Dear Alumni and Friends:

Thank you for your support of Southern Miss Athletics! The continued success of our program depends on the loyal support of fans like you and we sincerely appreciate all of your contributions.

We hope that you will continue to support the University and its student-athletes with integrity and in a manner that is consistent with NCAA, Conference USA, and Southern Miss rules and regulations. To that end, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations outlined in this brochure. When a Southern Miss “booster” violates these rules, even inadvertently and unintentionally, that individual puts our student-athletes and University at risk.

Each year, the national media covers stories of student-athletes and prospects who are ruled ineligible as a result of their relationship with boosters. Southern Miss can avoid these harsh penalties by having an educated and proactive fan base. If you become aware of a potential violation, please report it to the Southern Miss Compliance Office as soon as possible, even if you are not sure of the permissibility of the issue. If you have questions whatsoever regarding NCAA rules and regulations, please ask before you act!

Again, thank you for everything you do for The University of Southern Mississippi. We are proud to have your loyal support. Southern Miss to the Top!

Sincerely,

Bill McGillis, Director of Athletics

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FAQ

Q: May I call a prospective student-athlete on the telephone?

A: No. You may not initiate a call to a prospective student-athlete. You may receive such a call, but all questions concerning Southern Miss Athletics must be referred to the Athletics Department.

Q: I have heard that a prominent recruit will be attending an upcoming game. May I make a sign encouraging him/her to attend Southern Miss?

A: No. You are prohibited from displaying a sign referencing a particular prospect.

Q: May a current student-athlete attend my fundraising event?

A: Possibly. Student-athletes may participate in promotional activities for educational, charitable, or non-profit organizations only. All such requests must receive pre-approval from the Compliance Office.

Q: May I give a small gift to a student-athlete to honor his/her service to Southern Miss?

A: No. This is an impermissible extra benefit, even if he or she has graduated.
Who is a “Booster?”

Probably you! The NCAA defines a booster, or “representative of athletics interest,” as any individual or organization that has:

- Participated in promoting Southern Miss Athletics or been a member of an organization that promotes Southern Miss Athletics;
- Made financial contributions to the Athletics Department or a Southern Miss booster club;
- Assisted or been requested to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes;
- Provided benefits to an enrolled student-athlete or his/her family; or
- Otherwise been involved in promoting the Athletic Department.

How Long Do you Retain Booster Status?

- Once you are a booster, you retain that status for life.

Why Does it Matter?

- Violations of NCAA rules by boosters may be imputed to Southern Miss. As such, Southern Miss may be held responsible for the actions of our boosters, which could result in increased penalties against the University.

Boosters and Student-Athletes

Booster contact with student-athletes and their families is heavily regulated by the NCAA. You may not provide anything of value to a student-athlete (e.g. service, apparel, food) unless he or she pays the same rate as the general public. The following NCAA rules apply to any interaction between boosters, student-athletes, and their families.

The NCAA **PERMITS** boosters to:
- Make donations to Southern Miss Athletics and affiliated support groups;
- Endow an athletic scholarship through the Southern Miss Athletic Foundation;
- Provide a meal for student-athletes at the booster’s home. The meal must be pre-approved by the Compliance Office;
- Follow student-athletes on social media;
- Employ a student-athlete at the going rate for work actually performed; and
- Rent an apartment to a student-athlete at the going rate.

The NCAA **PROHIBITS** boosters from:
- Providing/guaranteeing a loan;
- Providing gifts of any kind;
- Providing free or discounted goods, services, or meals; and
- Buying game tickets from student-athletes.

Boosters and Prospects

The NCAA defines a prospective student-athlete as any individual who has enrolled in 9th grade. The individual’s skill in a particular sport is irrelevant.

The NCAA **PERMITS** boosters to:
- Attend high school games, provided the booster does not contact the prospective student-athlete or his/her family;
- Notify Southern Miss coaches about a talented prospect; and
- Continue an existing relationship with a prospect, provided (1) the relationship precedes the prospect entering the 9th grade; (2) is unrelated to athletics; and (3) no recruitment occurs.

The NCAA **PROHIBITS** boosters from:
- Contacting a prospect in-person, by phone, or through social media;
- Providing anything of value to a prospect or his/her family for which he/she does not pay the going rate;
- Providing transportation to a prospect or his/her family; and
- Otherwise attempting to recruit a prospect.

Compliance on Twitter: @USMCompliance