



The University of South Dakota

ATHLETIC COMPLIANCE GUIDE FOR USD STUDENT-ATHLETES,
USD PROSPECTS AND THEIR PARENTS

WELCOME, COYOTES!

The purpose of this guide is to educate the parents of USD prospects and student-athletes, USD student-athletes themselves and USD prospects about the ever-changing rules in intercollegiate athletics. This guide will deal with the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) rules that apply to USD student-athletes as well as USD prospects. While this guide is not all inclusive, it will provide a sample of the type of compliance issues of which student-athletes and prospects should be aware. Please remember that following these rules will help to ensure athletic eligibility, while breaking any NCAA regulations may render an athlete or recruit ineligible to compete.

If you have a question about NCAA compliance rules, please contact the Compliance Office at USD, (605) 677-5299.

SEASONS OF COMPETITION - FIVE-YEAR CLOCK

Student-athletes may not engage in more than four seasons of competition in any one sport within five calendar years. In NCAA Division I, a student-athlete's five-year clock starts when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies (12 credit hours) and attends his/her first day of classes for that term.

A student-athlete uses a season of competition if he/she participates in any competition, regardless of the length of time, during a season. For example, if an athlete plays in one minute of one game, he/she has used a season of competition in that sport. There is one exception to this rule. During the first year initial year of enrollment at the four-year institution, eligible student-athletes may compete in preseason exhibition contests and preseason practice scrimmages without counting such competition as a season of competition.

A student-athlete who does not compete at all during one of his/her seasons will not use a season of competition. This is commonly referred to as a "redshirt" year. An athlete only receives one "redshirt" year within his/her five-year clock.

COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS

USD may provide a student-athlete with a maximum of four complimentary admissions per regular season home and away competitions, regardless of whether the student-athlete competes in the contest. Student-athletes may not receive "hard" tickets; complimentary admissions may be provided only through a pass list that the ticket office has approved. These pass lists will be filled out by the student-athlete for each individual contest. Student-athletes may assign complimentary admissions to family members, relatives and friends. The individual receiving the complimentary admission must present identification and sign the appropriate paperwork at the gate of the event. Neither the student-athlete, nor the individual designated to receive the ticket may exchange the ticket for money or any item of value. Doing so would result in a violation of NCAA legislation.

EMPLOYMENT

It is permissible for student-athletes to work during the academic year and vacation periods. There is no limit on the amount of money an athlete can earn during the academic year or vacation periods. Should a student-athlete work, they may be paid only for work actually performed and at a rate comparable with the going rate in the locale for the type of work performed. A student-athlete's compensation may not include any remuneration for value or utility that the student-athlete may have for the employer because of the publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that he/she has obtained because of that person's athletic ability. Student-athletes may not receive any special discounts or services from his/her employer unless they are provided to all employees. Student-athletes may not receive transportation to and from work, health benefits, vacation/sick time, bonuses, etc. unless the same benefits are available to all employees. Student-athletes planning to work during the academic year and/or vacation periods should contact the USD Compliance Office at (605) 677-5299.

FINANCIAL AID

A student-athlete may not receive athletics aid in excess of a full grant-in-aid. A full grant-in-aid is defined as financial aid that consists of tuition and fees, room, board and required textbooks. Institutions cannot award athletics aid to a student-athlete in excess of one academic year. It is a common misconception that athletics aid is guaranteed for four or five years. In reality, at the end of each academic year, the head coach has the option to renew, reduce or cancel the athletics aid. USD is required to notify each athlete by July 1 whether his/her athletics aid has been renewed, reduced or cancelled for the following academic year.

USD *may* not decrease or cancel a student-athlete's athletic aid during the period of the award (i.e., for that academic year) on the basis of the student-athlete's athletics ability, performance or contribution to a team's success; because of an injury, illness or physical or mental medical condition; or for any other athletics reason.

USD *may* reduce or cancel a student athlete's athletic aid during the period of the award if the athlete renders himself/herself ineligible for intercollegiate athletics competition; fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement; engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty; or voluntarily withdraws from a sport at any time for personal reasons.

It is permissible for a student-athlete to receive additional aid (e.g., institutional scholarships, outside awards) in addition to an athletics scholarship. In some instances those scholarships are countable against the student-athlete's full grant-in-aid limit. If that occurs, the student-athlete may have to decline the additional scholarship due to his/her financial aid limits and the team's financial aid limit. Should the athlete choose to keep the additional scholarship, his/her athletics aid may have to be reduced in order to accommodate the additional scholarship. For questions regarding financial aid please contact USD's Office of Financial Aid at (605) 677-5446 or the Compliance Office at (605) 677-5299.

EXTRA BENEFITS

One area that causes concern and raises the greatest number of questions involves a student-athlete's or his/her family member's receipt of an "extra benefit." An "extra benefit" is defined as any special arrangement by an institutional employee or booster to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's family or friends a benefit not authorized by the NCAA. The receipt of a benefit not authorized by NCAA regulations by a student-athlete or his/her parents, relatives or friends will immediately place the student-athlete's eligibility for intercollegiate athletics competition in jeopardy. Examples of extra benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

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- A special discount, payment arrangement or credit on a purchase or service (e.g., dry cleaning, legal representation);
 - Free or reduced-cost housing;
 - Transportation, an automobile or use of an automobile;
 - Services (e.g., movie tickets, dinners, use of a car) from commercial agencies (e.g., movie theaters, restaurants, car dealers) without charge or at reduced rates; and
 - Cash, gift certificates or other items with value.

Please contact the Compliance Office if you should have any questions regarding extra benefits.

BOOSTERS

As a USD student-athlete, prospect, or parent of a USD student-athlete or prospect, you should be aware that the NCAA has imposed limitations and boundaries on the kinds of interactions you may have with people whom the NCAA defines as “representatives of USD’s athletics interests” or boosters. A booster is an individual who is a member of an organization that supports and promotes USD athletics; made any financial contributions to the athletics department (e.g. The Howling Pack Fund); been involved in promoting USD’s athletics program; been a season ticket holder or provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their relatives or friends.

USD student-athletes and prospects are responsible for understanding rules involving boosters, because prohibited contact with a booster could detrimentally affect a prospect or student-athlete’s NCAA eligibility. Please see the USD Booster link on the USD Compliance website to learn more about NCAA regulations on this topic.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Once a student-athlete begins taking classes at USD, he/she will be expected to maintain certain academic standards in order to be eligible for practice and competition. NCAA legislation requires that student-athletes maintain progress toward a degree in order to maintain their academic eligibility.

In general, to be eligible to participate in practice and competition, a student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies (i.e. 12 credit hours). As student-athletes progress through each term, they are required to meet additional academic requirements. First, student-athletes must complete a minimum of six credits per term (excluding summers) to be eligible for competition the next term. In addition, student-athletes must complete a minimum of 18 credits during the academic year. In addition to credit hour requirements, student-athletes must earn a minimum grade-point average each term of enrollment. As student-athletes enter their third year of enrollment, they are required to designate a degree and make progress toward that degree by completing a minimum percentage of requirements for that degree program.

Student-athletes who fail to meet NCAA academic standards will be rendered ineligible for competition until their academic deficiency has been corrected, as certified by the USD Registrar’s Office. While having its own requirements, the NCAA also requires that a student-athlete remain in “good academic standing” at USD according to University standards and applications. Failure to remain academically eligible may also cause a student-athlete to lose their financial awards. For more information on NCAA academic standards, see the chart on the following page.

NCAA ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Entering 2nd Year of Enrollment	Entering 3rd Year of Enrollment	Entering 4th Year of Enrollment	Entering 5th Year of Enrollment
24 Semester Credits	40% of degree requirements completed	60% of degree requirements completed	80% of degree requirements completed
18 Semester Credits earned during the academic year	18 Semester Credits earned during academic year	18 Semester Credits earned during the academic year	18 Semester Credits earned during the academic year
90% of GPA for graduation (this is certified term by term)	95% of GPA for graduation (certified by term)	100% GPA for graduation (certified by term)	100% GPA for graduation (certified by term)
6 credits per term	6 Credits per term	6 Credits per term	6 Credits per term

GAMBLING

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required or there is an opportunity to win a prize. The prohibition against sports wagering applies to USD athletics department staff, coaches and student-athletes.

This means that student-athletes are prohibited from participating in the following activities:

- No wagers for any item (e.g., cash, dinner, clothing) or for any service (e.g., car wash, house cleaning) on any collegiate, professional, or amateur competition or practice.
- No sports “pools”.
- No Internet gambling on sports events.
- No fantasy leagues that award a prize or require a fee to participate.
- No exchange of information about a USD team and/or student-athlete with anyone who gambles including information about injuries, new plays, team morale, discipline problems, etc.

A student-athlete who participates in any sports wagering activity involving USD or who engages in activities designed to influence the outcome of an intercollegiate contest or in an effort to affect win-loss margins (“point shaving”) shall permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Each year the athletics department receives many requests from the community for our student-athletes to make public appearances. It is permissible for student-athletes to participate in promotional activities, provided certain criteria are met.

- Student-athletes MAY NOT allow their name, picture or personal appearance to advertise, recommend or promote the sale or use of any commercial products, services or businesses.
- Student-athletes must receive written approval from the USD Compliance Office PRIOR to participating in any promotional activities.
- The student-athlete may not miss class.
- The student-athlete may not receive payment for their appearance at a promotional activity.

In order to protect a student-athlete’s eligibility, it is important to check with the USD Compliance Office before the student-athlete participates in any promotional activity with an outside organization or The University.

CONSEQUENCES OF NCAA RULES VIOLATIONS

A violation of NCAA rules by a student-athlete will immediately put his/her eligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletics in jeopardy. In addition, a violation of NCAA rules by the parents, relatives and/or friends of a student-athlete will have a similar affect. As a result, the eligibility status of a USD student-athlete may be adversely impacted by the actions of their parents or others (e.g., boosters), even if the student-athlete did not have any knowledge of the events and circumstances that led to the violation of NCAA rules. Please be aware that your actions or the actions of the family or friends around you, may have eligibility ramifications.

AGENTS AND AMATEURISM

Per NCAA legislation only an amateur student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate athletics participation. A student-athlete may jeopardize his/her amateur status if he/she has inappropriate contact with an agent or their representatives. Please keep the following in mind if an agent or their representatives contact you or your parent(s) in an attempt to persuade you to allow them to represent you.

- A student-athlete **MAY NOT** agree, either orally or in writing, to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing his/her athletics ability or reputation in a sport. In addition, it is not permissible for a student-athlete to enter into a verbal or written agreement with an agent for representation in future professional sports negotiations once his/her collegiate eligibility has expired in that sport.
- Student-athletes (or their relatives or friends) **MAY NOT** accept transportation or other benefits (e.g. dinner, lodging) from anyone who wishes to represent their athletic interests.
- A student-athlete **MAY NOT** enter into any kind of agreement to compete in professional athletics, either orally or in writing, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement.
- Student-athletes **MAY NOT** receive any type of pay or compensation for play (either directly or indirectly).
- Student-athletes **MAY NOT** be involved in any commercial endorsements for a product, service or establishment.

It is permissible for a student-athlete to secure legal advice from a lawyer concerning a proposed, professional sports contract, provided the lawyer **DOES NOT** represent the student-athlete in negotiations for such a contract. A lawyer may not be present during discussions of a contract offer with a professional organization or have any direct contact (in person, by telephone or by mail) with a professional sports organization on behalf of the student-athlete. A lawyer's presence during such discussions is considered representation by an agent.

A student-athlete may only sign a contract for representation with an agent when the student-athlete has used up all eligibility or has decided to forego any remaining eligibility. A student-athlete may, however, inquire of a professional sports organization about eligibility for a professional league player draft or request information about his/her market value without affecting his/her amateur status. For more information on agents and amateurism please visit the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org.

TRANSFER

If a student-athlete decides to transfer from USD to another institution (regardless of division) they must first receive permission from his/her head coach before talking to the second institution. If the student-athlete does not obtain permission to contact the second institution, the coach from that institution may not have any written or verbal contact with the student-athlete. The general rule regarding transferring from one Division I institution to another Division I institution is that the student-athlete must serve one academic year in residence (i.e. must sit out) at the second institution before being eligible for competition. In sports other than baseball, basketball, bowl subdivision football and men's ice hockey, an athlete may receive a one-time transfer exception from the first institution which allows the individual to be immediately eligible for competition at the second institution upon transfer, provided the student-athlete meets all academic requirements. This exception applies differently to championship subdivision football. A school participating in championship subdivision football (FCS), like USD, to which the student is transferring may use this exception only if the student-athlete transferred to the certifying institution from an institution that sponsors bowl subdivision football (FBS) and has two or more seasons of competition remaining in football [or the student-athlete transfers from a Football Championship Subdivision institution that offers athletically related financial aid in football to a Football Championship Subdivision institution that does not offer athletically related financial aid in football]. For more information regarding transfers, visit the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org or view the NCAA Transfer Guide posted on the USD Compliance website.

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

Many incoming student-athletes sign a National Letter of Intent (NLI) with USD. An NLI is an agreement between the incoming student-athlete and USD which states that the institution will provide the student-athlete with one academic year of athletically related financial aid in return for the student-athlete's attendance at that institution for one academic year (summers excluded). This financial agreement is valid for one academic year only. It does not guarantee that the student-athlete will receive athletics aid in excess of his/her first year of enrollment at the institution. This agreement remains binding even if the student-athlete's coach leaves the institution with which he/she signed. If the student-athlete does not attend the institution or attends the institution for less than one academic year, the athlete will face a penalty should he/she transfer to another NLI institution. For more information on the NLI visit their website at www.national-letter.org.