

ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!

979-845-1904

ARE YOU A BOOSTER OF TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS?

You are if you donate to Texas A&M Athletics, are a member of a group promoting Texas A&M Athletics, assist Texas A&M Athletics in recruiting prospective student-athletes, or otherwise promote Texas A&M Athletics.

RECRUITING

If you are a booster, do not engage in behavior that could be construed as recruiting for Texas A&M Athletics (e.g. calling, writing, or contacting parents of prospective student-athletes and encouraging them to choose Texas A&M).

OCCASIONAL MEALS. It is permissible for the parent of a student-athlete to provide team members with an occasional meal at any location on an occasional basis. Before you provide such a meal, please notify Texas A&M Athletic Compliance.

Texas A&M Athletic Compliance

NCAA Rules for Parents of Student-Athletes

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Extra Benefits & Preferential Treatment

When a student-athlete's receipt of benefits that NCAA rules do not allow is discovered, Texas A&M must ask the NCAA to reinstate the student-athlete. Part of the reinstatement process has to do with education so that the violation will be less likely to recur; but another part of the process involves penalties.

There was one reinstatement case from last year in which a student-athlete lost a season of competition in part because his father sold access to his son's postseason tickets for \$1,000 (NCAA rules do not allow a student-athlete to sell or trade access to his/her complimentary admissions in his/her sport).

To help inform parents of Texas A&M student-athletes and keep them from unintentionally contributing to violations of NCAA rules, Texas A&M will occasionally distribute education about important NCAA rules to parents.

Perhaps the most important rules with which parents should

be familiar are those pertaining to extra benefits and preferential treatment. The difference between those two violations is in who provides them.

An extra benefit is provided by a Texas A&M coach, staff member, or representative of Texas A&M's athletics interests (aka booster), the last being a catch-all that can include parents of student-athletes, student-athletes' former teammates, and companies and individuals who donate to Texas A&M athletics. Something becomes an "extra benefit" if: (a) NCAA rules do not authorize it and (b) the benefit is not generally available to the institution's students or their relatives or friends or a subset of them (e.g. International students) on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.

Preferential treatment occurs when a student-athlete, or the student-athlete's friends or relatives receive treatment, benefits or services because of the student-athlete's athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a

professional athlete, unless such treatment, benefits or services are specifically permitted under NCAA legislation.



Why are you receiving this? To help you help your children stay eligible.

There are exceptions for family relations and those persons with whom you have or your student-athlete child has a pre-existing relationship. Check with Athletic Compliance before accepting benefits from those other than family relations. For example, if you have become friends with a Texas A&M booster only after your student-athlete child enrolled at Texas A&M, it would likely *not* be permissible for you to accept any benefits from this booster.

If you have questions about NCAA rules, call or email Texas A&M Athletic Compliance.

Penalties for Violations of NCAA Rules

Penalties vary by the gravity of the rule broken, the extent or amount of violations, and whether the violation was intentional. Here are some examples:

Academic fraud: Loss of a season of competition, a season of ineligibility; permanent ineligibility

Lying/withholding information: 50% withholding penalty up to permanent ineligibility.

Sports wagering: From one season to permanent ineligibility, absent mitigation

Verbal/written contract with an agent: permanent ineligibility

Benefits from an agent: 10% of season if insignificant benefits; permanent ineligibility if significant

Extra benefits: Over \$100? 10% of season. Over \$300? 20%. Over \$500? 30%.