

SUBJECT: CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP	Reference: GP-014
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APPROVED BY: Monica Alejandre, Associate Vice President, Advancement Operations  Mica Hyandre	REVISED: <b>8/14/2020</b>
APPROVED BY: Robert J. Nava, Vice President, University Advancement	

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Corporate Sponsorship Procedure is to establish proper internal controls for the acceptance of sponsored gifts and meet the set requirements established by CASE and the University.

## **GUIDELINES**

For a corporate sponsorship to be fully countable as a gift all the factors below must exist.

- 1) Contribution must be made by a person or corporation engaged in a trade or business
- 2) The sponsor should not expect nor receive a substantial return benefit (2% of sponsorship contribution) for payment other than name acknowledgement and/or promotional value
- 3) Promotional information should be limited to any or all of these: o Sponsor's location, phone number, website
- 4) Value-neutral description of sponsor's products or services
- 5) Sponsor's brand/trade name or product/service listings.
- 6) There is no qualitative or comparative advertising of sponsor's products or services such as pricing, savings, value, purchase/sale inducements, etc.
- 7) Sponsorship should not be contingent on event attendance, ratings or public exposure.



If the sponsorship receives competitive pricing or product information displayed because of a donation, the IRS defines this as an exchange transaction and not a gift.



Examples of sponsorships that **do not** qualify as charitable gift income:

- 1) Advertising revenue
- 2) Exclusive vendor relationships, such as fees received for pouring rights
- 3) Trade-outs, such as free hotel rooms or transportation provided by the supplier; these are not considered tax-deductible by the IRS and are not reportable
- 4) Donations of athletic uniforms, shoes and equipment via exclusive vendor agreements whereby the university received the items in exchange for refraining from using competitors' products.

## **EXAMPLES:**

- 1) An institution offers corporate sponsorship opportunities at a golf tournament, where the sponsor would pay \$2,500 to provide food and beverages at any of the 18 holes, in exchange, a placard stating the name/logo of the company sponsoring that hole would be displayed. Because the simple display of the corporation's name does not constitute 'advertising", the entire \$2,500 is a valid charitable gift.
- 2) However, if the sponsor also received four 'free' tickets to the golf tournament and the fair market value of those tickets is \$125 per person, the value of those tickets must be deducted from the gift amount, making the net gift amount \$2,000.
- 3) Anytime a donor receives a benefit for a gift or a sponsorship, the fair market value of that benefit should be deducted from the gift. In addition, if tickets or season passes are provided as part of the benefit, then only 80% of the gift is tax-deductible.

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