



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 can 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 do to 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.



Upcoming Gamecock Athletics Events

> Football

10/4 - @ Kentucky
10/18 - vs. Furman
10/25 - @ Auburn

> Women's Cross Country

10/4 - Paul Short Invitational @ Bethlehem, PA
10/8 - USC Open #2
10/17 - Crimson Classic @ Tuscaloosa, AL
10/31 - SEC Championships @ Tuscaloosa, AL

> Men's Golf

10/18-19 - Camden Collegiate Invitational

> Women's Golf

10/10-12 - Tar Heel Invitational @ Chapel Hill, NC
10/17-19 - Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championship
10/24-26 - The Landfall @ Wilmington, NC

> Men's Soccer

10/4 - vs. Charlotte
10/8 - @ Florida International
10/11 - vs. UAB
10/17 - @ Florida Atlantic
10/21 - vs. NCS State
10/25 - vs. Kentucky
10/29 - @ Old Dominion

> Women's Soccer

10/3 - @ Alabama
10/5 - vs. LSU
10/10 - @ Kentucky
10/16 - vs. Florida
10/19 - vs. Ole Miss
10/24 - at Vanderbilt
10/26 - at Texas A&M
10/30 - vs. Mississippi State

> Women's Equestrian

10/3 - vs. Georgia
10/10 - @ Auburn
10/31 - vs. Texas A&M

> Women's Tennis

10/3-5 - Princeton Invitational @ Princeton, NY
10/10-12 - UVA Fall Invitational @ Charlottesville
10/16-20 - USTA/ITA Carolina Regional
@ Chapel Hill, NC



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 it's 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.

Information Regarding NCAA Infractions Case

In February 2012, officials from the University of South Carolina appeared before the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions to address allegations of NCAA violations in the football and track and field programs. The alleged violations were the result of impermissible activities committed by boosters of the athletics program. As a result, the institution imposed penalties on both programs and placed itself on probation for a period of three years. To view the report issued by the Committee on Infractions in April 2012, please visit www.sc.edu/ncaaresponse.



While on probation, the institution and its athletics program are under a heightened level of scrutiny, especially in the areas related to this case. It is important that boosters be cognizant of NCAA regulations regarding their activities and that they consult with the Office of Compliance Services before taking any action regarding student-athletes or prospective student-athletes.

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> Men's Tennis

10/2-6 - ITA All American @ Tulsa, OK

10/16-20 - ITA Carolina Regional @ Chapel Hill, NC

10/30 - 11/2 - USTA Disney Invitational @ Orlando, FL

> Swimming and Diving

10/10 - @ Kentucky

10/17 - @ Georgia Tech - Atlanta, GA

10/17 - @ Notre Dame (Women) - Atlanta, GA

10/31 - vs. Florida Gulf Coast (Women)

> Women's Volleyball

10/3 - at Mississippi State

10/5 - @ Auburn

10/12 - @ Alabama

10/15 - vs. Florida

10/19 - vs. Texas A&M

10/21 - @ Coastal Carolina

10/24 - vs. Mississippi State

10/26 - vs. Missouri

10/31 - @ LSU



Did You Know?

NCAA Bylaw 12.5.2.2 prohibits the use of a student-athlete's name, image or likeness without consent of the student-athlete or the institution. Upon discovering of a breach of this legislation, the institution has the authority to take any steps necessary to request that use be ended in order to protect the student-athlete's eligibility. Typically this is issued in the form of a "cease and desist" letter.

Prominent examples of this are:

- T-Shirts
- Wristbands
- Posters

