



Awards and Benefits

Purpose Statement

The area of awards and benefits or “extra benefits” as it is also known, is an area of major emphasis and concern within the NCAA and Trevecca Nazarene University. It is the intent of Trevecca Nazarene University to adhere strictly to the limitations placed upon the benefits which may be afforded the student-athlete, while at the same time providing the student-athlete the maximum benefits allowed.

The following guidelines will be followed in the area of awards and benefits:

- All student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and other University personnel will be required to adhere strictly to NCAA rules concerning athletics eligibility and extra benefits.
- Trevecca Nazarene University, through its Compliance Coordinator, will educate student-athletes, coaches, administrators, faculty, donors, boosters, and alumni regarding “extra benefits” rules. There will be continual updates to all affected people regarding new NCAA legislation and interpretations related to “extra benefits.”
- There will be a continuing review and monitoring of the activities of all student-athletes, coaches, administrators, faculty, donors, boosters, and alumni in regard to these rules.
- Student-athletes, coaches, administrators, faculty, other University personnel, donors, boosters, and alumni will receive information and answers to questions concerning “extra benefit” rules and will report questionable activities concerning those rules to the coach, Athletic Director, or the Compliance Coordinator.
- Records will be kept on awards, academic support, housing and meals, complimentary admissions, benefits, gifts, and services.

Definitions

An extra benefit is defined by the NCAA as: “Any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution’s athletic interests to provide a student-athlete or a student-athlete’s relative or friends a benefit not expressly authorized by 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 or their relatives or friends.”

“Extra benefits” can be any of the following things:

- A unique payment schedule, flexible down-payments, or balloon payments on a loan if those are not regularly made to Trevecca Nazarene University students or their relatives and friends.
- A meal paid for by a coach, donor, or booster that is not related to either practice or competition, unless that free meal is available to all the institution’s students.
- An occasional in-home meal is allowed, but only on infrequent occasions (once a term).
- A free car, plane, or train ride provided by a coach, donor, or booster that is not related to either practice or competition, unless the trip is available to all Trevecca Nazarene University students.

- Discounts, payment arrangements or credit on a purchase or a service from Trevecca Nazarene University or representatives of Trevecca Nazarene University's athletics interests.
- Anything that is given to you because of your athletic status that is not available to a non-athlete.

This is an area of great concern for all coaches, administrators, faculty and alumni. Errors of omission are as prevalent as those of commission, with the ineligibility of student-athletes the end result. Members of a varsity athletic team at Trevecca Nazarene University are under additional pressures from the media, friends and boosters that many other students do not experience. While the administration and the coaches have striven to make the collegiate experience as memorable and successful as possible, it is also our responsibility to protect the student-athlete, the teams and the institution from situations which could cause a violation of an NCAA rule that could affect the student-athlete's eligibility. If anyone is suspected of being, or are found to be, in violation of these rules, it will be cause for immediate suspension from the team for a period of time to be determined by the NCAA.

A student-athlete:

- **MAY NOT** receive cash or loans from anyone other than your parents, legal guardians or the University;
- **MAY NOT** receive gifts of any kind from any booster to include, but not be limited to, birthday, Christmas or valentine's day gifts, electronic equipment, jewelry, clothing, or free services (travel, tickets to special events, haircuts, laundry, meals in restaurants, etc.);
- **MAY NOT** receive the free use of an automobile from a booster for any reason;
- **MAY NOT** receive a meal in the home of a booster on more than an infrequent basis. (An infrequent basis is defined as more than once a term.);
- **MAY NOT** receive transportation from a booster from campus to your home, airport or job;
- **MAY NOT** receive free or reduced rent;
- **MAY NOT** receive tickets from a booster to a professional athletic, institutional or community event;
- **MAY NOT** receive money from a booster for bail of bond;
- **MAY NOT** accept invitations from a booster to a summer home for entertainment;
- **MAY NOT** receive from a booster any special arrangement for any discounted purchases or special payments;
- **MAY NOT** receive more than one time per year a meal paid by a booster group for attendance at a banquet, and all funds for the meals must be paid through the athletic department;
- **MAY NOT** receive anything from any person or group that could be considered to be an extra benefit that is available to you because of your athletic ability (this can include even the smallest of items, such as an ice cream cone or soft drink at a game.)

Effect on Eligibility of a Violation

If a student-athlete receives an award, benefit or expense not authorized by NCAA legislation, the student-athlete becomes immediately ineligible for athletics competition in the sport for which the improper award, benefit, or expense was received. If the student-athlete receives an extra benefit not authorized by NCAA legislation or an improper award or expense in conjunction with competition that involves the use of overall athletic skills (e.g. "superstars" competition) the individual is ineligible in all sports.