

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 a 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.
- ◆ Oklahoma football players were provided an impermissible pasta dinner, valued at approximately \$4.
- ◆ 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.

AMATEURISM ISSUES

All student-athletes know the basics of amateurism after their first compliance meeting. Don't sign with an agent. Don't sign a contract to play pro sports. But there's more to amateurism legislation than that. For example, did you know that you can have an attorney review contracts for you, even if they're with a professional sports team, as long as an attorney doesn't represent you in negotiations and you pay the regular legal fees? It turns out that some of the NCAA's amateurism legislation is "looser" than some students think.

Then again, some pieces of the NCAA's amateurism legislation catch student-athletes off guard. For example, did you know that you cannot miss class for an event to promote the Athletics Department? Or that you can't appear in an ad for a local company, even if it's a class project? If anyone asks to use your name, photo, or likeness, be sure to see compliance ASAP!

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.

HOW TO SAVE A LIFE: INDIANA LIFELINE LAW

Since 2004 alcohol poisoning has claimed the lives of over two dozen Hoosiers under the age of 21. In many cases these deaths could have been prevented if bystanders had sought medical attention. While the easiest way to avoid alcohol poisoning is to avoid excessive drinking, Indiana legislators acknowledge that underage drinking does happen. In response, Indiana created the “Lifeline Law” to provide immunity for the crimes of public intoxication, minor possession, minor consumption, and minor transport to persons who reveal themselves to law enforcement while seeking medical assistance for a person suffering from an alcohol-related health emergency. This means that if you or anyone else is suffering from alcohol poisoning that calling 911 for emergency medical treatment will not result in criminal charges for these offenses. Beginning in July, the Indiana Lifeline Law will expand to include sexual assault and drug overdose.

In order to receive immunity, the reporting individual must demonstrate that they are acting in good faith by fulfilling the following expectations:

- Providing their full name and any other relevant information at the request of law enforcement officers.
- Remaining on the scene until dismissed by law enforcement or emergency medical personnel
- Cooperating with all authorities on the scene.

The law will not interfere with law enforcement procedures or limit the ability to prosecute for other criminal offenses such as providing to a minor, operating while intoxicated, or the possession of a controlled substance.

The Indiana Lifeline law has created the opportunity for lives to be saved. The law encourages Hoosiers to take action that could save the life of someone in need by calling 911 immediately. Save a life and call 911 if you see anyone who may be suffering from alcohol poisoning. Following the steps listed above and Indiana’s Lifeline law will protect you from the criminal charges mentioned.

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.
- 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!!!!