The information below provides an overview of NCAA legislation and SDA policy specific to vacation period activities. Please let the Compliance Office know if you have any questions regarding any of the activities you plan to conduct with your student-athletes during ASU’s winter vacation period (December 14 - January 11).

### Meals
- Student-athletes who are required to remain on campus for practice or competition may be provided expenses.
- Student-athletes who live at home during the vacation period cannot receive meal expenses. They may, however, participate in team meals incidental to participation.
- The maximum meal allowance under SDA policy is $20 per day ($5 breakfast, $5 lunch, and $10 dinner).
- SDA may also provide additional meals incidental to participation but may not consistently provide student-athletes with both a meal stipend and a meal incidental to participation.

### Team Entertainment
Reasonable team entertainment in connection with practice or competition may be provided for sports in their declared playing and practice seasons.

### Playing and Practice Hours
Daily and weekly hour limitations do not apply to CARAs during the vacation period for sports in their declared playing and practice seasons.

### Prohibition on Holiday Gifts
Now that the holiday season is upon us, remember that NCAA rules prohibit coaches and other staff members from providing gifts (regardless of value or type) to SDA student-athletes. If your team will be holding a gift exchange or Secret Santa event, please make sure that student-athletes only exchange gifts with other student-athletes (no coaches or staff) and that their participation is voluntary.
The Wall Street Journal recently published an article regarding former University of Nebraska student-athletes accepting benefits from a financial advisor. The financial advisor attempted to attract these student-athletes to invest with her once they signed professional contracts by giving them gifts while they were student-athletes. The student-athletes invested money with the financial advisor once they signed professional sports contracts but lost their investments due to the advisor’s unscrupulous acts.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

1. The general rule is that student-athletes may not receive any benefits (e.g., cash, loans, cars, discounts) from anyone. Those who accept impermissible benefits are considered ineligible the moment they receive the benefit, jeopardizing their eligibility and subjecting their teams and schools to institutional penalties.

2. This article emphasizes that financial advisors who are willing to provide student-athletes impermissible benefits should not be entrusted with handling their money once they turn professional.

3. SDA policy mirrors NCAA legislation making it impermissible for agents or financial advisors to contact student-athletes without, among other things, registering as an agent/advisor and receiving approval from coaches and the Compliance Office.

**IN THE NEWS**

**Former Nebraska Student-Athletes Accepted Gifts from Financial Advisor**

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**COACHES’ CUP NEWSLETTER QUESTION**

Costanza University is conducting its annual cross country banquet at the end of the month. Duncan, a sophomore student-athlete on the team, achieved First Team All-American honors this year, so his parents and two siblings would like to attend the banquet. Is it permissible for Costanza University to provide complimentary admissions to Duncan’s family members?

Email Justin with your answer.

- 1 point for the correct answer.
- 1 point for referencing the correct NCAA bylaw.

**SPOT THE VIOLATION**

For a portion of the University of Argon’s winter holiday break, the Argon men’s basketball team was required to stay on campus for practice and competition. The head coach issued per diem to the basketball student-athletes. One student-athlete, who received the meal allowance, stayed at home with his family during the entire break.

The student-athletes were released from practice with five days remaining in the break period. After their release, two student-athletes who were receiving meal allowances over the break and whose families lived on the other side of the country remained in their apartment. Argon continued to provide these two student-athletes their meal allowances until the spring semester began. All other student-athletes went home and did not receive any more meal allowances.

Violations on page 3.
HOLIDAY CARDS TO PROSPECTS

Coaches may send holiday cards to prospects this holiday season if the cards meet the following:

- Holiday cards sent to prospects, like all other correspondence, must comply with the recruiting materials time restrictions (Bylaw 13.4.1).
  - **Sports other than men’s basketball** – may not be provided until September 1 at the beginning of a prospect’s junior year in high school.
  - **Men’s basketball** – may not be provided until June 15 at the conclusion of a prospect’s sophomore year in high school.
  - **Men’s ice hockey** – may not be provided until January 1 of a prospect’s sophomore year in high school.
- Holiday cards must meet NCAA restrictions relating to general correspondence and envelope size (Bylaw 13.4.1.3(a)) and may not be bought in a store.
  - **General correspondence** – may not exceed 8½ by 11 inches when fully opened, and, there are no restrictions on the design or content.
  - **Envelopes** – may not exceed 9 by 12 inches and there are no restrictions on the design or content.

Note: The rules stated above also apply to non-prospects if they are linked to a prospect (e.g., coach, mentor, advisor, family member).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT-ATHLETES

Please remind all international student-athletes to confirm that they are in good standing with the ASU International Students and Scholars Center (ISSC). New international student-athletes for Spring 2015 must report to the ISSC office as soon as possible after arriving on campus to complete the check-in process. ISSC needs to see the new student-athletes’ original immigration documents – specifically their I-20s, student visas, and passports. Returning student-athletes that need to report to ISSC will see a task on their MyASU accounts. Any ISSC holds on a student-athlete’s account will impact athletics scholarship disbursement.

AND THE ANSWER IS...

It was impermissible for the basketball team to give meal expenses for the student-athlete who stayed at home during the break. A student-athlete who lives at his or her home during a vacation period cannot receive such expenses.

Additionally, it was impermissible for the basketball team to pay the meal expenses for the two student-athletes remaining in the area for the five days after practice ended. Because the basketball team had been released and the student-athletes were no longer required to attend practice, Argon was prohibited from giving them meal expenses.
Please note that this table has dates that run until December 31. Many of the periods run past December 31. Visit the NCAA Recruiting Calendars website for full recruiting calendars including little nuances that will clear up any discrepancies in the dates.