

NCAA Rule of the Month

May 2013
EXTRA BENEFITS

As we move into to the summer vacation period, it is a good time to remind all staff members about extra benefits and student-athletes. 'Extra benefit' is a term that is used frequently in the athletics world, but it is often misinterpreted. Please remember, extra benefits could come from a staff member (paid or volunteer), a donor/booster or a CU sponsor and come in many shapes and sizes.

Extra benefits are wide ranging; something as small as giving a student-athlete change for their parking meter to the extremes like free lodging for a semester or airline tickets could all be considered an extra benefit. Also, as well as student-athletes, extra benefits should not be provided to a student-athlete's friends or family. If a benefit is offered to the general public, it is permissible, but if it is specifically offered to a student-athlete, it is a violation of NCAA Bylaw 16.02.3 and could render them ineligible for competition.

There is another type of benefit out there that is often forgotten about. This is the preferential treatment that is given to student-athletes by local entities, who might not be donors, but the treatment is given to the SA based on their status. For example, a student-athlete goes to purchase a birthday gift from a local store for his dad. While checking out the clerk provides the student-athlete with an employee discount for having a good game the other night. This is a common example of preferential treatment that student-athletes should not accept.

We do our best to educate those surrounding our student-athletes regarding these benefits, but also appreciate your assistance should you hear or see anything regarding these types of situations. A yearly letter is sent to all local restaurants, car dealerships, sports merchandise vendors and hotels reminding them of our rules, but often times it is a staff member who hears of the benefit and anonymously reports it to compliance. Thank you to those of you who are always watching out for our student-athletes!

If you have any questions regarding Extra Benefits, please feel free to contact compliance.