University of South Carolina

Gamecock Compliance

May I Bring this Kid to a Game?

"May I bring this kid to a game?" is a common question many people have when it comes to their children's or grandchildren's friends. This is especially true once the individuals involved are in high school, and considered a "prospect" by the NCAA. Due to NCAA rules it is important to examine the situation and circumstances surrounding bringing this individual to the game.

An example of a typical scenario is as follows. Mr. Cocky's grandson would like to take his friend and fellow high school teammate, a prospective student-athlete and potential South Carolina recruit, to a Carolina game. Mr. Cocky has provided his grandson and his grandson's friends with tickets and travel to USC home games for over 10 years. Additionally, Mr. Cocky usually bring his grandson and his friend to the family's tailgate as well.

The question: Is this permissible according to NCAA rules?

Yes, it would be permissible based on all of the following facts:

- Mr. Cocky has a pre-existing relationship with his grandson's friends;

- Mr. Cocky's relationship with the prospective student-athlete did not originate in athletics; it is based on the friendship with his grandson;

- Mr. Cocky did not arrange the proposed benefit; his grandson did;

- Mr. Cocky is providing benefits he has consistently provided to his grandson's friends, regardless of athletic ability, for several years; and

- Neither Mr. Cocky nor his friends or family will solicit the prospective student-athlete's participation in athletics at the University of South Carolina.

The last item is necessary due to NCAA rules that preclude boosters from soliciting the enrollment of a prospect at the University of South Carolina.

Maintaining compliance is essential to the success of our athletic programs and we ask for your help in making sure the University of South Carolina is operating within the rules. If you have any NCAA compliance questions or concerns please contact the Office of Compliance Services.

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