



Extra Benefits

An extra benefit is defined as any special arrangement by an institutional employee or booster to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's friends or relatives a benefit not authorized by the NCAA. When a student-athlete or their parents, relatives or friends receive a benefit not authorized by the NCAA, the student-athlete's eligibility will be put in jeopardy.

Examples of extra benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Free or reduced-cost housing
- Transportation
- An automobile or use of an automobile
- Services from commercial agencies without charge or at reduced rates (e.g., movie tickets, dinners)
- Cash or gift certificates or other items with monetary value
- Free or reduced-cost meals
- Free or reduced-cost parking

Boosters

As the parent of a University of South Carolina student-athlete, you should be aware that the NCAA has imposed limitations and boundaries on the kinds of interactions you may have with people whom the NCAA defines as "representatives of athletics interests" or boosters. A booster is an individual who is a member of an organization that supports and promotes Gamecock athletics; made any financial contributions to the athletics department (Gamecock Club); has been involved in promoting Gamecocks athletics program; has been a season ticket holder or provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their relatives or friends. **Once an individual has been identified as a booster, they retain that status forever.** While your child is enrolled at the University of South Carolina it is a possibility that you may meet and interact with people who are considered boosters. One example of this would be tailgating with boosters. It would be impermissible to accept anything of value (food, drinks, ticket upgrades, parking, etc.) from a booster. In summary, NCAA rules would not allow a student-athlete or their parents to receive benefits from anyone as result of their achieved status, reputation or participation as an athlete.

Complimentary Admissions

The University of South Carolina may provide a student-athlete with a maximum of four complimentary admissions per regular season home and away competition. Student-athletes may not receive hard tickets, as complimentary admissions may be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. Student-athletes may assign complimentary admissions to family members, relatives and friends that are requested and approved through college.jumpforward.com. The individual receiving the complimentary admission must present a photo ID at the admissions gate in order to receive the complimentary admission. Neither the student-athlete, nor the individual designated to receive the tickets may exchange the ticket for money or any item of value. Doing so would result in a violation of NCAA legislation.

Agents and Amateurism

A student-athlete may jeopardize their amateur status if they have inappropriate contact with an agent or their representatives. A student-athlete may not agree, either orally or in writing, to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing their athletic ability or reputation in a sport. In addition, it is not permissible for a student-athlete to enter into a verbal or written agreement with an agent for representation in future professional sports negotiations once his/her collegiate eligibility has expired in that sport.

It is permissible for a student-athlete to secure legal advice from a lawyer concerning a proposed, professional sports contract, provided the lawyer does not represent the student-athlete in negotiations for such a contract. The student-athlete must pay the lawyer the going rate for their legal advice or else this would be considered an extra benefit. A lawyer may not be present during discussions of a contract offer with a professional sports organization on behalf of the student-athlete. A lawyer's presence during such discussions is considered representation by an agent.

Consequences of NCAA Rules Violations

A violation of NCAA rules by a student-athlete will immediately put their eligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletics in jeopardy. In addition, a violation of NCAA rules by the parents, relatives and/or friends of a student-athlete will have a similar effect. As a result, the eligibility status of a University of South Carolina student-athlete may be adversely impacted by the actions of their parents or others (e.g., boosters), even if the student-athlete did not have any knowledge of the events and circumstances that led to the violation of NCAA rules. Please be aware that your actions, regardless of your child's knowledge or approval, may have eligibility ramifications for him/her.

Questions? - Office of Compliance Services - 803.777.1519 – athcompl@mailbox.sc.edu

Remember: Ask Before You Act!

