INSTRUCTIONS: There are 20 issues involving NCAA booster rules within the scenario below, some of which are permissible and others that are impermissible. As you read through the story, please mark all issues you believe involve NCAA rules regarding boosters.

On an early Friday morning in January 2010, Sammy Spartan, arrives at his dry cleaning business for the last day of the work week. While Sammy enjoys his work, there is nothing he looks forward to more than attending his favorite team’s games. Sammy Spartan is a longtime fan of SJSU’s basketball team and has been a member of the basketball team’s booster club for the last five years.

Sammy Spartan checks his e-mail and quickly notices one from the starting center of SJSU’s basketball team, Bobby Bigman. Sammy knows Bobby through various athletic department events and his travels to away-from-home contests, as Sammy always stays at the team hotel.

In the e-mail, Bobby thanks Sammy for allowing his parents to ride in Sammy Spartan’s car from the team hotel to the arena for last weekend’s series at Western State University. Bobby also expresses his appreciation for Sammy’s offer to him to serve as an intern at one of his businesses, and asks Sammy to meet with him to discuss the internship details. Though the internship will not begin until summer, Bobby Bigman wants to plan ahead.

Sammy Spartan indicates in his e-mail that his company is having a much better year than expected; therefore, he tells Bobby he will be able to pay him a higher salary than any of the other interns. He says that Bobby deserves the salary since more clients will use the business because of his employment; clients will want to work with the starting center for SJSU’s basketball team. At the conclusion of the e-mail, Sammy Spartan invites Bobby to his house for Sunday dinner so they can discuss the details of the internship.

After a long morning at work, Sammy Spartan stops by SJSU’s basketball offices during his lunch-hour to make certain everything is set for the booster club event that occurs in the brand new practice facility before every home game. When leaving, Sammy sees Bobby and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bigman. After Bobby thanks him for the good news on the internship, Sammy Spartan invites Bobby’s parents to the pre-game booster club event. Even though it is an event only open to booster club members, Sammy says that parents of student-athletes are always welcome to attend as “honorary members” of the booster club and eat at the event for free.

The afternoon at work goes by fast for Sammy Spartan and he heads home quickly to change into his yellow and blue and pick up his wife for the game. While getting into his car, Sammy notices his long-time neighbor and his high-school age son, Ronnie Rebounder, loading a duffle bag into their car. “We have a big basketball game tonight, too,” Ronnie says. Sammy Spartan wishes Ronnie good luck and promises to attend his next game. Sammy makes a mental note to send an e-mail to SJSU’s basketball coaches on Monday to make sure they are following the progress of Ronnie’s basketball career.

Sammy enjoys his evening at the booster club event and is especially happy with SJSU’s win. Bobby Bigman sets a school-record for rebounds in one game, so Sammy makes a note in his PDA to send Bobby a gift certificate for free dry cleaning for he and his family for the rest of his SJSU career.

As is tradition after every game, Sammy Spartan and his wife walk to La Victoria for a late dinner. Two former SJSU hoops players visiting from out-of-town are seated at a table inside and invite Sammy and his wife to join
them. Sammy arranges with the waitress to pay the dinner tab, telling the former players it is the least he can do to celebrate their great careers at SJSU.

Sammy Spartan sees Bobby Bigman as he departs the restaurant. This time Bobby is with some teammates and two recruits who are on official visits. Bobby introduces Sammy to the recruits and tells them that Sammy Spartan is the team’s biggest fan. Sammy invites the prospects to stop by the local bowling alley tomorrow where he is hosting a business luncheon for area business leaders.

On Saturday morning, Sammy Spartan arrives at the bowling alley to put final touches on the luncheon. He is excited by the possibility that the two recruits will stop by and meet the other business leaders. While looking over the paper weights that were to be given as gifts to the attendees, Sammy realizes he has enough to give one to each of the recruits. He believes this gesture will surely convince the recruits that SJSU is the right place for them.

About 15 minutes before the luncheon is to begin, both recruits walk into the bowling alley with Bobby Bigman. Sammy Spartan rushes over to them and insists they sit at a table with Gilbert Grump, the owner of the largest business in town and one of the biggest financial supporters of SJSU’s athletic department. Immediately, Gilbert tells the recruits that he will fly them to San Jose in his private plane when it is time for them to report to summer school if they sign with SJSU.

After the business part of the meeting is over, the servers bring out the lunch of filet mignon and lobster for all of the attendees. Both recruits are excited because neither of them have had lobster before. During lunch, one of the recruits tells Gilbert that he has a brother who is a junior in high school who is also considering attending SJSU to play basketball. The recruit also says that coming to SJSU’s basketball camp last summer was what really made SJSU move to the top of his list. Unfortunately, his family just does not have the money to send his brother to camp this year. Gilbert tells the recruit not to worry; he will pay the admission fee for his brother to attend camp. Gilbert believes this will surely convince the brother to come play basketball for SJSU also.

The other recruit tells Gilbert that he is worried about finding a place to live for the summer since he does not plan on going to summer school, but if he signs, he intends to be in San Jose to work out with the team. Gilbert says that will not be a problem since he and Mrs. Grump vacation in Europe for the summer, the recruit can stay in their house for free during the summer. The recruit says that this will be a great solution to his problem.

Once the recruits are finished eating, Bobby Bigman tells Gilbert and Sammy Spartan they need to be leaving in order to catch up with some of the players. Gilbert tells the recruits how happy he was to meet them and how excited he is to see them on the floor for SJSU next season. As he departs the bowling alley, Gilbert and Sammy Spartan run into a San Jose Mercury News reporter and mention that they just met two of SJSU’s biggest recruits ever. They go on to tell the reporter that if they sign, both players would make an immediate impact on the program and SJSU would see NCAA tournament action for certain next year.

On Monday morning Sammy Spartan is in his office thinking about the wonderful weekend and the great visit he had with the two recruits. He is worried about one of the recruits talking about some problems he was having in his Chemistry class. To put his mind at ease, Sammy calls the recruit’s high school counselor to find out about the recruit’s academic status. The counselor expresses concern with the recruit’s ability to pass Chemistry, which he needs to meet initial-eligibility requirements. Sammy Spartan arranges to pay for a private Chemistry tutor for the recruit for the rest of the year.