

## DEAR SOONER ALUMNI, FANS AND FRIENDS:

The University of Oklahoma celebrates a wonderful tradition of success throughout all of our intercollegiate athletics programs. This history of achievement was made possible by many coaches, student-athletes, staff, administrators, fans and friends all working together for a common goal ... winning with integrity! Our game plan for success includes a strong commitment to compliance with all University, Big 12 Conference and NCAA rules. Undoubtedly, many of the rules we follow are not easily understood by our key stakeholders. However, there is something everyone can do ... ask before you act!



Joseph R. Castiglione

This brochure is one of the many vehicles we utilize in our rules education program for coaches, student-athletes, staff and you. The following information will provide you with basic definitions along with some additional information. We realize you may not find answers to all of your questions so please contact our Athletics Compliance Department at 405.325.7004 for any reason. We also provide a "hot line" number you may use if you want to anonymously report a concern. That phone number is 405.325.6479.

Thank you for taking time to review our compliance guide. Rules compliance is twofold — shared responsibility and shared accountability. When we are committed to this ideal, all of our other goals are possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Castiglione  
Vice President for Intercollegiate  
Athletics Programs and Director of Athletics

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**➤ Q: Can a student-athlete be allowed to pay his/her rent at a later date than our standard due date if their scholarship check is released later in the month?**

➤➤ If it is within your policy to allow students who are not athletes to pay rent later due to the date of their financial aid disbursement, you may also make the same accommodation to a student-athlete.

**➤ Q: Can we create a special promotion that provides \$100 cash back to any student-athlete who opens a checking account with our financial institution?**

➤➤ Unless the promotion is something that is available to students in general, regardless of athletics participation, you may not provide this benefit to a student-athlete.

**➤ Q: Can I use the image of a student-athlete to promote my business (bank, hotel, apartment, etc.)?**

➤➤ No. It is against NCAA rules for a student-athlete's name or picture to be used to advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind, or to be paid for the use of their likeness.

## THANK YOU!

The University of Oklahoma Athletics Department appreciates your support of our student-athletes and compliance with NCAA regulations. Compliance with NCAA rules is essential to our continued success. Your attention to the information provided in this brochure will ensure that the eligibility of a student-athlete is not jeopardized.

## OKLAHOMA ATHLETICS COMPLIANCE

PHONE: 405.325.7004 • E-MAIL: [athleticscompliance@ou.edu](mailto:athleticscompliance@ou.edu)  
VISIT US ONLINE AT: [soonersports.com/compliance/okla-compliance.html](http://soonersports.com/compliance/okla-compliance.html)

# HOUSING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS GUIDE TO NCAA REGULATIONS



## WHAT IS A BOOSTER?

**A representative of athletics interests, more commonly known as a booster, is “any individual, independent agency, corporate entity or other organization” who is known to:**

- Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting the school’s athletics program;
- Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or athletics booster club;
- Be assisting or to have been requested by athletics staff to assist in the recruitment of a prospect;
- Be assisting or have assisted in providing benefits to student-athletes or their families;
- Have been otherwise involved in promoting the school’s athletics program.

## WHAT ARE EXTRA BENEFITS?

**The NCAA defines an extra benefit as “any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution’s athletics interests to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete family member or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.” If a student-athlete receives an impermissible extra benefit, he or she is rendered ineligible for competition.**

Extra benefits violations hurt the reputations of the student-athletes involved, the University of Oklahoma, and any outside entities or persons involved in the providing the impermissible

benefits. Some examples of extra benefits that you should be aware of include:

- Providing student-athletes with preferential treatment in the form of free or reduced rent, waived fees or other discounts not available to the general public;
- Giving student-athletes special deals, loans, interest rates, etc. as a benefit because of their participation in college athletics.

**In summary, when considering whether or not something is permissible to provide to a student-athlete, several questions must be considered:**

- Is it within our normal policies and procedures to provide this benefit to our customers?
- If this person was not a student-athlete, would this benefit still be available?

If you’re ever unsure about whether a provision or arrangement is permissible under NCAA legislation, don’t hesitate to contact our office by phone, e-mail or in person.

## PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES (RECRUITS)

**A prospective student-athlete, as defined by the NCAA, is a student who has started classes for the 9th grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the 9th grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution provides such an individual (or the individual's relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally.**

There are a number of specifically prohibited benefits and arrangements to prospective student-athletes, including but not limited to:

- Free or reduced-cost services or housing;
- Employment arrangements for relatives of prospects;
- Gifts (e.g. clothing, equipment, merchandise);
- Co-signing of loans;
- Providing loans to relatives or friends of prospects;
- Cash or like items.

Provision of these or other impermissible benefits to prospects can result in the loss of their eligibility, and potentially major violations for the OU athletics program.

## CONSEQUENCES OF MAJOR VIOLATIONS

**In 2012, the NCAA found the University of South Carolina to have committed major violations. One element of the case included student-athletes receiving a discounted rate to live at a local hotel.**

- The student-athletes received a reduced rate from the hotel, resulting in them receiving thousands of dollars of impermissible extra benefits that rendered them ineligible.
- Other student-athletes were given special arrangements to pay rent at a later date, which was determined by the NCAA to constitute an impermissible loan.
- This would have resulted in NCAA violations regardless of whether or not the hotel was considered a representative of athletics interest because it was preferential treatment of student-athletes. It resulted in lost scholarships, NCAA probation, and thousands of dollars of fines for the university.