



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

BOOSTER BULLETIN

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

The Fall 2015 term is in full swing; student-athletes have started attending classes 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 to USC athletics events;
- 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; or,
- Promote Gamecock Athletics in any way.



Do you fall into one of the categories above? If yes, you have triggered booster status. In the eyes of the NCAA, you remain a booster forever once you’ve attained that status.

Occasionally fans say, “I have never purchased season tickets or been a member of the Gamecock Club, so I’m not a booster... the NCAA rules don’t apply to me.” Remember that by the NCAA’s analysis, fans are boosters and therefore must abide by NCAA rules pertaining to boosters. If you have doubts about a situation, the Office of Compliance Services advises you to ask before you act.

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.

University of South Carolina Office of Compliance Services

The University of South Carolina is committed to the principle of institutional control in the operation of its athletics department. The Office of Compliance Services (OCS) has the goal of creating a "compliance conscience" within the institution and throughout the community by developing a comprehensive compliance program that educates its constituents about the importance of following the letter and spirit of the rules and regulations set forth by the NCAA, Southeastern Conference (SEC) and South Carolina administration.

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