



Ole Miss ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC COMPLIANCE BOOSTER GUIDE

The University of Mississippi enjoys a rich tradition of academic and athletic achievement. This commitment at the highest level has been possible as the result of the vision of our coaches, student-athletes, staff, administrators, fans and friends to achieve competitive excellence with integrity. Our steadfast purpose of integrity requires a commitment to compliance with all University, SEC and NCAA rules.

In helping the Ole Miss Athletics Department maintain its commitment to excellence, we ask your assistance in continuing to build a compliance conscience.

You are receiving this guide because you are a “booster” under NCAA rules.

A representative of athletic interests, or a “booster”, is defined as anyone who has made a financial contribution to the Ole Miss Athletics Department, participated in or are a member of a group that supports Ole Miss Athletics, assisted in promotion of Ole Miss Athletics, or assisted a student-athlete in finding employment.

Being an Ole Miss booster is a status that you will retain indefinitely. Thus, the NCAA rules will always apply to you.

This guide is created to provide basic information on pertinent rules and regulations set forth by the SEC and NCAA. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these rules, and for your continued support.

Ole Miss

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Per NCAA rules, boosters are not permitted to engage in any recruiting activities with a prospective student-athlete.

WHO IS A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE?

A prospective student-athlete ("prospect") is any student who has started classes for the ninth grade (seventh grade for Men's Basketball and Softball), including those attending prep schools, junior colleges, or students who have withdrawn from a four-year institution.

A prospect is defined as such regardless of athletic ability or whether Ole Miss is recruiting the individual. A prospect remains a prospect until they enroll and attend classes for a regular term at the University. This means a prospect remains a prospect even after verbally committing or signing a National Letter of Intent.

Per NCAA rules, boosters are not permitted to engage in any recruiting activities with a prospective student-athlete.

EXAMPLES OF IMPERMISSIBLE BOOSTER RECRUITING

- Having contact on or off-campus with prospects or their family/friends;
- Having written correspondence or telephone communications with prospects or their family/friends;
- Making arrangements to provide anything to prospects or their family/friends, including money, financial aid of any kind, gifts, transportation, meals, etc.;
- Assisting with the evaluation of athletic talent at the direction of the Ole Miss coaching staff;
- Providing free or discounted tickets to athletic events to prospects or their family/friends; or
- Posting messages on prospects' social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) trying to convince them to attend Ole Miss.

NCAA MAJOR INFRACTIONS CASE EXAMPLE

Southern Methodist University

Southern Methodist University committed recruiting violations when a booster contacted multiple prospective student-athletes to facilitate contact between the head coach and the prospects and/or the prospects' families. Further, the booster encouraged prospects to take unofficial visits to the university and helped arrange visit logistics. Although the head coach denied knowledge of the booster involvement, emails showed the coach was aware of the contact. Penalties for the violations included a postseason ban, scholarship reductions, recruiting restrictions, permanent disassociation of the booster and a show-cause order for the head coach.

EXTRA BENEFITS

The NCAA governs the relationships you have with Ole Miss student-athletes. In general, you may not provide anything to, or make any special arrangements for, student-athletes or their families. Such arrangements are considered “extra benefits” and are expressly prohibited by NCAA bylaws.

EXAMPLES OF EXTRA BENEFITS (NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

- Providing cash, loans, or gifts of any kind (including birthday cards and holiday gifts);
- Purchasing complimentary admissions from a student-athlete;
- Providing use of an automobile or free rides/ transportation;
- Allowing use of private property (e.g., boats, homes, land, property to hunt and fish, etc.);
- Providing free or reduced rent or housing; or
- Assisting in academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, providing answers for tests, etc.).

NCAA MAJOR INFRACTIONS CASE EXAMPLE

University of Southern California

The University of Southern California lacked institutional control and committed numerous other violations including the provision of recruiting inducements and/or extra benefits in the form of airline tickets for student-athletes, their parents and friends, hotel rooms for student-athletes and/or their families, car repairs for a student- athlete, travel expenses to away games for the family of a student- athlete, and gifts in the form of cell phones and cash. In addition, boosters had impermissible recruiting contacts with prospects during their official visits. As a result of the violations, a one year and two-year postseason ban were imposed for men’s basketball and football respectively. In addition, scholarship reductions were implemented, recruiting restrictions levied, boosters disassociated, and wins were required to be vacated.



EXTRA BENEFIT: VEHICLES

A prospective student-athlete ("prospect") is any student who has started classes for the ninth grade (seventh grade for Men's Basketball and Softball), including those attending prep schools, junior colleges, or students who have withdrawn from a four-year institution.

A prospect is defined as such regardless of athletic ability or whether Ole Miss is recruiting the individual. A prospect remains a prospect until they enroll and attend classes for a regular term at the University. This means a prospect remains a prospect even after verbally committing or signing a National Letter of Intent.

NCAA MAJOR INFRACTIONS CASE EXAMPLE

University of Mississippi

A booster at the University of Mississippi who owned a car dealership provided a student-athlete use of a loaner vehicle while repairs were being made to the student-athlete's personal vehicle. However, after repairs to the student-athlete's vehicle were complete, the student-athlete retained use of the loaner vehicle and was considered an impermissible extra benefit by the NCAA. As a result of the overall violations in this infractions case, which includes other impermissible benefits provided by boosters to prospects and student-athletes, a two-year postseason ban was imposed on the football program.

EXTRA BENEFIT: HOUSING

Boosters may not provide a prospect, student-athlete, or their friends or relatives, free or reduced cost housing at any time. This includes lodging in your home, rental property, or any location for any length of time.

NCAA MAJOR INFRACTIONS CASE EXAMPLE

University of Arizona

Boosters at the University of Arizona provided free lodging for a prospect valued at \$4,720 at the direction of an assistant coach in the swimming and diving program at the institution. The penalties in this case included two years of probation and multiple recruiting restrictions for the institution's swimming and diving program.

EXTRA BENEFIT: EMPLOYMENT

- The student-athlete is compensated only for work actually performed;
- The student-athlete is compensated at the same rate as other employees with similar qualifications performing similar services;
- The student-athlete's compensations (earnings) does not include any compensation for value or utility that the student- athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame, or personal following that he or she has obtained because of athletics ability; and
- Student-athletes should go through the same hiring process as other individuals and must register their job with the compliance office. In addition, a representative of our office will send some brief documentation to the employer for completion that we are required to have on file.

**NCAA MAJOR INFRACTIONS
CASE EXAMPLE***University of Missouri*

University of Missouri failed to monitor its men's basketball program when it did not fully vet or follow up on internship opportunities provided by a booster for student-athletes and a prospect. A second booster also provided impermissible benefits to 11 men's basketball student-athletes and three members of one student-athlete's family. The total amount of impermissible inducements and extra benefits provided by the two boosters totaled over \$11,000. Penalties included a one-year post-season ban in the men's basketball program.

*Ole Miss*

AWARDS & MEMORABILIA

Boosters may not purchase any items that belong to a current student-athlete or is signed by a current student-athlete. In addition, you may not trade an item or service for any item that belongs to a current student-athlete or is signed by a current student-athlete.

If a current student-athlete attempts to sell any of his or her personal items to you, his or her eligibility will be affected. This includes the purchase of a student-athlete's apparel, equipment, gear, awards (e.g., Final Four rings, SEC rings, etc.), shoes, etc.

NCAA MAJOR INFRACTIONS CASE EXAMPLE

Ohio State University

Football student-athletes at Ohio State University sold athletics memorabilia including Big Ten Conference Championship rings, trophies, and uniform items, to an owner of a tattoo parlor who provided discounted or cost-free tattoos in exchange for the memorabilia. Penalties included three years of probation for the institution, a one-year post season ban for the football program.

COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS

It is not permissible for a booster to receive complimentary admissions (i.e., ticket) from an Ole Miss student-athlete. It is also not permissible for a booster to pay for to pay for a complimentary admission from an Ole Miss student-athlete. Such a sale is an extra benefit for a student-athlete and will jeopardize his or her eligibility. Furthermore, it may impact your status as a booster for Ole Miss.

If you have questions or concerns about your relationship with any organization, prospect, or enrolled student-athlete, please contact our office.

Ole Miss Athletics Compliance Department

662-916-1594

Compliance@olemiss.edu

@RebelCompliance

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