Facebook, Twitter and other social networking websites have become extremely popular over the past few years and they continue to grow by leaps and bounds. In fact, one recent estimate concluded that if Facebook members comprised a country, it would be the third largest country in the world! Thus, as a result of their popularity, it should come as no surprise that the NCAA has significantly increased its legislation governing the use of such sites, particularly as they relate to recruiting prospective student-athletes.

If a coach communicates with a prospective student-athlete via a social networking website, a number of NCAA rules must be followed in order for the communication to be permissible. The same is true for fans’ interaction with prospective student-athletes via social media.

Some extremely enthusiastic fans have sought out and contacted prospective student-athletes via social networking sites, though they had never met the prospective student-athletes before and had no pre-existing relationship. Other fans have created “fan groups” or special pages on a website for a particular prospective student-athlete in an effort to encourage that prospective student-athlete to attend a specific collegiate institution. While this may seem like an innocent activity, it is unfortunately contrary to NCAA rules and would result in a penalty against Boston College if one of our boosters engaged in such activities.

Generally, anytime a booster injects himself/herself into the recruiting process, including posting what is intended to be a fun and friendly message on a prospective student-athlete’s website (e.g. Facebook page or Twitter account), NCAA penalties can result. Regardless of the medium, NCAA rules explicitly prohibit all communication between prospective student-athletes and boosters.

As a result of the above, Boston College would like to remind you to refrain from any and all communication with prospective student-athletes. Violations of this rule could potentially jeopardize the eligibility of the prospective student-athlete and negatively impact his/her ability to participate in intercollegiate athletics at Boston College.

Your strict adherence to these rules, and all others, helps to preserve the integrity of our athletics program and ensures that we operate within NCAA, ACC, and all institutional rules and regulations.
**Summary: What did Syracuse do wrong?**

**NCAA cites academic fraud, extra benefits, drug policy**

**SYRACUSE.COM** Syracuse, N.Y. — Syracuse University committed more than a dozen infractions of NCAA rules over 10 years, including a failure to exercise institutional control. These were among the findings of wrongdoing:

**Lack of institutional control**
SU failed for 10 years to exercise enough control over its athletic program and "employed deficient monitoring systems involving academics, drug-testing, and athletes' relationship and engagement with the community." The NCAA singled out men's basketball coach Jim Boeheim for failing to promote an atmosphere of compliance over 10 years.

"The institution permitted athletics success to supersede NCAA standards of conduct," the NCAA said. "Student-athletes and institutional staff committed violations freely or did not know that their conduct violated NCAA legislation. Many of those violations went undiscovered for years."

**Academic misconduct**
The NCAA found that an SU athlete submitted a paper in a course he'd already completed as a way to improve his course grade and restore his NCAA eligibility. The submitted paper was prepared with the help of two employees of the athletic department who no longer work at SU. In the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons, a part-time tutor and three football players committed academic fraud when they provided false information on athletes' involvement in an internship program to a professor who later gave the athletes academic credit. The part-time tutor was Hank Leo, who's the chief executive officer of the Oneida YMCA. The internships were required for a degree in Child and Family Studies, a popular major among athletes in the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamic. In 2004-05, 18 percent (24 of 134) of football players were enrolled in that major, according to university records.

As a result of SU's investigation into that misconduct, the university found other instances of athletic department employees providing inappropriate edits on drafts of papers or take-home tests for three other athletes. Under the direction of SU's director of basketball operations, the university's student-athlete support services staff operated contrary to institutional policies and procedures, the NCAA said. That director, Stan Kissel, resigned in December 2012. The NCAA found that Kissel, along with an SU support services mentor, engaged in academic fraud for basketball center Fab Melo.

**Extra benefits**
SU discovered and reported to the NCAA that a former university representative and employee of the YMCA in Oneida County paid $8,335 to five SU athletes. The payments did not coincide with YMCA-related events.

The representative was Jeffrey Cornish. SU's lawyers asked school employees whether Cornish provided checks to SU athletes from an account he managed. In 2003, Cornish drove SU basketball star Carmelo Anthony to a speech and stopped at a neighbor's house so Anthony could sign autographs.

In 2005, basketball players Terrence Roberts and Hakim Warrick attended basketball tournament that Cornish was involved in. In 2001, football players R.J. Anderson and Kyle Johnson participated in a reading event at the Oneida YMCA. The YMCA sued Cornish in 2008, claiming he set up a bank account using the YMCA's not-for-profit tax ID number without the agency's permission and diverted as much as $338,462 to his own benefit. The NCAA found that Cornish paid SU athletes out of that account.

**Failing to follow its drug-testing policy**
SU discovered and self-reported to the NCAA that between 2001 and 2009, the athletic department administered drug tests to athletes in a way that was inconsistent with the written policy. In those years, Syracuse didn't follow its written drug-testing policy. "Like many of the other severe violations involved in this case, the institution's actions regarding its dismissal of the written drug testing policies and procedures were aimed at preserving student-athletes' ability to compete for the men's basketball program," the NCAA report said.

**Find the Infraction**

**THE FACTS:**
Mr. and Mrs. Zone Defense are avid football fans and donors at Field of Green University. Mr. and Mrs. Defense were introduced to FGU's starting quarterback at the annual scholarship luncheon. They offered to have the quarterback's parent watch the next home game from their suite. The quarterback's parents accepted the invitation and watched the next game from their suite. While watching the game in the suite, his parents also received a complimentary meal and gift bag.

**THE INFRACTION(S):**
Donors may not provide student-athletes or their relatives with any extra benefits. In this scenario, a violation occurred when the parents of the student-athlete watched the game from the suite and received the complimentary meal and gift bag.

**PENALTY:**
Once the violation is discovered, the student-athlete must be deemed ineligible for competition. In order to be reinstated, the student-athlete must make restitution for the value of the benefit. Additionally, if the value of the benefit exceeds $100, the student-athlete must be withheld from competitions. The greater the value, the more competitions the student-athlete must be withheld from.

Always check with the Compliance Office before providing a benefit to a student-athlete or their friends or relatives.