

The Irish Interpreter

Volume 4, Issue 2 October 2009
Notre Dame Athletics Compliance Office

Booster Briefing

Can I Provide A Meal For Current Notre Dame Student-Athletes?

Recently many of our boosters have asked questions about providing meals for Notre Dame Student-Athletes. The answer to these questions is yes, under a specific set of guidelines.

NCAA rules permit a student-athlete or the entire team to receive an occasional meal from institutional staff members in the locale of the institution on infrequent and special occasions. Boosters are also permitted to provide such meals. However, an occasional meal provided by a booster must be provided in the booster's home and may not be held in a restaurant. This meal may be catered and reasonable local transportation may be provided for student-athletes to attend the meal.

Would it be permissible for an alumni club to provide meals to our student-athletes and teams when traveling for competition?

No, not directly, but options to provide meals to Notre Dame teams do exist:

Not surprisingly, NCAA rules permit an institution to provide meals to student-athletes while traveling for away competition.

If boosters or alumni clubs are interested in providing a meal to traveling Notre Dame teams, the occasional meal option previously discussed does not exist. However, the booster or alumni club has other options.

The boosters or alumni clubs can either work in conjunction with the Notre Dame Monogram Club to provide a donation covering such a meal or make a restricted gift to the particular athletics team for the cost of this meal. Any donation to the team should be made through the Notre Dame Athletics Business Office and clearly outline the restricted purpose of the gift to provide a meal for the team.

These options are permissible because, following the donation, the meals are now being provided by the institution. If you have questions about meals or other issues, please feel free to contact the Compliance Office.

A Booster is any individual or entity who:

- Has ever been a member of an organization promoting Irish Athletics
- Has ever made a financial contribution to Notre Dame Athletics
- Has ever been involved in the recruitment of a prospect
- Has ever provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes
- Has ever been otherwise involved in promoting Notre Dame Athletics

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Around the Country

Oklahoma State Baseball

The NCAA has determined that Oklahoma State University did not commit a major violation when a baseball player accepted a used car from a church group associated with his host family during summer league competition.

The institution argued that because the value of the car was less than \$5,000 and was an “isolated and inadvertent” incident, it was not a major violation warranting a failure to monitor violation. The NCAA Committee on Infractions agreed and ruled that two secondary violations had been committed. The Committee accepted the institution’s self imposed penalties, which included a letter of reprimand to the compliance director for failing to recognize the violation despite his knowledge of the gift and a requirement for increased staff rules education.

Georgetown University Baseball

The Georgetown University Athletics Department has been placed on probation by the NCAA Committee on Infractions following major violations committed by its baseball program from 2000 through 2007. In addition to the three-year probationary period, the baseball program must vacate records from all games in which 26 ineligible players participated. Additionally, the NCAA has reduced the number of permissible athletic scholarships to five through the 2011-2012 academic year.

Student-athletes received roughly \$61,522 in unearned federal work-study funds due to time-keeping errors. The players were allowed work-study jobs within the baseball program, such as doing the team’s laundry and performing maintenance on the field. An assistant coach failed to accurately record the players’ specific work intervals and allowed them to record 20 hours per week regardless of work actually performed.

Georgetown has repaid the funds to the Department of Education. Georgetown does not plan on appealing the NCAA’s decision.

Appeals Court Rules NCAA Must Release Florida State Documents

-Paul Flemming, Tallahassee Democrat

A three-judge panel of the Florida 1st District Court of Appeals has unanimously upheld a lower court ruling that records in Florida State University’s fight with the NCAA should be made public.

The ruling rejects NCAA arguments that the documents are not public records, that student-privacy laws preclude their release, and that requiring their release violates the NCAA’s constitutional rights.

Media organizations filed suit in June to force release of the documents. They were made available to FSU attorneys on a secure, copy-protected website. The Appellate Court ruled that the documents became public record when agents of the university viewed them in conjunction with official business.

The Court stated, “public records are not defined by their means of transmission. If that were not the case, a party could easily circumvent the public records laws. The (NCAA) appeal by the University is a matter of public concern. It is not transformed into a private matter merely because the documents the University lawyers used to prepare the appeal reside on a computer owned by a private organization.”

NCAA Vice President David Berst has stated that this ruling would “rip the heart out of the NCAA,” while others at the NCAA have remarked that this ruling could fundamentally hinder the ability of the Enforcement Staff to perform adequate investigations in the future by eliminating the anonymity of witnesses.

Test Your Knowledge

QUESTION 1

Is it permissible to decorate a prospect’s hotel room when he or she comes to campus on a recruiting visit?

QUESTION 2

Is it permissible for a booster to provide benefits to a prospect's coach?

QUESTION 3

During the recruitment of a prospective student-athlete, can a coach produce a PowerPoint presentation tailored specifically for the athlete?

Compliance Alphabet Soup

Degree

Requirements:

A student-athlete must maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain eligible for competition. This requires student-athletes to complete a minimum number of credit hours per semester and per academic year as well as maintain a minimum grade-point average each term. Beginning with the student-athletes' third year, they must also satisfy a percentage of degree requirement annually.

Exhausted

Eligibility:

In Division I, a student-athlete has five years from his or her initial full-time enrollment at any institution to compete in up to four seasons of intercollegiate competition. After the student-athlete has used all of his or her seasons of competition eligibility, the student-athlete has exhausted his or her eligibility.

Financial Aid:

Student-athletes may receive institutionally administered financial aid, such as an athletics grant-in-aid or an academic scholarship. Financial aid cannot exceed the value of the cost of attendance for a student at the University of Notre Dame.

Gambling:

In any sport sponsored by the NCAA, student-athletes, coaches, and Athletics Department staff members are prohibited from soliciting or accepting bets on intercollegiate or professional athletics contests. This includes wagers for money or any other tangible item of value. Also, it is impermissible to provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics.



In the Pipeline

September 29, 2009
The NCAA News

The Division I Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet has chosen to support several current proposals in the 2009-2010 NCAA Legislative Cycle that could significantly alter the recruiting landscape for both coaches and prospective student-athletes around the country, including one that would allow unlimited telephone calls to prospects during contact periods.

A proposal sponsored by the Pacific-10 Conference would permit unlimited calls to prospective student-athletes during a specific sport's contact period. The proposal is intended to alleviate the burden on compliance personnel and coaches to monitor the calls and keep up with changing rules. Although the current restrictions on recruiting calls were originally enacted to limit the intrusion on the lives of prospective student-athletes, the Cabinet agreed with the Pac-10 that monitoring telephone calls is an increasingly difficult burden on compliance offices and that prospective-student athletes often prefer to communicate electronically through e-mail. While the Cabinet still has concerns about the intrusion into the lives of prospects, the group agreed that coaches, prospects, and their families could share the responsibility of setting parameters on contacts.

The cabinet also supported a Southeastern Conference proposal prohibiting distribution of media guides to recruits, but took no position on a competing Pac-10 proposal prohibiting the production of printed media guides. Both proposals have been presented as avenues for cost-containment.

The progress of these and other proposals in the current legislative cycle will be closely monitored by the Notre Dame Athletics Compliance Office.

Test Your Knowledge

Question 1:

NO. NCAA legislation states that an institution may not arrange miscellaneous, personalized recruiting aids (e.g., personalized jerseys, personalized audio/video scoreboard presentations) and may not permit a prospective student-athlete to engage in any game-day simulations (e.g., running onto the field with the team during pre-game introductions) during an official visit. Personalized recruiting aids include any decorative items and special additions to any location the prospective student-athlete will visit (e.g., hotel room, locker room, coach's office, conference room, arena) regardless of whether or not the items include the prospective student-athlete's name or picture.

Question 2:

NO. Representatives of Notre Dame's athletics interests (boosters) are not permitted to provide any material benefits (e.g., cash, meals, car) to the coach of a prospective student-athlete (i.e., high school, preparatory school, junior college, AAU). Boosters are prohibited from being involved in any recruiting activities with a prospect, the prospect's parents, or the prospect's coach. Only coaches and athletics department staff members may be involved in the recruiting process. Boosters may not contact a prospect, or members of the prospect's family, by e-mail, letter, telephone, or in-person for the purpose of soliciting their enrollment at Notre Dame. This prohibition also applies to the prospect's coach. In addition, a booster may not visit a prospect's educational institution to pick up film or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's academic eligibility or athletics ability.

Question 3:

No. A PowerPoint presentation may not contain the name or likeness of the prospect. However, a generic PowerPoint presentation containing still photos and built-in transitions may be used. Audio and video highlights are not permissible unless they would otherwise qualify under NCAA bylaw 13.4.2.1 governing highlight films.

NCAA RECRUITING CALENDARS

CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK

October 1– 31, 2009: Contact Period

FOOTBALL

October 1– 31, 2009: Quiet Period

(except for 42 permissible evaluation days)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

October 1– 5, 2009: Contact Period

October 6– 31, 2009: Evaluation Period

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

October 1-6, 2009: Contact Period

October 2– 4, 2009: *Evaluations permitted at nonscholastic events*

October 7-31, 2009: Evaluation Period

BASEBALL

October 1– 31, 2009: Contact Period

SOFTBALL

October 1– 31, 2009: Contact Period

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

October 1 – 31, 2009: Contact Period

MEN'S LACROSSE

October 1– 31, 2009: Contact Period

(No Evaluations)

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

October 1 – 31, 2009: Contact Period

ALL OTHER SPORTS

October 1– 31, 2009: Contact Period