

The Southern Miss Athletic Compliance staff published this brochure for the purpose of introducing you and your family to potential pitfalls when planning for a future career as a professional athlete.

Agents

An agent is a person authorized by another to act for him or her, one entrusted with another's business. A sports agent acts on behalf of an athlete in negotiating the athlete's playing contract, as well as financial planning, endorsements, speaking arrangements and other duties the athlete does not wish to do on their own. Under NCAA rules, you are ineligible in a sport if you have agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent in that sport.



Do's...

- ✓ You may seek counseling about a future professional athletics career through The University of Southern Mississippi athletic department staff.
- ✓ You may request information from a professional team, coach or organization concerning your market value.
- ✓ You may speak with prospective agents through Southern Miss.
- ✓ You, your parents or legal guardians or Southern Miss may negotiate with a professional team (specifically baseball).
- ✓ You may compete professionally in one sport and be an amateur in another.

- ✓ You may secure an NCAA approved loan based on potential future earnings for the purpose of purchasing insurance against a disabling injury/illness.
- ✓ You are allowed to have one on-campus medical exam during the academic year by a professional league's scouting bureau.

...and Don't's

- ⊘ You may not agree (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing your athletics ability in that sport.
- ⊘ You may not agree (orally or in writing) to be represented in the future (after your eligibility is exhausted).
- ⊘ You may not retain professional services (legal advice) for personal reasons at less than the normal charge.
- ⊘ You may not receive preferential benefits or treatment because of your reputation, skill level, or pay back potential as a professional athlete.
- ⊘ You may not tryout with a professional team in a sport or permit a professional team to conduct medical examinations during the academic year (including any intervening vacation periods) while enrolled as a full-time student.
- ⊘ You or a member of your family may not accept gifts, trips, loans or any other benefit from a prospective agent or runner.



SOUTHERN MISS
GOLDEN EAGLES

Runners

Runners are used by agents to be the "inside track" to signing the student-athlete to a representation contract. Runners are usually individuals who start out trying to "just be your friend." The runner can be anyone, male or female, current or former student, and even an old high school friend. Runners may eventually offer rides, meals, clothing, and seem like a good person. You can also be certain that every dime the runner has spent in "recruiting" you on behalf of the agent has been well documented, and you will likely be required to repay that cost once you are signed by the agent. There is "no free lunch," even in the world of professional athletics.

What are the Odds?

One college football student-athlete out of 32 will ever play a down in the NFL. A mere one in 52 college basketball student-athletes will sign an NBA contract. Just in case your career as a professional athlete does not work out, you will need a contingency plan....

Get your degree!!

Ask Questions

Use the resources available to you. Speak with the compliance staff, the NCAA, the coaching staff, scouts, and professional teams and leagues. Don't hesitate to ask tough questions, and demand honest answers. Make an informed decision. For more information contact Don Oberhelman, Associate Athletic Director at 601-266-6586.