



SUN DEVIL COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Everyone knows that NCAA rules can be difficult to remember. For that reason and to help you better understand the rules that may apply to you, the June 2013 installment of the Sun Devil Compliance Update was designed to place those rules in a real-world context. The Update provides actual examples of NCAA rules violations committed by athletics boosters (or “representatives of an institution’s athletics interests” under NCAA legislation) at various Division I institutions.

Many pages of the NCAA Manual are devoted specifically to the regulation of booster activities. That said, all of that language can be simplified into two main rules:

Booster Rule No. 1: Boosters cannot recruit prospects, either directly or through prospects’ friends or families.

Booster Rule No. 2: Boosters cannot give benefits to athletes (current student-athletes or prospects) or their friends or families.

Please remember that booster conduct is considered conduct by ASU and, thus, any rule violation committed by a booster could result in sanctions against Sun Devil Athletics, including our student-athletes, coaches, and prospects.

VIOLATIONS OF BOOSTER RULE NO. 1 (IMPERMISSIBLE RECRUITING ACTIVITIES)

CONTACTING A PROSPECT DURING AN INSTITUTION’S HOME GAME

Two prospects attended an institution's home football contest on their official visits. The prospects were escorted to tour the stadium's press box during halftime. On their way to the press box, the prospects met and spoke briefly with two boosters who were also touring the football facility.

Violation: The boosters had impermissible in-person contact with the prospects. Even a short conversation with a prospect (basically, anything longer than a normal greeting like “hello”) is a violation.

CONTACT WITH A PROSPECT AT HIS OR HER COMPETITION

A booster had a conversation with a prospect about an institution’s soccer program after observing the prospect compete in a match for a local club soccer team. Although the booster and prospect were both affiliated with the same local soccer program, they had never met. The prospect mistakenly believed the booster was part of the institution’s soccer coaching staff and thought the conversation was permissible.

Violation: Even though they belonged to the same soccer organization, the booster was not permitted to speak with the prospect about attending the institution. Their conversation was considered recruitment.

CONTACT WITH A PROSPECT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

A booster contacted and “friended” three prospects via Facebook. Through Facebook, the booster had conversations with the prospects that were general in nature.

Violation: The prohibition against booster recruiting includes communicating with prospects through electronic means (e.g., email, text message, instant messenger, Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

PUBLICIZING A PROSPECT’S OFFICIAL VISIT

A member of an institution's gymnastics booster club posted a picture of two women's gymnastics prospects on the booster club's website. The photo was taken during an institution's gymnastics competition that the prospects were attending as part of an official visit.

Violation: It is impermissible for anyone associated with an institution (including a booster) to publicize a prospect's official visit (even if the publication is unintentional).

VIOLATIONS OF BOOSTER RULE NO. 2 (IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFITS)

PROVIDING TICKETS TO AN NBA GAME

A booster received NBA preseason tickets from his girlfriend and offered two student-athletes the tickets when he ran into them on campus. The girlfriend had received the tickets for free.

Violation: The booster impermissibly arranged (through his girlfriend) for the provision of benefits to student-athletes even though the booster (and his girlfriend) incurred no expense in procuring the benefit.

FREE ADMISSION TO CHARITY EVENT

Two student-athletes were provided free admission to a local charity dinner that cost \$125. A booster asked the student-athletes if they would like to use the tickets that would otherwise have gone unused. The student-athletes attended charity events previously and thought this was permissible.

Violation: The free admissions were extra benefits. Even though, under most circumstances, it is permissible for student-athletes to participate in charity events (e.g., speak at or assist with an event), receiving free admission, along with the meal, amounted to a violation. Note: please be sure to make all requests for ASU student-athlete charitable appearances through Sun Devil Athletics at www.thesundevils.com/ot/appearancepolicy.html.

HOSTING AN OCCASIONAL MEAL

A booster wanted to host a spaghetti dinner for an institution's soccer team. The booster was unable fit the entire team into his home and, instead, held the meal at the church where he served as a pastor.

Violation: Even though boosters can host occasional meals for student-athletes, all booster-hosted occasional meals must take place on campus, at normal competition facilities, or at boosters' homes. The church did not fit one of those categories and was, therefore, impermissible. Note: Boosters who wish to host a permissible occasional meal must receive approval from the Sun Devil Athletics Compliance Office by completing the Approval of Occasional Meal form.

PROVIDING COURTSIDE SEATS TO A STUDENT-ATHLETE'S PARENTS

A booster at an institution's home basketball game recognized a student-athlete's parents (the parents were former students of the booster's father). The booster invited the parents to sit in his courtside seats at no charge.

Violation: The free courtside seats were extra benefits to the parents even though the parties already knew each other. There is a pre-existing relationship exception to extra benefit legislation, but this exception is extremely narrow. It did not apply here nor will it apply in most cases.

A FINAL NOTE FROM THE COMPLIANCE OFFICE

It is our job to assist you whenever you have questions about NCAA legislation, and we are more than happy to do that. We know how much you care about Sun Devil Athletics and that you want to avoid any situation that might damage the athletics department, any of our programs, or any of the young men and women that compete for Arizona State. Please know that we are here to help you. So, if you have any questions about whether something is permissible, please call us or send an email to SunDevilsAsk@asu.edu.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in assisting Arizona State University.

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