUDENT-ATHLETES AND STUDENTS MAY RECEIVE TELEPHONE CALLS MADE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE, PROVIDED IT IS NOT DONE AT THE DIRECTION AND/OR EXPENSE OF THE INSTITUTION.



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PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES



PERMISSIBLE BOOSTER ACTIVITIES

- VIEWING A PROSPECT'S GAME ON YOUR OWN INITIATIVE
- NOTIFYING THE SOUTH CAROLINA COACHING STAFF OF OUTSTANDING PROSPECTS

AS A BOOSTER YOU MAY NOT:

- CONTACT OR CALL A PROSPECT
- CONTACT OR CALL A PROSPECT'S PARENT, COACH, PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR
- ASSIST WITH THE ACTUAL EVALUATION OF TALENT

AS A BOOSTER YOU MAY NOT GIVE/PROVIDE A PROSPECT:

- CASH OR LOANS IN ANY AMOUNT
- GIFTS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS SUCH AS BIRTHDAYS, CHRISTMAS, ETC.
- FREE OR REDUCED COST SERVICES, RENTALS, OR PURCHASES OF ANY TYPE (E.G., CLOTHING, AIRLINE TICKETS, CAR REPAIRS, MEALS, ETC.)
- USE OF AN AUTOMOBILE OR TRANSPORTATION
- HOSPITALITY IN YOUR HOME
- TICKET TO AN ATHLETIC OR OTHER EVENT

REMEMBER

ONLY COACHES AND AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES MAY BE INVOLVED IN THE RECRUITING PROCESS. NCAA RULES SPECIFICALLY PROHIBIT BOOSTERS FROM ENGAGING IN RECRUITING ACTIVITIES.



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PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES: TERMS TO KNOW



PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE (PSA)

- A STUDENT THAT HAS STARTED CLASSES FOR THE NINTH GRADE.
- A STUDENT OF ANY AGE WHEN THE INSTITUTION OR ATHLETICS PROVIDES A BENEFIT TO THE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT THAT THE INSTITUTION GENERALLY DOES NOT PROVIDE TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS.
- A STUDENT REMAINS A PROSPECT UNTIL THE START OF CLASSES OR OFFICIAL TEAM PRACTICE AT CAROLINA.

RECRUITING

- ANY SOLICITATION OF A PROSPECT OR THE PROSPECT'S FAMILY BY AN AUTHORIZED INSTITUTIONAL STAFF MEMBER OR BOOSTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING THE PROSPECT'S ENROLLMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS.

CONTACT

- ANY FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN A PROSPECT OR THE PROSPECT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN AND AN INSTITUTIONAL STAFF MEMBER OR BOOSTER DURING WHICH ANY DIALOGUE OCCURS IN EXCESS OF A GREETING.

EVALUATION

- ANY ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO ASSESS THE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS OR ATHLETIC ABILITY OF A PROSPECT, INCLUDING ANY VISIT TO A PROSPECT'S SCHOOL OR THE OBSERVATION OF A PROSPECT PARTICIPATING IN ANY PRACTICE OR COMPETITION.



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PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES: COMMON QUESTIONS



WHAT IF A PROSPECT CALLS A BOOSTER?

A BOOSTER MAY HAVE A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH A PROSPECT ONLY IF:

1. THE PROSPECT INITIATES THE CALL,
2. THERE IS A LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP (UNRELATED TO ATHLETICS) WITH THE PROSPECT, AND
3. THE CALL IS NOT PREARRANGED BY AN INSTITUTIONAL STAFF MEMBER. DISCUSSION MUST BE LIMITED TO GENERAL USC TOPICS. ALL ATHLETICALLY RELATED QUESTIONS MUST BE REFERRED TO THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT.

MAY A BOOSTER TELEPHONE A PROSPECT OR SEND A CONGRATULATORY LETTER ONCE THE PROSPECT HAS COMMITTED TO OR SIGNED A NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT WITH SOUTH CAROLINA?

GENERALLY IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE FOR A BOOSTER TO CONTACT A PROSPECT. HOWEVER, AFTER A PROSPECT SIGNS A NLI IT IS PERMISSIBLE FOR A BOOSTER TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THE SIGNED PROSPECT, OR SEND A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE SIGNED PROSPECT VIA SOCIAL MEDIA. IT REMAINS IMPERMISSIBLE FOR THE BOOSTER TO PROVIDE THE PROSPECT OR THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF A PROSPECT WITH ANY BENEFITS. ALWAYS CHECK WITH OCS IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE STATUS OF A PROSPECT OR STUDENT-ATHLETE.

MAY A BOOSTER PAY FOR A PROSPECT'S EXPENSES OR FEES TO ATTEND CAMP?

NO, UNLESS THE PROSPECT IS AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF THE BOOSTER.

MAY A BOOSTER SPEAK TO A SOUTH CAROLINA COACH IF A PROSPECT IS WITH THE COACH?

IF A SOUTH CAROLINA COACH IS WITH A PROSPECT, DO NOT APPROACH THE COACH UNTIL THE PROSPECT AND HIS/HER FAMILY HAVE GONE ELSEWHERE; OTHERWISE, THE COACH WILL BE PLACED IN AN AWKWARD SITUATION BECAUSE HE/ SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE THE PROSPECT.

IS IT PERMISSIBLE FOR A BOOSTER TO ACCOMPANY A SOUTH CAROLINA COACH WHEN HE/SHE VISITS A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL OR PROSPECT'S HOME?

NO. A BOOSTER MAY NOT ACCOMPANY A COACH DURING ANY RECRUITING ACTIVITIES.

ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES



BOOSTERS MAY NOT PROVIDE STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH EXTRA BENEFITS. VIOLATIONS OF THIS REGULATION WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT-ATHLETE BEING DECLARED INELIGIBLE UNTIL HE/SHE REPAYS THE VALUE OF THE EXTRA BENEFIT(S) RECEIVED AND MAY RESULT IN A WITHHOLDING FROM COMPETITION.

TERMS TO KNOW

STUDENT-ATHLETE:

A STUDENT WHO PRESENTLY IS PARTICIPATING IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS OR PARTICIPATED IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS.

EXTRA BENEFIT:

AN EXTRA BENEFIT IS ANY SPECIAL GIFT OR ARRANGEMENT PROVIDED TO A STUDENT-ATHLETE, OR STUDENT-ATHLETE'S FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER, THAT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL STUDENT BODY.

EXAMPLE OF EXTRA BENEFITS (THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST):

- **CASH**
- **GIFTS**
- **DISCOUNTED SERVICES (E.G., MEALS, DRINKS, CLOTHING, LAUNDRY, HAIRCUTS, LEGAL FEES, TATTOOS, ETC.)**
- **AWARDS**
- **USE OF AN AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER TRANSPORTATION**
- **ENTERTAINMENT**
- **FREE OR REDUCED COST HOUSING FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME**
- **LOANS (INCLUDING CO-SIGNING)**
- **USE OF YOUR TELEPHONE OR CREDIT CARD**



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HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENT-ATHLETES AS A BOOSTER



HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENT-ATHLETES AS A BOOSTER?

- **CONTRIBUTE MONEY TO ENDOWMENTS OR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT.**
- **BUY SEASON TICKETS AND SUPPORT THE TEAMS FROM THE STANDS.**
- **DONATE FREQUENT FLYER MILES TO THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT TO MINIMIZE RECRUITING EXPENSES.**
- **IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE THE COLUMBIA AREA, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES REGARDING A DONATION OF GAME TICKETS OR OTHER REASONABLE ENTERTAINMENT FOR USE BY STUDENT-ATHLETES AT AN AWAY FROM HOME COMPETITION. NOTHING MAY BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO A STUDENT-ATHLETE – ALL DONATIONS MUST GO THROUGH COMPLIANCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.**
- **PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR A STUDENT-ATHLETE. STUDENT-ATHLETES MUST BE COMPENSATED FOR WORK ACTUALLY PERFORMED AND AT A RATE COMMENSURATE WITH THE RATE IN THE AREA FOR SIMILAR SERVICES.**
- **VISIT THE GAMECOCK CLUB WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENT AT WHICH YOU MAY SUPPORT USC ATHLETICS: WWW.GAMECOCKSONLINE.COM/GAMECOCKCLUB**



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PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES, AGENTS, AND GAMBLING



PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH STUDENT-ATHLETES:

A STUDENT-ATHLETE IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS IF HE OR SHE ACCEPTS COMPENSATION, OR PERMITS THE USE OF HIS/HER NAME OR PICTURE TO PROMOTE A COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE.

A STUDENT-ATHLETE'S NAME OR PICTURE MAY NOT BE USED TO ADVERTISE, RECOMMEND, OR PROMOTE DIRECTLY THE SALE OR USE OF A COMMERCIAL PRODUCT OR SERVICE OR ANY KIND.

IF A STUDENT-ATHLETE'S NAME OR PICTURE APPEARS ON COMMERCIAL ITEMS (T-SHIRTS, PLAYING CARDS, POSTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.) OR IS USED TO PROMOTE A COMMERCIAL PRODUCT WITHOUT THE STUDENT-ATHLETE'S KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION, THE STUDENT-ATHLETE AND THE INSTITUTION ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE STEPS TO STOP SUCH AN ACTIVITY IN ORDER TO RETAIN THE STUDENT-ATHLETE'S ELIGIBILITY.

AGENTS

IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN OR VERBAL AGREEMENT WITH AN AGENT PRIOR TO EXHAUSTION OF THEIR ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY. STUDENT-ATHLETES MAY NOT RECEIVE BENEFITS INCLUDING MEALS, CLOTHING, OR TRANSPORTATION FROM AN AGENT OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN AGENT.

GAMBLING ACTIVITIES

NCAA RULES PROHIBIT STUDENT-ATHLETES OR INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS STAFF MEMBERS FROM:

- PARTICIPATING IN ANY GAMBLING ACTIVITY THAT INVOLVES INTERCOLLEGIATE OR PROFESSIONAL ATHLETICS**
- PROVIDING INFORMATION CONCERNING INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS COMPETITION TO INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN ORGANIZED GAMBLING ACTIVITIES**

REMEMBER

IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW TO AFFECT OR ATTEMPT TO AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF A COLLEGIATE CONTEST!

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE GAMECOCKS

**THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT AND TAKING THE TIME TO REVIEW THE GAMECOCK INSIDER – YOUR GUIDE TO SOUTH CAROLINA ATHLETICS. AS A VITAL MEMBER OF GAMECOCK NATION, YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING VIOLATIONS OF NCAA, SEC, AND INSTITUTIONAL RULES PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING SOUTH CAROLINA'S ATHLETICS PROGRAM, AND THE HUNDREDS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO WEAR THE GARNET AND BLACK EVERY YEAR. AS WE STRIVE FOR CONTINUED EXCELLENCE, WE ALWAYS SEEK THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF ETHICAL CONDUCT. THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA IS PROUD TO HAVE YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT, DEDICATION AND ENTHUSIASM FOR GAMECOCK ATHLETICS. IN ORDER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NCAA RULES AND HOW THEY MAY AFFECT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, YOU MAY VISIT THE SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES WEBSITE AT:
GAMECOCKSONLINE.COM**

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR BECOME AWARE OF ANY POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES AT:

**RICE ATHLETIC CENTER—3RD FLOOR
1304 HEYWARD ST.
COLUMBIA, SC 29208
803/777-1519
ATHCOMPL@MAILBOX.SC.EDU**

