

## The Ram Rules

### **Football Kick-Off**

The 2011 football season is about to hit full stride! As we cheer the Tar Heels on to victory, it is important to remember the following rules and regulations by which our student-athletes and boosters must abide:

- 1) NCAA regulations prohibit boosters from obtaining tickets to football games (or any other UNC sporting event) and providing them to student-athletes. Student-athletes must obtain their tickets in the same manner as all other students. The same is true with tickets to professional sporting events. In fact, boosters are prohibited from providing any form of entertainment expenses to student-athletes, whether it is tickets to a movie, cover charges at a club, or greens fees at a local golf course. Providing such benefits to student-athletes would be considered an impermissible extra benefit, constituting a violation of NCAA regulations and jeopardizing the student-athlete's eligibility. The only exception to this rule comes on team road trips, when the **institution** (not the booster) can provide tickets to a professional sports contest as part of reasonable entertainment for student-athletes.
- 2) **Boosters may not invite student-athletes to tailgate parties or cookouts before or after football games.** This type of event would be considered an impermissible occasional meal, as it is held at a location other than a booster's home. Please refrain from inviting student-athletes to these functions, as the student-athlete may unwittingly violate NCAA regulations by attending.
- 3) Gambling poses a considerable threat to student-athletes. According to a 2008 study conducted by the NCAA, 29.5 percent of male student-athletes and 6.5 percent of female student-athletes had engaged in some type of sports wagering behavior in the previous year. In addition, 0.9 percent of Division I NCAA football players reported taking money for playing poorly in a game, 1.2 percent have been asked to influence the outcome of a game, 3.5 percent have been contacted by outside sources seeking inside information, and 1.1 percent admitted to providing inside information to these outside sources. Furthermore, 18.8 percent of male student-athletes had placed at least one sports bet over the internet within the previous year. **Student-athletes found to be involved in gambling are at risk of losing their collegiate eligibility.** Please help protect UNC's student-athletes from the perils of gambling by creating an environment free of wagering, sports pools, fantasy leagues, internet gambling, etc.

Please contact the Compliance Office at 962-6000 if you have any questions regarding regulations concerning tickets and entertainment, tailgate parties/occasional meals, or gambling. The UNC Department of Athletics appreciates your efforts to comply with NCAA regulations.