



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 2016 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. However, 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, which USC could then provide to the team. Check with the Office of Compliance Services or the Gamecock Club to ensure the activity is permissible before donating.

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

A: As a booster, you may host an occasional meal for a team under the following circumstances:

- (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.

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.

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

NCAA regulations on entertainment for coaches of prospective student-athletes are very strict. Boosters are not permitted under any circumstances to provide any expenses to an individual who coaches prospective student-athletes. Examples include providing tickets to USC sporting events, drinks at a bar, or meals at your tailgate.



IN THE NEWS: NCAA SURVEY ON STUDENT ATHLETE TIME DEMANDS

In the past several months, criticism has been leveled at NCAA rules surrounding time demands for student-athletes. As a result, the NCAA has begun to review the current legislation's effects on today's student-athletes. The first step in the process was to give them a voice.

At the end of March, each USC student-athlete was given an opportunity to complete an online survey and provide their own personal feedback on time demands both in- and out-of-season. Questions were asked about not only practice activities, but other activities that stemmed from their status as student-athletes (for example, study hall and athletic training appointments). The survey was anonymous and was administered by Compliance Service staff to eliminate coach influence on answers. Once completed, results are sent to the Division I Council for discussion.

The Division I Council, chaired by USC President Harris Pastides, aims to author new legislation for presentation to NCAA member institutions, possibly as soon as September of 2016, with the ultimate goal of taking the proposals to a vote at NCAA Convention in January 2017.

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.

Questions or Concerns? Please contact us at:

Rice Athletics Center

Phone: 803-777-1519

1304 Heyward Street

Fax: 803-777-9070

Columbia, SC 29208

ATHCOMPL@mailbox.sc.edu

