



This tip sheet is intended to provide a summary of permissible activities related to student-athletes hosting birthday parties at local business establishments. Please remember to contact the Office of Compliance Services if you have any questions pertaining to NCAA, SEC and South Carolina rules.

Questions & Answers:

1. Can a student-athlete host his/her birthday party at a local business establishment (i.e., nightclub)?

Yes. A student-athlete can have his/her birthday party at a local business establishment.

2. Can a student-athlete receive free admission into the local business establishment?

No. If it is standard that the business charges a cover/entrance fee to all customers, the student-athlete and his/her guest(s) must be charged and pay for the same cover/entrance fee.

3. Can a student-athlete receive discounts on food/drinks for hosting his/her birthday party at the local business?

No. A student-athlete and his/her guests may not receive any form of discount that a regular customer would not receive. However, if it is the business' standard practice to provide discounts to all customers that host his/her birthday party at the establishment, then the student-athlete could receive the same discount. Please note the business must be able to show that any discount provided to the student-athlete or his/her guest(s) is offered and provided to all customers in the normal course of business.

4. Can a student-athlete and his/her guest(s) receive VIP access?

No. A student-athlete and his/her guest(s) may not receive access to restricted/VIP areas of the business. However, if it is the business' standard practice to charge guests a specific fee to obtain access to a restricted/VIP area and the student-athlete pays the specific fee then the student-athlete may gain access to the restricted area.

5. Can the business advertise that the student-athlete's birthday party will take place at its establishment?

No. NCAA rules and regulations prohibit a commercial entity from using a student-athlete's name, image or likeness (e.g., using a student-athlete's name or picture on a nightclub's flyer or social media site). If a business does use the student-athlete's name, image or likeness, the student-athlete would be deemed ineligible for competition and the institution would have to seek reinstatement for the student-athlete's eligibility from the NCAA.

Additional Reminders:

- If a student-athlete receives an extra benefit from a local business (e.g., discounted admission, free food or merchandise or free access to a restricted area), the student-athlete could be withheld from competition and would have to pay back the amount of the benefit to a charitable organization.
- Please remember that a violation of NCAA rules would cause negative publicity for the student-athlete, team, institution and local business involved in the violation.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact the University of South Carolina Office of Compliance Services at 803-777-1519 or ATHCOMPL@mailbox.sc.edu