



As a member of the NCAA and the Big 12 Conference, West Virginia University is committed and obligated to the principle of institutional control in operating its athletics program. As an Athletics Booster you are required to maintain competency in knowledge of the NCAA regulations and to operate within full compliance of the legislation.

There are very strict and specific rules governing your actions as an Athletics Booster and any violation, regardless of your intentions, could jeopardize the eligibility of our student-athletes and possibly bring NCAA sanctions upon our athletic program. We want and need your outstanding support, but we also need your cooperation to ensure that we fully comply with NCAA rules. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the rules governing extra benefits as they relate to Athletics Boosters.

Extra Benefit- Any special arrangement made by an institutional employee or booster to provide a student-athlete, or his/her friends or relatives a benefit that is not authorized by the NCAA.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- the use of an automobile;
- signing or cosigning a note for a loan;
- special discounts or payment arrangements on loan;
- cash or tangible items (e.g., clothes, cars, jewelry, stereo equipment, even a soft drink);
- the promise of employment after college;
- purchase of items or services from a student athlete or the student athlete's family at inflated prices;
- free or reduced -cost housing arrangements;
- free or reduced-cost services or rentals of any type;
- the promise of financial aid for post graduate education;
- the promise to pay or arrange payment of transportation costs incurred by relatives or friends of student-athletes;

The following scenarios are intended to help you better understand what constitutes an extra benefit as it relates to your role as an Athletics Booster:

1. I'm a member of the Mountaineer Athletics Club and a season ticket holder. I also work as an optometrist in the Morgantown area and I'd like to provide free eye care to WVU student-athletes who don't have insurance coverage. Is this permissible?

Providing free or reduced services to student-athletes results in an extra benefit and a violation of NCAA Bylaw 16.02.3. As a result, the student-athlete would be required to pay back the cost of the benefit received (e.g. if the cost of the care provided is \$300 the student-athlete would have to pay that amount to a charity of choice). If the value of the benefit received exceeds \$100, the student-athlete will be withheld from 10% of his/her competitive season. The student-athlete's eligibility would not be reinstated until repayment was made and the game suspension fulfilled.

2. I travel to and attend most of the away from home competitions in my RV. Since I'm already traveling to the games, would it be okay for me to take a couple of the student-athletes' parents?

No. NCAA Bylaw 16.02.3 also applies to the parents and family members of current student-athletes. As a result it would not be permissible to provide transportation to the parents of student-athletes in any situation.

3. Before each home football game my family has a large tailgate. We think it would be nice to invite some student-athletes to attend our pregame ritual. Would this be permissible?

No. Providing food and drinks to a student-athlete is considered an extra benefit and would have eligibility implications.

4. With the holidays approaching I'd like to provide a \$10 gift card to some of the student-athletes I've met through WVU events. Is this permissible?

No. Per NCAA Bylaw 16.02.3, no matter how minimal the item, it is never permissible to provide gifts, gift cards or money to student-athletes or their relatives.

5. Each Thursday I attend practice at the stadium. I know a few of the student-athletes don't have cars and I'd like to give them a ride home after practice. I'd only take the student-athletes home who are on the way. Is this permissible?

No. Despite the fact that it may not be out of the way to provide transportation it would still be considered an extra benefit and have eligibility implications.

In the event our student-athletes indicate to you that they need something, please share that information with one of our coaches or staff members. The rules allow us to provide certain things to them but everything must go through the WVU athletics department to avoid a rules violation.

Please be aware that even items of minimal value will deem our student-athletes ineligible for competition. Therefore, it's important that you do not provide them anything to ensure they avoid eligibility implications.

***Got Questions? Ask Compliance***

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