



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

Booster Bulletin

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

In the previous issue, you may recall that 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 be breaking down the first list item.

- 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. 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, as 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

11/10 - vs. Arkansas 12:00 PM

11/17 - vs. Wofford 1:00 PM

11/24 - @ Clemson TBA

> Men's Basketball

11/11 - vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee 3:00 PM

11/16 - vs. Morgan State 7:00 PM

11/19 - vs. Rider 7:00 PM

11/21 - vs. Elon 7:00 PM

11/23 -24 - Hoops for Hope Classic (Puerto Vallarta, Mexico)

11/29 - @ St. John's 7:30 PM

> Women's Basketball

11/9 - vs. Elon 7:00 PM

11/12 - @ Louisiana Tech 8:00 PM

11/15 - vs. Savannah State 7:00 PM

11/18 - @ Clemson 3:00 PM

11/22-24 - US Virgin Islands Paradise Jam (St. Thomas, US VI)

11/28 - vs. Drexel 7:00 PM

> Women's Volleyball

11/2 - @ Missouri 7:30 PM

11/4 - @ Kentucky 1:30 PM

11/9 - vs. Mississippi State 7:00 PM

11/11 - @ Tennessee 1:30 PM

11/16 - @ Alabama 8:00 PM

11/18 - @ Florida 1:30 PM

11/2 - Arkansas 1:30 PM

> Women's Tennis

11/2-4 - University of New Mexico Invite

> Men's Tennis

11/2-4 - Carolinas Invitational (Rock Hill, SC)



NCAA Enforcement Staff Approves Enforcement Model Updates

On October 30, 2012, the NCAA approved sweeping changes to its Enforcement model. The new model creates additional levels of infractions and ratchets up penalties for the most egregious violations. Four new categories have been implemented, ranging from incidental infractions (Level IV) that are isolated in nature to severe breaches of conduct (Level I) that can call into question a program's integrity.

When asked about examples qualifying as a Level I severe violations, the NCAA cited a booster being involved in providing gifts to entice a student-athlete to enroll at a particular school. By providing this example, the NCAA shows booster influence will be scrutinized more than ever. Penalties from booster-related violations become more strict; examples include head coach suspensions, scholarship reductions, and postseason bans for the program

The Office of Compliance Services asks that boosters show their support of Gamecock Athletics through commitment to the rules. By protecting the integrity of USC and the Department of Athletics, you will provide all of the assistance necessary to carry on as a top athletics program.



Information Regarding NCAA's Committee on 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 is 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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- > Swimming & Diving
 - 11/3 - @Virginia
 - 11/9 - @College of Charleston
 - 11/15-17 - Virginia Tech Invitational
- > Women's Equestrian
 - 11/2 - @ Georgia 2:00 PM
 - 11/16 - @ Texas A&M 3:00 PM
 - 11/17 - @ Baylor 11:00 AM
 - 11/18 - @ SMU 11:00 AM
- > Women's Cross Country
 - 11/9 - NCAA Southeast Regional
 - 11/17 - NCAA Championships
- > Men's Soccer
 - 11/4 - @Kentucky 1:00 PM



NCAA DEFINITION CENTER

Prospective student-athlete (n) - a student who has started classes for the 9th grade. Also includes a student at a two-year school (i.e., junior college).

- Maintains this status until:
 - 1) enrolling full-time at a 4-year school;
 - 2) attending summer classes prior to initial full-time enrollment; or,
 - 3) Participating in practice or competition before the start of a full-time term.

Contact (n) - any face-to-face encounter in excess of a greeting between a prospect or prospect's relatives and an athletics representative (i.e., coach) or an institutional staff member.

