



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

# BOOSTER BULLETIN

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

For our December 2015 edition, we focus on the third Top Tip as described in the September 2015 edition of the Booster Bulletin.

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.

Providing a prospect, student-athlete, or a family member of a prospect or student-athlete with an item that is not available to the general public is expressly prohibited by the NCAA. Accepting extra benefits can render a student-athlete or prospect ineligible and cause you to be disassociated from the institution you support. Therefore, although your intent may be to “help” a student-athlete, please be mindful to not put these student-athletes in such a position or risk your own fanhood.

## Specifically Prohibited Extra Benefits

The following is a non-exhaustive list of *prohibited* extra benefits. If something does not appear on this list, please check with the Office of Compliance Services (OCS) prior to providing the benefit.



- Money or loans of money
- Gifts (clothing, meals, flowers, etc.)
- Use of an automobile
- Discounted merchandise
- Reduced cost housing, lodging, or rent
- Tickets to concerts or sporting events
- Speaking honorariums
- Free or reduced cost professional services (e.g., financial consulting)
- Providing academic expenses (e.g., paying for tutoring)

# Occasional Meals

On infrequent occasions (defined as an average of once per month throughout a calendar year), a team or members of a team may be provided an occasional meal. In order for a booster to host such a meal, the following restrictions must be satisfied:

- The meal is to be provided at either the booster's home, on campus, or at the team's regular practice or competition site.
- Reasonable local transportation MAY be provided to and from the location of the meal only if the meal takes place in the booster's home and if Compliance approval is provided.
- The meal must be approved by the Office of Compliance Services prior to the meal.

NOTE: Prospects and their guests *may not* attend Occasional Meals hosted by boosters.

**CONTACT OCS WITH QUESTIONS RELATED TO OCCASIONAL MEALS**



## Gifts for Student-Athletes

The holiday season is upon us. As you are doing your holiday shopping, we would like to remind you of the rules regarding gifts and student-athletes. Student-athletes are unable to receive or accept any gifts from boosters, as they are considered "extra benefits". An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or booster to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's relatives or friends a benefit not authorized by the NCAA. Extra benefit legislation prohibits boosters from providing gifts directly to a student-athlete or to the athlete's coach with the intent of having the coach provide the gift to the athlete.

Please note that the value of the gift is irrelevant—the result would still be a NCAA violation. These rules also apply to all prospective student-athletes and former student-athletes of the University of South Carolina. Gifts provided to student-athletes are considered "extra benefits" by the NCAA.

Examples of impermissible items include cash, flowers, gift certificates, loans, cards and food, even if it is as small as a batch of homemade cookies. If a student-athlete were to accept a gift he or she would be declared ineligible for competition and would face penalties imposed by the NCAA. For recruits, this type of benefit is called recruiting inducement and could potentially disqualify a recruit from participating in athletics at USC.

While these restrictions apply year-round, the holidays provide a good opportunity to remind our donors. If you wish to support our student-athletes, please contact the Gamecock Club at 803.777.4276.

### 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:*

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