

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

BOOSTER  **BULLETIN**

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

**COMPLIANCE IN THE NEWS****SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY****What happened?**

- [Among other violations, boosters provided impermissible payments to five student-athletes totaling over \\$8,000.](#) SA's participated in "volunteer" work but were paid for involvement with YMCA camps and mentoring activities. Additionally, boosters provided transportation to three SA's and provided a meal to one SA. Syracuse University was found to have violations pertaining to extra benefits, drug testing procedures, head coach responsibilities, unethical conduct/academic fraud and lack of institutional control.

Why it's an issue

- NCAA rule 16.02.3 prohibits student-athletes from receiving any special arrangement by institutional employee or booster to provide a SA or SA family member or friend a benefit not available to other students and not expressly authorized by NCAA Legislation.
- NCAA rule 12.4.1 states that SA's compensation must be only for work performed; and at the going rate for similar services.
- NCAA rule 12.4.2.1 says that for any mentoring or coaching, the fee must be paid by the lesson recipient and not another individual entity.

What the NCAA says about it

- The NCAA Committee of infractions concluded that these extra benefits violations collectively constituted a level II violation.
- The program's numerous violations lead to institutional and men's basketball specific penalties. The institutional penalties consisted of: public reprimand and censure, five year probation, vacation of wins and any records for certain years, fine of \$500 per contest for those years and return of all monies received for participation in 2011, 2012 and 2013 NCAA MBB Tournament.
- Men's Basketball specific penalties included: reduction of three MBB scholarships for the next four seasons, reduction of number of campus recruiters from four to two.

BRAXTON MILLER**What happened?**

- [The Ohio State University is investigating Football Student-Athlete, Braxton Miller,](#) after he published pictures on his Instagram account with AdvoCare products. The school has not commented, other than they are looking into the situation.

Why it's an issue

- NCAA rules prohibit student-athletes from promoting commercial products or services.
- Additionally, while NCAA employment rules allow a student-athlete to own a business, the student-athlete is not permitted to use his/her name, image, or likeness to promote the business.
- The Instagram photo showing Miller with the AdvoCare products has been removed from his account.
- AdvoCare has published on their website information for student-athletes that are interested in owning an AdvoCare business, which indicates that it is not permissible for student-athletes to use their name, image, likeness, or social media accounts to promote the business. <https://www.advocare.com/microsite/pdf/NCAArecommendations.pdf>

What the NCAA says about it

- The NCAA recently published the following Staff Interpretation which indicates a student-athlete may provide an opinion on a commercial product or service, provided he/she doesn't receive any benefits for providing that opinion and no one associated with the commercial product or service directs or asks the student-athlete to provide his/her opinion on the commercial product or service

Upcoming Gamecock Athletics Events**Women's Basketball**

4/5—vs. Notre Dame—FINAL FOUR (Tampa)
4/7—TBD

Baseball

4/2, 4/3, 4/4—@ Miss St.
4/7—vs. Appalachian St.
4/8—vs. The Citadel
4/10, 4/11, 4/12—@ Florida
4/14—vs. Presbyterian
4/16, 4/17, 4/18—vs. Vanderbilt
4/21—vs. Furman
4/24, 4/25, 4/26—@ Tennessee

Softball

4/1—vs. College of Charleston
4/3, 4/4—@Florida
4/7—USC Upstate
4/10, 4/11, 4/12—vs. Arkansas
4/14—@ Coastal
4/17, 4/18, 4/19—@Kentucky
4/21—vs. Georgia Southern
4/24, 4/25, 4/26—@ Mississippi

Track

4/3, 4/4—Florida Relays (@Gainesville)
4/10, 4/11—Bill Carson Inv. (@Greenville)
4/23, 4/24, 4/25—Penn Relays (@Philadelphia)

Men's Tennis

4/3—@ Alabama
4/5—@ Miss. St.
4/9—vs. Ole Miss
4/11—vs. Arkansas, vs. SC St.

Women's Tennis

4/3—@ Vanderbilt
4/5—@ Kentucky
4/10—vs. Tennessee
4/12—vs. Georgia
4/15, 4/16, 4/17, 4/18, 4/19—SEC Tournament

**GAMECOCK CLUB** ESTABLISHED 1940

PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT TO PROSPECTIVE OR CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES

For April 2015, our topic is #7 from September's edition of Top Tips for Fans & Friends of USC Athletics:

⇒ You may not provide entertainment to prospects, current student-athletes, their friends and family members, or prospects' coaches.

Q & A: Entertainment for Current Student-Athletes

Q: I have extra tickets to a professional sporting event that I would like to give to a team to congratulate them on a fine season. Can I do this?

A: Generally, no. NCAA regulations allow an institution to provide reasonable entertainment to a student-athlete or team during the declared playing season. For this to happen permissibly the booster would need to donate the entertainment to the Gamecock Club through the Gift In Kind process. The institution would then provide the reasonable entertainment to the student-athlete or team. Check with the Office of Compliance Services and the Gamecock Club prior to donating through the Gift In Kind process.

Q: Am I allowed to provide a meal to a USC team?

A: As a booster, you are permitted to host an occasional meal for a team, provided the following conditions are met:

- The meal must be provided in your home, on-campus, or at a facility regularly used for home competition. It may not be held at an off-campus restaurant. It may, however, be catered;
- You may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend the meal, but only if the meal is being held at your home; and
- Approval for the meal must be granted beforehand by the Office of Compliance Services. Please contact OCS for a copy of the Occasional Meal Request Form.

Q: I own a local restaurant/bar and want to have a night to celebrate Gamecock Athletics. Can I offer discounted food and drink to USC athletes only?

A: No. The provision of discounted food and drink to only USC athletes would constitute an extra benefit to these athletes and, therefore, is not permissible. Student-athletes may only utilize discounts that are available to the general student body.

Q & A: Entertainment for Prospective Student-Athletes

Q: May I invite a prospective student-athlete and his/her family to an occasional meal that I am hosting.

A: No. On- or off-campus contact with prospects or their family or friends may not take place until the prospect is in classes, even if he/she signs a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement to attend USC.

Q: A classmate of my child has just signed with USC, and I would like to take him to a local Gamecock Club meeting to introduce him to my fellow Gamecock Athletics supporters. Is this allowed?

A: No, it is not. Please remember that NCAA recruiting regulations still apply to a prospect, even after he or she signs a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement to attend USC.

University of South Carolina Office of Compliance Services

Rice Athletics Center

Phone: 803-777-1519

1304 Heyward Street

Fax: 803-777-9070

Columbia, SC 29208

ATHCOMPL@mailbox.sc.edu



NCAA Information for Alumni



Upcoming Gamecock Athletics Events

Men's Golf

4/17, 4/18, 4/19—SEC Tournament

Women's Golf

4/10, 4/11, 4/12—Ping Inv. (@ Tempe Arizona)
4/17, 4/18, 4/19—SEC Tournament (@ Birmingham, AL)

Equestrian

4/16, 4/17, 4/18—NCEA National Championship (@Waco, TX)

Sand Volleyball

4/11, 4/12—Pairs Tournament (@Siesta Key, FL)
4/18— vs. Spring Hill, LSU, Louisiana Monroe (@LSU)
4/19— vs. Tulane, vs. New Orleans (@LSU)

Football

4/11—Garnet & Black Spring Game



GAMECOCK CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1940