

## **Ending the Tax Break for Sport Fans**

A widely overlooked paragraph in President Obama's recent budget is a proposal to [end the tax deduction](#) available to some fans for donations they make to get seats at college sporting events. According to Bloomberg News "[b]y closing what the White House calls a loophole in the system, people would pay about \$2.5 billion over the next decade in higher taxes. Currently, college sports fans can deduct 80 percent of the cost of such donations."

While my personal opinion is that in addition to being glib and shallow, President Obama is inexperienced in military and business matters and business. But, it's possible that he's stumbled over a good idea here. Increasingly, college sports are corrupt and corrupting the universities on which they are located. Even at a bottom tier university like Southern Miss, the school was recently caught cheating to field a bottom of the barrel basketball team. Nor is the recent fiasco the [first time](#) Southern Miss has been caught cheating to field a losing team. In 2011, the [University of Southern Mississippi](#) reported 21 NCAA violations across seven sports in only a two year period.

Here's my recommendation to the sports fans. Buy the local university sports programs including football and basketball, and get them off campus. Run the sports programs openly like businesses. Stop [pretending](#) the athletes are "students." Don't claim your tickets and the stadiums and coliseums as tax deductible, non-profit "educational" contributions that tax payers and students end up paying for. Stop the cesspools of corruption that college sports have become from continuing to contaminate higher education.