



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

# BOOSTER BULLETIN

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

For our December 2013 edition, we focus on the third Top Tip as described in the September 2013 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 with the institution you support. Therefore, although you may want to "help" a student-athlete out, please be mindful to not put these student-athletes in such a position or risk your own fanhood.

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.

## 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
- Speaking honorariums
- Free or reduced cost professional services (e.g., financial consulting)
- Providing academic expenses (e.g., paying for tutoring)



## Upcoming Gamecock Athletics Events

- > **Men's Basketball**
  - 12/6— @ Oklahoma State
  - 12/17— Manhattan
  - 12/19— USC Upstate
  - 12/22— St Mary's (Diamondhead Classic)
  - 12/23— 2nd Round Diamondhead Classic
  - 12/25— 3rd Round Diamondhead Classic
  - 12/28— Akron
  - 12/30— Marshall
- > **Women's Basketball**
  - 12/2— North Carolina Central
  - 12/8— @ Charlotte
  - 12/18— North Carolina (Game in Myrtle Beach)
  - 12/20— Winthrop
  - 12/22— South Carolina State
  - 12/28— Savannah State



## 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 can be provided to and from the location of the meal only if the meal takes place in the booster's home.
- 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. The value of the gift is irrelevant, it 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.



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.

Examples of impermissible items include cash, flowers, gift certificates, cards and food even if it is as small as a batch of homemade cookies. If a student-athlete were to accept a gift they would be declared ineligible for competition and would have to 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.

Please understand that these restrictions apply year-round and this is simply a good time of the year to provide this reminder to our donors. If you wish to support our student-athletes, please contact the Gamecock Club at 803.777.4276.

If you have any questions about this information do not hesitate to contact Compliance Services using one of the options listed below.

### University of South Carolina Office of Compliance Services

Rice Athletics Center

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ATHCOMPL@mailbox.sc.edu



NCAA Information  
for Alumni

## PRIOR RELATIONSHIPS

Boosters are prohibited from providing any type of benefit to a current or prospective student-athlete, unless the booster can prove that he/she maintains a clear pre-existing relationship with the athlete or their parents.

According to the NCAA, the following criterion must be proven in order for a relationship between a booster and an athlete (or the athlete's parents) to be considered pre-existing:

1. The relationship did not develop as a result of the athlete's athletics participation or athletics notoriety;
2. The relationship must have begun before the athlete triggered prospect status (prior to the athlete entering 9th grade);
3. The relationship must predate any fame or notoriety gained by the athlete as a result of athletics achievements; and,
4. The pattern of benefits provided by the booster prior to earning skilled prospect status is similar in nature to those provided after attaining such stature.

OCS must review all relationships which might be considered "pre-existing" before any benefit is provided. Please do not assume that any relationships you have with a recruit or current student-athlete or his/her families are permissible based on the above criteria. Always contact OCS regarding these scenarios.

