



University of South Carolina Gamecock Compliance

Booster Quick Reference Guide

NCAA violations by “boosters” typically involve the recruitment of prospects and/or providing extra benefits to enrolled student-athletes. Here are some guidelines to help better understand what you as a booster may or may not do.

ARE YOU A UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOOSTER?

A “booster” is an individual or business that has:

- Participated in or belonged to an organization promoting USC Athletics.
- Contributed financially to the USC Athletic Department.
- Provided NCAA-permissible benefits to enrolled or prospective student-athletes or their families.
- A fan of Gamecock Athletics.

Any misunderstanding or disregard of a rule by a booster could result in sanctions against USC, a coach, administrator, student-athlete, or prospect. Sanctions could include: loss of eligibility, scholarships, or recruiting opportunities; fines or banishment from postseason competition.

WHO IS A PROSPECT?

A “prospect” (“prospective student-athlete”) is:

- Any student (whether he/she participates in sports or not) who has begun classes for the ninth grade.
- Any student in a prep school (post 12th-grade), junior college, or a student who has officially withdrawn from a four-year school.

A student who has not yet started the ninth grade may become a prospect if USC or a booster provides the student or his/her relatives with financial assistance or benefits not generally provided to students who are not athletes.

WHAT IS RECRUITING?

Recruiting is any solicitation of a prospect or his/her family for the purpose of securing his/her enrollment at USC and ultimate participation in athletics. Recruiting activities include, but are not limited to: written correspondence, e-mail, faxes, telephone conversations, instant messenger, and in-person contacts both on and off USC’s campus.

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WHO MAY RECRUIT?

Coaches and University of South Carolina Athletics Department staff members are the only people who may be involved in the recruiting process.

- A booster may not make any recruiting contact on or off-campus with a prospect or his/her family.
- A booster may not have contact with a prospect that is visiting the USC campus on an official or unofficial visit.
- A booster may not contact a prospect's coach, principal, or counselor to evaluate the prospect's academic or athletic ability or provide any of them with extra benefits.
- A booster may not talk to a student-athlete at another 4-year or 2-year college for the purpose of encouraging him/her to transfer to USC.
- If a prospect approaches or calls you regarding USC Athletics, explain that NCAA rules prevent you from discussing USC with him/her.

WHAT IS PERMISSIBLE?

- A booster may bring prospects to the attention of USC coaches by providing newspaper clippings or other information obtained within NCAA rules.
- Casual contact with a prospect at a PSA's athletics event is permissible if it is incidental and not for recruiting purposes and involves only a normal exchange of greetings.
- A doctor/dentist who is a booster may treat a prospect as part of a normal doctor-patient relationship, but must not give any free or reduced services to the prospect.

WHAT MAY A BOOSTER PROVIDE?

- An occasional meal at his/her home, not a restaurant, for an enrolled student-athlete or an entire team within a 30-mile radius of campus. The meal must be restricted to infrequent and special occasions, and requires prior approval from the Office of Compliance Services.
- Employment for student-athletes:
 - A booster may employ a prospective student-athlete or student-athlete. The student-athlete must complete an employment form with the Office of Compliance Services PRIOR to employment.
 - Pay must be for actual work at the same rate that other employees receive for similar work. No benefits may be provided to the student-athlete that are not available to all employees.

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