



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

BOOSTER BULLETIN

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

In the previous issue, we explored the definition of a booster and set forth nine *Top Tips for Fans & Friends of South Carolina Athletics*. These items examined activities in which boosters can and cannot participate. In this month's issue, the Office of Compliance Services will break down the first *Top Tip 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.

NCAA bylaw 13.1.2.1 states that "All in-person, on- and off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardians, as well as correspondence and telephone calls, by representatives of an institution's athletics interests is prohibited except as otherwise permitted." We will be examining this rule and the exceptions to it in this month's Booster Bulletin.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Can I speak on the phone with a recruit?

A: Only if you are contacted first by the recruit and the conversation is not related to recruiting. If the conversation turns to the prospect's interest in athletics, you as a booster must refer the prospect to the Athletics Department and end the call. Boosters are not allowed to make outgoing phone calls to prospects or their families and friends.

Q: Can I attend a prospect's game and speak with them about USC?

A: You may attend a game on your own initiative, but it would not be permissible to make contact with the prospect or prospect's family members. Further, you are not allowed to arrange such a meeting by contacting the coach, high school principal, or counselor.

Q: Can I pick up film or transcripts on this prospect for the purposes of evaluating him/her?

A: No. Only coaching staff members are allowed to perform academic or athletic evaluations on prospects, as they have been certified by the NCAA to do so. You may alert coaches about a local prospect with the understanding that coaches may choose to not contact the prospect.

Q: Can I contact recruits or their families and friends on social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, chat rooms, message boards)?

A: No, this would be considered recruiting contact with the prospect; recruiting activities should be left to coaches. We will examine this prohibition in depth in a subsequent newsletter.

Events Related to Possible NCAA Violations



Last year, the University of Oregon made headlines when the institution appeared before the NCAA Committee on Infractions for allegations of NCAA rules violations involving recruiting and the use of a recruiting and scouting service.

University of Oregon:

At the center of the case is a recruiting service and its owner/operator who triggered booster status because of activities he engaged in to assist the football program in the recruitment of several football prospective student-athletes.

Under current NCAA regulations, only coaches certified by the institution may recruit off-campus on behalf of the athletics programs. Because his assistance went beyond that of a typical recruiting and scouting service provider, the NCAA alleged that the owner/operator was impermissibly recruiting on behalf of the institution.

To read the public infractions report regarding the University of Oregon, please click [here](#).

Please contact the Office of Compliance Services if you have questions about the recruitment of prospective student-athletes.



How the NCAA Certifies Coaches to Recruit

All countable coaches are required by the NCAA to renew their recruiting certification with the NCAA every year. The coaches are tested on their working knowledge of the NCAA manual and of the new legislation that has been passed since the previous year. Without passing this test, coaches are not permitted to recruit any prospective student-athlete off campus (e.g., attend a high school game).

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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