Extra Benefits
Office of Compliance Services - University at Albany

What is an impermissible “Extra Benefit”?

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution’s athletic interests to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete’s relative or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by the NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their relatives or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution’s students, their relatives, their friends, or a particular segment of the student body (e.g., foreign students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.

Benefits, Gifts, and Services

Occasional Meals – A student-athlete or the entire team in a sport may receive an occasional meal in the locale of the institution on infrequent and special occasions from an institutional staff member. An institutional staff member may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend such meals.

A student-athlete may receive an occasional family home meal from a representative of athletics interests on infrequent and special occasions under the following conditions:

1. The meal must be provided in an individual’s home, on campus or at a facility that is regularly used for home competition and may be catered; and
2. A representative of the institution’s athletics interests may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend the meal function only if the meal function is at the home of that representative.

Coaches are required to submit an Occasional Meal Form through ARMS for any meal student-athletes or teams have with representatives of athletics interests. These meals must be documented in detail as to who attended and location. The Occasional Meal Form must be submitted at least 24 hours prior to when the occasional meal is expected to occur and must be approved by compliance and business.

Discounts and Credits – A student athlete may not receive a special discount, payment arrangement or credit on purchase (e.g. airline ticket, clothing) or service (e.g. laundry, dry cleaning) from an institutional employee or a representative of its athletics interests.

Free or Reduced Costs Services – An institutional employee or athletics representative may not provide a student-athlete with professional services (for which a fee normally would be charged) without charge or at a reduced cost except as permitted by NCAA legislation. Professional services provided at less than the normal rate or at no expense to a student-athlete are considered an extra benefit unless they are available on the same basis to the general student body.

Telephone and Credit Cards – It is not permissible to allow a student-athlete to use a telephone or a credit card for personal reasons without charge or at a reduced rate.

Entertainment Services – A student-athlete may not receive services (e.g., movie tickets, dinners, use of car) from commercial agencies (e.g., movie theaters, restaurants, car dealers) without charge or at reduced rates or free or reduced admission to professional athletics contests from professional sports organizations, unless such services also are available to the student body in general.
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Other Prohibited Benefits – An institutional employee or representative of the institution’s athletics interests may not provide a student-athlete with extra benefits or services, including, but not limited to:

- A loan of money
- A guarantee of bond
- The use of an automobile
- Signing or co-signing a note with an outside agency to arrange a loan

Travel
Permissible – Staff members may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes on an occasional basis.

Non-Permissible

- Automobile – An institution may not provide the student-athlete with use of an automobile under any circumstances.
- Reimbursement for Transportation – An institution or its staff member may only provide reasonable local transportation to an enrolled student-athlete even if the student-athlete reimburses the institution or its staff member for the appropriate amount of the gas expense. Rides home, out of town, out of state, etc. are not reasonable local transportation and are not permissible.

Employment
Each student-athlete who will be working either during the academic year or during institutional vacation/summer is required to complete the applicable form in detail. The compliance staff follows up with the student-athlete’s respective employer to make sure they are not receiving extra-benefits as defined by NCAA legislation. The Office of Compliance Services has several types of employment forms in ARMS for student-athlete. These include:

- Academic Year Employment Form
- Student-Athlete Camp/Clinic and Fee-for-Lesson Form
- Student-Athlete Regular Employment Form
- Student-Athlete Self-Employment Form