

How Can I, as a Booster, Entertain Student-Athletes and Prospects?

Q: I have a boat that I'd like to provide to the program to help entertain prospects on recruiting weekends. Is this permissible?

A: Only under a number of conditions. First, your boat would have to be within 30 miles of the UNC campus. Secondly, as a UNC booster, you would not be allowed to be in attendance or have any contact with prospects. Finally, if any type of boat ride is provided, the prospects in attendance, as well as their student hosts, would have to pay the normal retail cost for such a service.

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 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:

- (a) 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;
- (b) 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
- (c) Approval for the meal must be granted beforehand by both the appropriate head coach and the UNC Compliance Office (962-6000).

Q: I own a local establishment and want to have a night to celebrate Carolina athletics. Can I offer discounted food and drink to Carolina athletes only?

A: No. The provision of discounted food and drink to only Carolina athletes would constitute an extra benefit to these athletes and, therefore, is not permissible.

Q: A classmate of my child has just signed with UNC, and I would like to take him to the next local Rams Club meeting to introduce him to Carolina 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 UNC. This means that boosters continue to be prohibited from having on- or off-campus contact with prospects until the academic year begins and the prospect is in classes.

If you have any questions about NCAA regulations pertaining to entertainment of prospects and student-athletes, please do not hesitate to contact the Compliance Office at (919) 962-6000. The UNC Department of Athletics appreciates your efforts to comply with NCAA regulations.