

# Compliance Corner

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## EXTRA BENEFITS

**“They explain the rules to you, but as a kid you’re not really listening to all of them. You go out and just, people show you so much love, you don’t even think about the rules. You’re just like ‘Ah man, it’s cool.’ You take it, and next thing you know the NCAA is down your back.”**

**Ray Small, former Ohio State football student-athlete**

Accepting an extra benefit, no matter how big or small, can jeopardize your ability to participate in NCAA competition. An extra benefit is what Ray Small is talking about when he says “You take it, and next thing you know the NCAA is down your back.” Don’t be the student-athlete that doesn’t listen to the rules. Don’t accept extra benefits.

### **What is an “extra benefit?”**

An extra benefit is “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’s relative or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.” NCAA Bylaw 16.02.3. In simpler terms, an extra benefit is anything you accept that you are not supposed to accept under NCAA rules.

## POP QUIZ: CAN I ACCEPT THIS “FREE” STUFF?

- Q:** Our team participated in an event over the weekend in support of a group that raises money for cancer research. One of the local businesses that sponsored the activity would like to provide us student-athletes with a small token of appreciation for our time and effort. Is it permissible for student-athletes to receive an award for participating in this event?
- A:** Yes, with conditions. Local merchants who wish to provide awards to student-athletes for participation in charitable fundraiser to raise funds for a charitable organization, which was sponsored by the member institution or by the charitable organization would not be precluded provided the award item is of nominal value and the award is properly personalized for the event (e.g., t-shirt).

## Extra Benefits, continued from page 1

Here are some real-life, and almost unbelievable stories, of student-athletes who took extra benefits and suffered the consequences.

- ◆ A men's basketball student-athlete at Kansas State accepted between \$100-\$300 in discounts for clothes at a department store; he was suspended for 3 games.
- ◆ A women's soccer player at Utah bought a Christmas card from a FedEx store for \$1.83 with money to be used for hosting a recruit; this was an extra benefit violation.
- ◆ Washington State accidentally paid \$1 of a \$14 pay-per-view movie watched by men's golfers at a hotel during a road trip; the student-athletes were declared ineligible until they repaid \$1 to charity.
- ◆ Some men's basketball student-athletes at Iowa State were paid \$10 by their coach on a few occasions for making free throws in a game or practice; the student-athletes were declared ineligible and had to donate \$10 to charity before being re-instated.

Although these examples seem minor, they violated the rules. Don't miss participating in competition because you didn't listen to the rules and you accepted an extra benefit. It's not worth it. If someone offers you something and it doesn't seem like the right thing to do for you to accept it, don't accept it or **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!**

Be like the Missouri golfer who won a car by making a hole-in-one at a charity golf tournament. Rather than accepting the car without thinking, he immediately contacted his coach and the compliance office to see if he could accept it. Because of his actions, he avoided losing the remainder of his eligibility at the school.

## OUTSIDE COMPETITION

Have you ever received a request from a former coach, a sports governing body, a charitable organization, or even a friend that asks if you want to participate in their athletic event? This could be a request to play in a golf outing, a high school alumni game, or a league outside of IUPUI, among other things. A request like this seems like it would be fun but agreeing to participate could jeopardize your eligibility because this could be considered "outside competition."

Outside competition is "athletics competition against any other athletics team (including an alumni team) that does not represent the inter-collegiate athletics program of the same institution." Basically, for your purposes as IUPUI student-athletes, any time you compete in your sport not with your IUPUI team is considered "outside competition" or competing "unattached."

## POP QUIZ: CAN I ACCEPT THIS "FREE" STUFF? cont'd

**Q:** There is a pizza place near IUPUI's campus that sells two pizzas for the price of one to all IUPUI students on Monday and Wednesday nights. Is it permissible for student-athletes to accept this offer?

**A:** Yes. If a restaurant wishes to provide all students (including student-athletes) who live on campus two meals for the price of one, it can do so because it is not an NCAA violation if the benefit is available to the institution's student enrollment in general.

## Outside Competition, continued from page 2

A good rule of thumb for dealing with invitations to compete athletically outside of your IUPUI participation is that competing on any outside team in a noncollegiate, amateur competition is a violation. However, there are many exceptions to this rule. The exceptions can be complex, and they vary greatly depending on your sport. So, again, the best course of action to take if you receive such an opportunity is to **ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!**

Some key things to remember about outside competition include the following:

- ◆ If you are allowed to participate in outside competition, you cannot compete in outside competition unless it is outside of your playing and practice season and occurs during an IUPUI vacation period (Fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring, Summer Break).
- ◆ If you are allowed to participate in outside competition, you cannot do so as a representative of IUPUI so you cannot wear your IUPUI uniform.
- ◆ If you are allowed to participate in outside competition that consists of team competition, there are limits on the number of IUPUI student-athletes and other Division I athletes that can be on the same team.
- ◆ If you are allowed to participate in outside competition, you can't accept payment.
- ◆ **Men's and women's basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball student-athletes**—you have special rules governing your outside competition, particularly your participation in summer leagues, so it is especially important for you to get assistance from your coaches and from compliance
- ◆ Any participation in outside competition requires:
  - 1) Filling out the outside competition form, available at <http://www.iupui.edu/~jagsncaa/sa/forms.html> or in the compliance office, and turning it into compliance
  - 2) Receiving written permission from IUPUI athletics administration staff (either compliance or the athletics director).

## POP QUIZ: CAN I ACCEPT THIS “FREE” STUFF? cont'd

Q: Charity Stripe, a women's basketball student-athlete at XYZ University, assigns all four of her complimentary admissions to a home event. One of the recipients is the owner of a local salon where Charity gets her manicures and pedicures. The owner of the salon is a big basketball fan and told Charity that if she could get tickets to home games, she would give Charity a free manicure once a week. Is this arrangement permissible?

A: No, this arrangement would be considered a violation. NCAA Bylaw 16.2.2.1 states that a student-athlete may not receive payment from any source for his or her complimentary admissions and may not exchange or assign them for any item of value.



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**ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!!!!**

## COMPLIANCE WEBSITE FOR YOU

- Be sure to check out the part of the IUPUI compliance website made just for you: [http://www.iupui.edu/~jagsncaa/sa/rules\\_ed.html](http://www.iupui.edu/~jagsncaa/sa/rules_ed.html).
- In the student-athlete section, you'll find compliance forms that you may need to fill out. Rather than coming to the office to get them, you can fill them out from home and email or fax it to compliance.
- Other things on the compliance website—
  - Student-Athlete Handbook
  - Newsletters
  - Resources like NCAA documents, IUPUI events calendar, and Office of Student Involvement information
  - Rules Education, such as a list of NCAA Banned Substances and IUPUI's Drug Testing Policy
- **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @IUPUICompliance**

**ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!!!!**