RULES FOR CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES:
OUTSIDE COMPETITION DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

OUTSIDE COMPETITION is defined as athletics competition against any other athletics team (including an alumni team) that does not represent a varsity sport at Boston College. (NCAA Bylaw 17.02.9)

GENERAL RULE ON OUTSIDE COMPETITION (NCAA Bylaw 14.7.1)
Except in the sport of basketball, if you participate during the academic year in your sport as a member of any outside team in any competition, you shall be declared ineligible for all competition as part of your Boston College varsity team unless eligibility is restored by the NCAA’s Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. At Boston College, the academic year is defined by the NCAA as a student’s first day of classes in September through that student’s last final examination in May. In the sport of basketball, eligibility will not be restored.

Hypothetical Example: The first day of classes is Tuesday, September 5, 2006. You decide to go home for a weekend and compete for your old club team in the same sport that you compete for at Boston College, and do so on Saturday, September 23, 2006. You are now immediately ineligible for competition with your varsity team at Boston College.

EXCEPTION FOR OFFICIAL VACATION PERIODS (NCAA Bylaw 14.7.1.1)
EXCEPT for those competing in the sport of basketball, you may compete outside of your team’s declared playing and practice season as a member of an outside team in any noncollegiate, amateur competition during any official vacation period published in Boston College’s catalog. A “declared playing and practice season” refers to when a Boston College varsity team is in-season, meaning the team limits on athletically related activities are: a) 4 hours in one day, b) 20 hours in one week, and c) one day off in every seven-day period. Please understand that for many sports, there are limits on the number of student-athletes from one school who may compete for that outside team.

Hypothetical Example: You are a member of a team (not basketball) at Boston College and your traditional season ends on Saturday, December 16, 2006. After that, you are not in-season again until January 13, 2007. Therefore, you would be able to compete for an outside team in a noncollegiate amateur competition during a portion of the official winter vacation, which according to the Boston College catalog, is taking place from the close of all final examinations on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 through Monday, January 15, 2007. Once you are in-season again on January 13, 2007, you may no longer compete for an outside team. In this example, it is only permissible to do so because the involved sport is not basketball, you do so only while you are not in-season, and the competition takes place during an official vacation period.

Hypothetical Example: You are a member of a team (not basketball) at Boston College and your traditional season ends on Saturday, November 18, 2006. After that, you are not in-season again until February 1, 2007. Therefore, you would be able to compete for an outside team in a noncollegiate amateur competition during the official Thanksgiving vacation, which according to the Boston College catalog, is taking place from Wednesday, November 22, 2006 through Sunday, November 26, 2006. This is permissible because the involved sport is not basketball, you are not in-season, and the competition takes place during an official vacation period.

UNATTACHED / INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION (NCAA Bylaw 14.7.1.3)
In individual sports (only Cross Country, Fencing, Golf, Skiing, Swimming, Tennis, and Track & Field), you may participate in outside competition as an individual during the academic year in your sport, so long as:

1) The competition is an open event. That is, it must be open to noncollegiate competitors and must be organized, publicized, and operated as an event that is open to individuals other than solely collegiate competitors.
2) You only represent yourself. You cannot compete as a part of any club, team, or organization. When you enter the competition, you enter as “John/Jane Smith – Unattached” or something along those lines. You just have to make sure that there is not any sort of affiliation between you and any club/team/organization.
3) You pay for all of your own expenses. This includes all travel and competition expenses (e.g., getting yourself to the competition, paying the registration fee, etc.).
4) You do not wear any BC-issued uniform or apparel. Basically, you cannot wear anything that would show people that you are a Boston College student-athlete.

YOU MUST SEE THE COMPLIANCE OFFICE BEFORE ENGAGING IN ANY OUTSIDE COMPETITION. IN ADDITION, PLEASE SEE THE COMPLIANCE OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS. THANK YOU!

BC Compliance Office 07/06
RULES FOR CURRENT STUDENT-ATHLETES:
PRIZES AND AWARDS WHEN ENGAGING IN OUTSIDE COMPETITION

GENERAL RULE ON PRIZES AND AWARDS
As we tell everyone at their eligibility meetings, you cannot get paid for playing your sport. That is, you can never receive cash or a cash equivalent! However, under very limited exceptions, you can receive items/merchandise for your participation. Please carefully review the examples listed below. You will see there are huge differences between what you can receive during the academic year and what you can receive during the summer.

DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR (NCAA Bylaw 12.1.1.1)
If you are permitted to participate in outside competition, either as an unattached individual or as a member of an amateur club team, you cannot receive anything for your place finish or your team’s place finish. For instance, if first place gets one prize, and second place gets another prize, and so on and so forth, you must make sure that you don’t receive/take anything at all for your place finish. However, if everyone in the entire competition is receiving something, you can certainly get that. The most important thing to remember is that you cannot receive anything due to your success in a competition (e.g., place finish) or your status as a student-athlete.

Hypothetical Examples of Prohibited Items:
1) Cash or a cash equivalent
2) Gift Certificate for finishing in 3rd place overall
3) Trophy/Medal for finishing 1st in your age group

Hypothetical Examples of Items You May Receive:
1) T-Shirt that every competitor receives
2) T-Shirt that every competitor in a particular age group receives

DURING THE SUMMER (NCAA Bylaw 16.1.1.3)
If you are permitted to participate in outside competition during your summer vacation in between academic years at Boston College, either as an unattached amateur individual or as a member of an amateur club team, you MAY receive awards based on your place finish or your team’s place finish.

However, please remember that the awards received must conform to the regulations of the recognized amateur organization that governs the competition.

Hypothetical Examples of Prohibited Items:
1) Cash or a cash equivalent
2) Gift certificates redeemable for cash

Hypothetical Examples of Items You May Receive:
1) Trophy/Medal for finishing in 1st place
2) Gift certificate not redeemable for cash for finishing in 2nd place in your age group
3) Merchandise for finishing in 3rd place

NOTE: An amateur team must satisfy certain criteria in order to be recognized as “amateur” by the NCAA. First, unsurprisingly, they may not declare themselves to be professional (NCAA Bylaw 12.02.4(b)). Second, they may not provide any team members with more than actual and necessary expenses for participation on the team (NCAA Bylaw 12.02.4(a)). The moment a team provides any team member with more than actual and necessary expenses, that team is defined as a professional team by the NCAA and if you are part of the team, you will be deemed ineligible. Therefore, if you participate during the summer with an amateur team and that team wins a cash prize for their place finish in the tournament, you may not receive any part of that cash prize. In addition, if the team is already providing all team members with all actual and necessary expenses, the moment any team member accepts any part of the cash prize, the entire team is now seen as professional in the eyes of the NCAA. On the other hand, if team members are required to pay for all of their own expenses, those who are not NCAA student-athletes may receive the cash prize only up until the point where they have been reimbursed for their expenses. Anything above that level turns the team into a professional team, and you will become ineligible.

YOU MUST SEE THE COMPLIANCE OFFICE BEFORE ENGAGING IN ANY OUTSIDE COMPETITION. IN ADDITION, PLEASE SEE THE COMPLIANCE OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS. THANK YOU!

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