



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

Booster Bulletin

Information for Boosters and Representatives of Athletics Interests

Last month the Booster Bulletin newsletter outlined do's and don't's for providing transportation expenses or modes of transportation for current student-athletes, prospects, and their family members. May 2013 will focus on the following Top Tip for Boosters:

- 7) You may not provide entertainment to prospects, student-athletes, his/her friends and family members, or prospects' coaches.

Please read through the following information for further tips on avoiding violations by staying within entertainment rules.

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: No. NCAA regulations prohibit the institution or any of its boosters from obtaining and providing professional sporting event tickets to student-athletes. Such a gift of tickets would be considered an unacceptable extra benefit. Provision of these tickets is permissible only if done through the institution as entertainment during a team trip for an away-from-home contest.

Q: Am I allowed to provide a meal to a USC team before the academic year is over?

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. You may, however, provide student-athletes with discounts that are available to the general student body.

Upcoming Gamecock Athletics Events

> Baseball

5/3 - vs. Vanderbilt 7:00 PM
5/4 - vs. Vanderbilt 12:00 PM
5/5 - vs. Vanderbilt 3:00 PM

5/8 - vs. Wofford 7:00 PM

5/10 - vs. Georgia 7:30 PM
5/11 - vs. Georgia 1:00 PM
5/12 - vs. Georgia 1:30 PM

5/14 - vs. Presbyterian 7:00 PM

5/16 - @ Mississippi State 7:30 PM
5/17 - @ Mississippi State 7:30 PM
5/18 - @ Mississippi State 3:00 PM

5/21 -26 - SEC Tournament
(Hoover, AL)

5/31-6/3 - NCAA Regionals
(Location TBA)

> Women's Golf

5/9-11 - NCAA Regionals
(Location TBA)

5/21-24 - NCA Championship
(Athens, GA)

> Men's Golf

5/16-18 - NCAA Regionals
(TBA)

5/28-6/2 - NCAA Championship
(Atlanta, GA)

> Track & Field

5/9-12 - SEC Outdoor Championships
(Columbia, MD)

5/23-25 - NCAA Preliminary Round
(Greensboro, NC)

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.

Entertainment for Coaches of Prospective Student-Athletes

Boosters are not permitted to provide any expenses to an individual who coaches prospective student-athletes. In fact, the only entertainment that may be provided is institution is restricted from providing any expenses with the exception of a complimentary admission to a USC home contest that takes place within 30 miles of campus. Please do not provide these individuals with any other entertainment expenses (drinks at a bar, movie tickets, etc.).

NCAA DEFINITION CENTER

Extra Benefit (n): special arrangement by an institutional employee or a booster to provide a student-athlete or a student-athlete's family or friends a benefit not generally available to the institution's general student body or their relatives or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability

Preferential Treatment (n): occurs when a student-athlete receives benefits or services at a reduced cost based on their athletics status or ability.

* Unlike the provision of extra benefits, preferential treatment results when the institution does not have knowledge of the treatment, benefit or service being provided to the student-athlete.

Rules Working Group Proposals—Update

On March 20, it was announced that two Rules Working Group proposals were overridden by the membership after each received the required 75 votes of opposition. The two proposals are as follows:

- ◆ **Proposal 13_3:** would eliminate the rule banning certain modes of communication (text messaging) and eliminating numerical limits on phone calls
- ◆ **Proposal 11_3B:** would streamline scouting rules by prohibiting in-person scouting of future opponents for all sports.

These proposals will be reviewed at a May 2, 2013 Division I Board of Directors meeting alongside the two that were previously delayed by the Board of Directors (Proposals 11_2 and 13_5A).

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



> Softball

5/3 - vs. Florida **6:00 PM**
5/4 - vs. Florida **2:00 PM**
5/5 - vs. Florida **1:00 PM**

5/8-11 - SEC Tournament (Lexington, KY) **7:15 PM**

5/17-19 - NCAA Regionals (Location TBA)

5/24-26 - NCAA Super Regionals (Location TBA)

5/30-6/5 - College World Series (Oklahoma City, OK)

> Men's Tennis

5/10-12 - NCAA Tournament 1st & 2nd Round (Location TBA)

5/16-21 - NCAA Team Championships (Urbana, IL)

5/22-27 - NCAA Singles/Doubles Championships (Urbana, IL)

> Women's Tennis

5/10-12 - NCAA Tournament 1st & 2nd Round (Location TBA)

5/17-21 - NCAA Team Championships (Urbana, IL)

5/22-27 - NCAA Singles/Doubles Championships (Urbana, IL)

