

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOPHER ATHLETICS WHEEL
CLUB PROGRAM





Wheel Club Policies and Procedures

The University of Minnesota Athletic Department sponsors a courtesy car program, known as the Wheel Club, where limited departmental personnel receive the use of an automobile. In return, the dealer receives a trade in the value of Athletic Department advertising, game tickets, and parking privileges to sporting events. Outlined below are the policies and procedures that athletic department personnel and auto dealerships who participate in this program are required to follow:

1. USE

The use of the courtesy car is limited to the departmental participant and his/her immediate family only. **Under no circumstance should the car be loaned to or used by University student-athletes.** This would be a direct violation of NCAA and Big Ten Conference rules governing extra benefits for student-athletes, and inducement for prospective student-athletes.

2. RECIPIENTS

The Athletic Director will make the final decision as to the recipients of courtesy cars. Under no circumstances can athletic department personnel negotiate for the use of an automobile as a representative of the University without the Director's approval.

3. REGISTRATION AND LICENSES

All cars given to the athletic department in exchange for tickets and publicity will be properly registered and licensed with the State. **NO DEALER PLATES WILL BE PERMITTED.**

4. COMMUNICATION

It is the responsibility of the courtesy car participant to maintain a consistent and open line of communication with his respective dealer. Dealers that participate in the Wheel Club program are donors to Intercollegiate Athletics. The nature of the donation demands a personal and open line of communication between the departmental car recipient and the courtesy car donors.



5. INSURANCE

University employees who accept employer provided automobiles must purchase their own insurance policies. The Wheel Club Program does not provide automobile insurance to participating employees. Nor does the University reimburse employees for their automobile insurance costs. However, to the extent an employee incurs a bona fide business expense that is not reimbursed by the University, the employee may be able to deduct the business portion of such expense as a personal income tax deduction.

The dealership must be listed as the loss payee and should be listed on the insurance policy. The final determination on the amount and type of insurance coverage will be left to the discretion of the automobile dealer, and a copy of the insurance must be kept on file at the dealer's office.

6. DAMAGES

Department Wheel Club participants are responsible for all damages to automobiles which they drive. This includes the smallest of dents to the largest of accidents. It is the responsibility of the Wheel Club participant to cover repair costs if the costs are greater than the insurance coverage. All bills must be paid promptly, or participant may lose Wheel Club privileges.

7. CARE & MAINTENANCE

It is the responsibility of the Wheel Club participant to take particular care in the general upkeep and maintenance of their courtesy car. This includes regular washing, waxing, vacuuming, and oil changes. Most automobiles, and the warranty's pertaining to those automobiles, require regular maintenance. The Wheel Club participant should consult his/her respective dealer as to maintenance procedure and policy.

8. TURNOVER

Each dealer is unique. Therefore, they will establish the terms for turnover of vehicles. Most automobile dealers prefer that the courtesy cars be rotated on an average of less than 6,000 miles or 6 months. It is the responsibility of the Wheel Club participant to communicate with his/her respective dealer as to the dealer's preference.



9. WHEEL CLUB BENEFITS

In exchange for their investment, Golden Gopher Wheel Club members receive the following benefits:

Dealership Exposure:

- Membership ads in all football, game day programs that feature the dealer's name, dealership name and phone number.
- Recognition on scoreboards at all home football, men's basketball and men's hockey games.
- Recognition on scoreboards at all home women's volleyball, basketball and hockey events.

Tickets and Game Benefits:

- Members will receive eight (8) men's season tickets: football (4), basketball (2) and hockey (2). This in no way affects existing Wheel Club members' ticket allotments. Reserved parking is included.
 - Tickets are based on number of vehicles donated to the program. Numbers listed above represent a donation of **one** vehicle. If a second vehicle is donated, the ticket numbers would increase as needed
- Choice of up to twelve (12) women's season tickets with no more than four (4) in any one sport of basketball, hockey, or volleyball
 - Tickets are based on number of vehicles donated to the program. Numbers listed above represent a donation of **one** vehicle. If a second vehicle is donated, the ticket numbers would increase as needed
- Away game ticket priority (upon availability)
- Scheduled Pre-Game Hospitality
 - Club Room Access for select sports
- Post-Season ticket rights (upon availability)

Plus:

- Annual Wheel Club outing with coaches, staff, and special guests.
- Entitlement to complimentary copies of the annual Minnesota ICA posters (based upon availability).
- Positive association with the University of Minnesota.
- A chance to meet and personally know our coaches and staff.

The University of Minnesota Athletics Department is grateful to area auto dealers who help promote and enhance its sports programs by providing a courtesy car to coaches and staff members. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Gopher Athletics Wheel Club, please reach out to Elizabeth Walters, Development Coordinator-Golden Gopher Fund (c: 715-307-4170, ewalt@umn.edu).

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