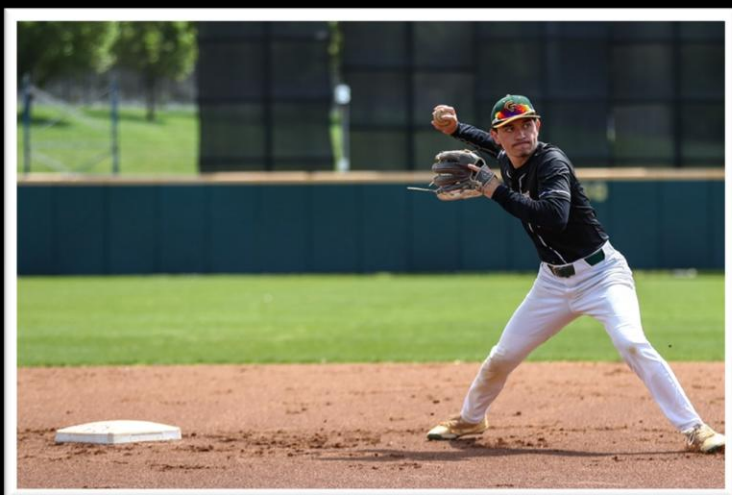


2026-2027



GEORGE MASON®
CLUB SPORTS

CLUB SPORTS OFFICERS MANUAL



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CLUB SPORTS OVERVIEW

The Club Sports program administered by Mason Recreation – Competitive Sports is designed to provide the opportunity for individuals with common interests to participate in a variety of recreational activities. Students are responsible for the formation, organization, and governance of their clubs under the requirements established by George Mason University and Mason Recreation. Club Sports are designed to provide learning experiences for each club's student members through their involvement in club activities, including organizing, administering, scheduling, fundraising, and public relations. Club Sports participants not only enjoy the rewards of athletic competition, but they also gain skills in collaboration, leadership, problem-solving, and financial management. The success of each club depends on the dedicated efforts of its Mason student leaders, faculty/staff advisor, coaches, and the club members.

Our Mission

Mason Recreation promotes well-being through dynamic, inclusive experiences. We provide space for the Mason community to move, play, connect, and thrive in a culture of active living and lifelong growth.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a more well and engaged world.

Values

- Belonging - We value the diversity that Mason has become legendary for, and we strive to positively impact as many people as possible, regardless of differences. We believe that all Patriots have a place in our services.
- Excellence – While perfection is unattainable, we believe that doing our best work is what our participants and stakeholders deserve. We pride ourselves on the first-class standards we set in our work.
- Fun – Play is at the heart of all we do. We believe that fun drives an active lifestyle and that play unlocks our most creative and well selves.
- Growth – We believe that individuals are at their best when they grow through their experiences. Our work is meant to foster development in all who engage. We commit to establishing a nurturing environment for all.
- Integrity – We believe in the power of doing the right thing for the right reasons, no matter who is looking. At our core, we strive to do right by our participants and one another.
- Leadership – We believe that our work today is creating the leaders of tomorrow! We thoughtfully facilitate an individual's ability to make a positive impact and contribute to

a greater good in all that we do.

- Learning – We recognize the importance of learning in our work. Whether by participation, through employment, or collaboration, we value the role that education has in recreation.
- Teamwork – We value the power of relationships in all that we do. We believe that by working together, anything is possible.

Competitive Sports Staff



Paul Bazzano III – Assistant Director of Competitive Sports, Camps, and Athletic Training
pbazzano@gmu.edu | 703-993-3291



Colin Peacock – Coordinator of Competitive Sports, Camps, and Special Events
cpeacoc@gmu.edu | 703-993-5656



Ian Gagliardi – Coordinator of Competitive Sports and Special Events
igagliar@gmu.edu | 703-993-5818



Jenny Tolson – Head Recreation Athletic Trainer
itolson2@gmu.edu | 703-993-5322

Competitive Sports Program Assistants – Kaitlyn Hickey | Faith Dixon | Austin Moore
masoncs@gmu.edu | 703-993-4681

Mason Recreation employs a staff of professionals and programs assistants to supervise the Club Sports program. The staff is responsible for ensuring that clubs operate in a safe and mature manner benefiting both the club participants and the University community as a whole.

General roles of the staff include but are not limited to:

- Advise clubs on their day-to-day operations.
- Ensure rules and regulations are followed according to Mason Recreation and George Mason University policies and procedures.
- Develop and oversee the budget and distribution of funds to clubs.
- Approve purchases/expenditures and oversee collection of revenue.
- Ensure compliance with safety and risk management procedures.
- Provide oversight for special events/tournaments.
- Advise the Executive Council for Club Sports ensuring that their efforts benefit all Club Sports participants.

Inquiries or concerns should be directed to the professional staff whose offices are located on the 1st floor of the RAC. Typical office hours are 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday, or by

appointment. The success, of a club sport and the program as a whole, is dependent upon open lines of communication between the department, the professional staff, current club officers and prospective members.

Contact Information

Location: Recreation and Athletic Complex (RAC)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday; 9:00am-5:00pm

Email: masoncs@gmu.edu

Office: 703-993-5323

Website: <https://recreation.gmu.edu/club-sports/>

Mailing Address:

Attention: Club Sports

George Mason University – RAC

4400 University Dr, MS 1G6

Fairfax, VA 22030

Important Dates/Deadlines

FALL			
Trainings/Meetings/Events		Deadlines	
New Coaches Training (*in-person)	Wednesday, August 19 6:30pm - 7:30pm	Fall On-campus Competition Request Priority Deadline	Friday, August 14
Returning Coaches Meeting (*Zoom)	Monday, August 17 5:30pm - 6:30pm	Executive Officer Checklist & Quiz Completed	Friday, August 21
Free Physical Date	Wednesday, August 26 5pm - 7pm	Safety Officer Checklist & Quiz Completed	Friday, August 21
Free Physical Date	Monday, September 14 5pm - 7pm	Fall Competition Schedule Submission	Friday, September 4
Executive Officer Training (mandatory)	Sunday, August 23 12:30pm - 3:30pm	Fall Coaches Deadline	Monday, September 7
Safety Officer Training (must attend one)	Sunday, August 23 11:30am - 12:30pm	Quarter 1 Financial Report Deadline	Friday, October 9
	Sunday, August 23 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Spring Practice Request Deadline	Wednesday, October 7
	Monday, August 24 5:30pm - 6:30pm		
Rec Sensation Tabling	Tuesday, August 25 11am - 1pm		
IVth Night Tabling	Thursday, August 27 6pm - 9pm		
Splash Night	Tuesday, September 1 8pm - 10pm		
Get Connected Fair	Wednesday, September 2 11am - 2pm		
Fall Premiere (YardFest)	Sunday, October 19 10am - 2pm		
United Airlines Fantasy Flight Community Service	First Week of December		
Last Day of Practices	Monday, December 7		
President's Council Meeting	Sunday, September 27		
	Sunday, October 25		
	Sunday, November 15		

SPRING			
Trainings/Meetings/Events		Deadlines	
First Day of Practices	Tuesday, January 19	Spring Coaches Deadline	Friday, January 22
Grass Fields Closed	December 1 - March 15	Spring Competition Schedule Submission Deadline	Monday, January 25
Executive Officer Training (mandatory)	Sunday, January 24 12:00pm - 2:30pm	Quarter 2 Financial Report Deadline	Friday, January 29
Safety Officer Training (must attend one)	Sunday, January 24 2pm - 3pm	Fall Practice Request Deadline	Friday, March 5
	Monday, January 25 4pm - 5pm	Mason360 Group Reregistration	March 15 - April 1
	Tuesday, January 26 4pm - 5pm	FY27 Budget Hearing Registration Deadline	Monday, March 29
	Wednesday, January 27 4pm - 5pm	Club Tier Requirement Advancement Request	Thursday, April 1
Get Connected Fair	Tuesday, January 26 11am - 2pm	New Club Requests	Thursday, April 1
Club Sports Night - MBB vs. TBA	TBA	FY26 Budget Proposal Submission Deadline	Sunday, April 4
Free Physical Date	TBA	Emergency Funds Request	Wednesday, April 7
Spring Break	March 8 - March 14	FY26 Budget Hearings	April 5 - April 16
Spring Yardfest	Sunday, April 11 10am - 2pm	Quarter 3 Financial Report Deadline	Friday, April 9
Club Sports Awards Banquet	Sunday, April 25 6pm - 9pm	Patriot Point Submission Deadline	Wednesday, April 14
Last Day of Classes/Practices	Monday, May 3	Club Sport Annual Awards Nominations Due	Wednesday, April 14
President's Council Meeting	February	Club Med Bag Return Deadline	TBA
	March	On-Campus Account Spending Deadline	Tuesday, June 1
	April	Quarter 4 Financial Report Deadline	Monday, July 5

Active Clubs

Co-Recreational:		Men's:	Women's:
Archery Badminton Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Crew Equestrian Fencing Field Hockey Ice Hockey (M2) Kendo	Olympic Weightlifting Pickleball Powerlifting Running Swimming Table Tennis Taekwondo Tennis	Baseball Football Ice Hockey (M1) Lacrosse Rugby Soccer Ultimate Volleyball	Basketball Flag Football Ice Hockey Lacrosse Rugby Soccer Softball Ultimate Volleyball

GENERAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Eligibility and Participation

Participation in Club Sports is open to all current George Mason University full-time students, part-time students, faculty, and staff *with* an active Mason Recreation membership. Eligibility for competition is based on the regulations set by each club's governing body (if applicable). All club officers, representatives, and members are required to abide by the policies, procedures and rules of the Commonwealth of Virginia, George Mason University and Mason Recreation.

Club Sport rosters may include active, affiliate, and inactive members.

Active members have met all Club Sport membership requirements and completed all required pre-participation steps, making them eligible to participate in club activities, practices, competitions, and travel.

Affiliate members have met the Club Sport membership requirements but have not completed the required risk-related participation requirements (annual physical and ImPACT baseline testing). With approval from the Competitive Sports Office, affiliate members may travel with the club or serve in volunteer or support roles. However, affiliate members are not permitted to participate in practices or competitions.

Inactive members have not completed the required pre-participation requirements or do not meet the eligibility requirements for Club Sport membership. As a result, they are not permitted to participate in any club activities. If a member leaves the club, they will become inactive for the remainder of the year. Active members may not be removed from the roster if they have participated in multiple club activities.

All members who participate in club practices or competitions must be listed on the club's roster in IMLeagues and have all required pre-participation forms completed before taking part. This requirement applies to all participants, including travel squad members, competition team members, practice squad members, and casual members. Outside of newcomers at club tryouts, no one may participate in practices or competitions without being on the IMLeagues roster and completing the necessary forms.

Membership Requirements

- Full-Time Students – no membership fee required
 - Undergraduate (12 or more credit hours)
 - Graduate: (9 or more credit hours)
- Part-Time Students – all part-time students must purchase a Mason Recreation membership
- Faculty and Staff – must purchase a Mason Recreation membership
 - Faculty/staff members may not be eligible to compete for the club due to policies established by the sport's national governing body (NGB).

- ADVANCE Students – must purchase a part-time student Mason Recreation membership

Mason Recreation Membership Information:

<https://recreation.gmu.edu/memberships/>

NOVA ADVANCE Program

Students that are enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College and have been admitted into the ADVANCE program are eligible to participate in Mason Club Sports. Students admitted to the ADVANCE program must also purchase a Mason Recreation membership and complete all pre-participation requirements. Eligibility for competition is based on the regulations of each club's national governing body (if applicable). Club officers are responsible for ensuring the eligibility of anyone participating through the ADVANCE program.

ADVANCE Program Information:

<https://www.nvcc.edu/admissions/transfer/mason/advance/index.html>

Participants Under 18 Years of Age

Students under 18 years of age wishing to participate in club sports must email the Competitive Sports office to obtain an assumption of risk form before registering. The participant and their parent/legal guardian must sign the assumption of risk form prior to participation in intramural sports.

George Mason University Non-Discrimination Policy

University Policy Number 1201

I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all George Mason University faculty, staff, students, university contractors, and visitors.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

George Mason University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnic national origin (including shared ancestry and/or ethnic characteristics), sex, disability, military status (including veteran status), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, pregnancy status, genetic information, and any other characteristic protected by law. This non-discrimination policy applies to all aspects of the university's activities, including admissions, treatment, employment, and access to programs and services.

Any employee who becomes aware of sexual harassment or other potentially discriminatory behavior must contact Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics.

Retaliation against an individual who has raised claims of illegal discrimination or has cooperated with an investigation of such claims is prohibited.

TRANSGENDER INCLUSION GUIDELINES

In some cases, national governing bodies under which individual clubs compete may have policies impacting gender-based participation. These policies are not under the control of the Club Sports

program. Any questions regarding gender-based participation within individual sports should be directed to that club's executive officers as they will be most familiar with their national governing body's policies.

Hazing

Hazing within the Club Sports program will not be accepted, and all instances will be treated with utmost seriousness.

The term "hazing" means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily injury on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

Any form of hazing is explicitly prohibited. George Mason University will thoroughly investigate any allegations of hazing. Individuals and groups found in violation of the University's hazing policy will face sanctions and potential involvement of law enforcement agencies. Should you believe you or someone you know has experienced hazing, please reach out to the Competitive Sports office.

Both individual club members (including those who voluntarily participate in hazing) and the club itself are liable to face penalties imposed by the Competitive Sports office, Mason Recreation, and the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, they may be subject to legal actions under the Code of Virginia or the laws of any relevant jurisdiction where the incident occurred.

Each academic year, all club executive officers must attend a hazing prevention workshop hosted by George Mason University. Club advisors must attend a hazing prevention workshop hosted by George Mason University every two years.

Club Email Accounts

Clubs are required to have an email account created for their organization. This account will be used to communicate with club officers and share documents with the Competitive Sports office.

It is extremely important that club officers check and respond to emails in a timely fashion. Potential club members will also use this email address to request information on your organization.

Clubs are recommended to use the club sports administrative account masoncs@gmu.edu as their recovery account in the event of a misplaced or forgotten password. This will help ensure your club account stays active through periods of transition.

ID Policy

Participants, coaches, and volunteers in the Club Sports program are required to provide a valid George Mason University or government issued ID when utilizing George Mason University

facilities.

Pre-Participation Requirements

The Club Sports program requires a series of documents, trainings, and forms for all new and returning members on an annual basis. There is a great amount of risk associated with participation in any physical activity, and these requirements are in place to help ensure the safety of the participant and streamline the administrative procedures for the Club Sports program.

Each club member is required to complete the following before he/she will be recognized as an official member of a club:

1. Club Sports Participant Quiz – Prompted on IMLeagues when attempting to join team
2. Assumption of Risk Form – Prompted on IMLeagues when attempting to join team
3. Club Sports Participation Form – IMLeagues Form
4. Athlete Concussion Acknowledgement Form- IMLeagues Form
5. Consent for Sharing Information (FERPA and Medical) – IMLeagues Form
6. Club Sports Behavior Accountability Form – IMLeagues Form
7. Club Sports Emergency Contact Information – IMLeagues Form
 - a. Clubs may host “tryouts” by having ALL returning participants complete the above items. The tryout period for an individual ends after three weeks, after which the remaining paperwork must be completed.
8. Physical Form – Forms and Documents section of Club Sports webpage
 - a. Valid for 365 days from the date the physical was completed.
 - b. Must be reviewed and approved by the Athletic Training Staff
 - c. Submit Physical Submission form on IMLeagues after submitting through Dynamic Forms
9. Baseline (ImPACT) testing (Mandatory for high-risk clubs only – [List](#))
 - a. Required before any involvement in club activities that present a risk for concussion (this may include competitions, practices, or tryouts).
 - b. Only required once during enrollment at GMU
 - c. Open to members of clubs not classified as high-risk free of charge by emailing the athletic trainer
 - d. Submit ImPACT Completion form on IMLeagues after taking the assessment
10. (For water-based sports) Swim Test – IMLeagues Form

Assumption of Risk Form

Prior to engaging in any club activities, it is mandatory for all participants to have an up-to-date assumption of risk form on record. This documentation serves to apprise participants of the potential hazards linked to their involvement. This includes visiting team competing against clubs on-campus. Please see the *Hosting Events section* for more details.

Health Insurance Requirement

Mason Recreation places a strong emphasis on the safety and security of our club sport athletes. It is important to note that the institution does not provide medical or health insurance coverage for participants in the Club Sports program. To ensure comprehensive protection, all individuals engaging in club activities are required to maintain their own medical insurance throughout the entirety of their involvement. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they possess sufficient insurance coverage and to have their policy information readily available while traveling.

Annual Physical Requirement

At Mason Recreation, the health and safety of our club members is our top priority. To ensure this, all participants are required to complete an annual physical examination conducted by a licensed medical professional. Each physical is valid for 365 days from the date of completion.

Tryout Grace Period

Since Fall 2023, all club participants have a 3-week grace period from the day they are added to the IMLeagues roster to submit their physical. During this period, they may participate in tryouts and practices. Tryouts and practices that involve contact activities will not have a grace period available to interested participants. After the grace period ends, a valid physical must be on file to continue participation

Club athletes may obtain their physical through:

- Their primary care provider
- Urgent Care or Patient First or Minute Clinic
- Student Health Services
- Club Sports block appointments with Inova

Submission Deadline

Physicals must be submitted to the athletic trainer **by 3:00 PM on Wednesday** to be eligible for competition that weekend. Incomplete physicals may be returned and considered invalid.

Sport-Specific Deadlines:

- Football, Rugby(s), Ice Hockey(s), Equestrian:
 - Physical and ImpACT must be submitted **before any contact activities** or **by the end of the 3-week tryout period**, whichever comes first.
- Other High-Risk Clubs:
 - Physical and ImpACT must be submitted **before the first competition** or **by the end of the 3-week tryout period**, whichever comes first.
- Non-High-Risk Clubs:
 - Only the physical is required, and it must be submitted **before the first**

competition or by the end of the 3-week tryout period, whichever comes first.

Intramural Sports Participation

Club Sports participants are encouraged to participate in the Mason Recreation Intramural Sports program; however, intramural team rosters may be limited in the number of Club Sports members permitted. Once rostered on IMLeagues, participants retain Club Sports status until the end of the academic year, regardless of the sport's active season. Removal from Club rosters may be provided by the Club Sports administration only. Consult the Intramural Sports rules documents for sport specific restrictions.

Organizations joining the Club Sports program whose activity relates to a current intramural sport will have restrictions on Intramural Sports participation. Club officers are responsible for informing all club members of the intramural participation policy. If an intramural team is found to have too many club participants, the team will forfeit all games in which they were in violation of the policy.

Mail and Packages

Each club has a mailbox in the RAC office suite. Clubs should have all items like payments, NGB documents, industry publications, and packages sent to following address:

Mailing Address:

(Insert Club Name)

George Mason University - RAC 4400 University Drive, MS 1G6 Fairfax, VA 22030

If your club needs to mail something, please schedule a time to meet with your club sport administrator to determine the best method. All fees will be applied to the club account.

Roster Verification

Many clubs are required to submit roster verifications to their national governing body (NGB) each semester or prior to participation in tournaments or regional and national events. Club officers should plan accordingly and provide a minimum of two weeks to have this completed. Items that need to be sent to the registrar may take longer to be completed.

Please contact your club sport administrator if you anticipate the need for roster verification.

Starting a New Club

The acceptance of new club requests falls under the jurisdiction of the ECCS. Anyone wishing to start a new club should follow the [“New Club Checklist” and submit the online application](#) to the ECCS. The ECCS will schedule a meeting with the individual(s) making the request. Following the in-person meeting, the ECCS will vote to accept or deny the request to join the Club Sports program. Interested groups may only apply once per semester to start a new club.

Individuals wishing to form a new club within the Club Sports program are required to adhere to the recognition timeline listed below. All clubs new to the program will have provisional status

for one year. Provisional clubs will not receive funding from the department and are expected to operate through club dues and fundraising initiatives. Practice allocations will be provided based on availability. Clubs may move from provisional status to active status after one year, pending all required meetings are attended, essential paperwork is submitted by the designated deadlines, and its members demonstrate commitment to ensuring the success of the club.

Application Deadline: April 1 for potential admittance the following fall

Criteria for Consideration

- Evidence that there is sufficient student interest in the activity.
- Evidence of responsible student leadership (ex. ability to meet deadlines, strong communication skills, etc.).
- A need for recognition, specifically through Mason Recreation Club Sports, to participate/compete in regional events and leagues
- Availability of appropriate facilities (on or near campus) for practices and, if applicable, competitions
- Potential impact (ex. facility use, equipment, personnel, etc.) of the club on existing Mason Recreation programs and facilities
- The ability of the club to financially support its activities (ex., availability of adequate revenue sources)
- Where deemed appropriate by Mason Recreation, the existence of a recognized governing body for the sport that has widely accepted and used sport rules (i.e., everyone knows the rules and the same rules are used in all competitions) designed to minimize participant risk
- The degree of potential risk associated with club activities and the ability of club members to manage that risk in an acceptable manner
- The degree to which the club's activities reflect the mission and goals of Mason Recreation and George Mason University

The above criteria provide a general guide for decision making regarding the recognition of a new club sport. However, the list is not exhaustive, and Mason Recreation reserves the right to consider other relevant factors and to deny recognition to any club if the club's activities present an unacceptable risk to students or recognition is not otherwise in the best interest of Mason Recreation and/or the University. Additionally, Mason Recreation reserves the right to not accept clubs into the Club Sports program depending on available resources (facility space and funding).

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES

Executive Council for Club Sports (ECCS)

The Executive Council is comprised of current members of active, University recognized Club Sports. Executive Council members are hired to serve one-year terms.

The Executive Council will advise the Competitive Sports professional staff on matters pertaining to the administration of the program. Applicants must be a member of a current club sport organization, maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA, and have been a member for their club for a minimum of **two** full semesters. In an effort to diversify the Council, no more than one member from any club sport can serve on the Council in a given term should a sufficient applicant pool exist at elections.

Position Description:

The Executive Council of Club Sports (ECCS) Member will serve as a representative of the club sports community, advising the Competitive Sports professional staff on program administration while supporting club development, policy review, and budget allocation discussions. Working 5 hours every two weeks in an office setting, ECCS members will assist with marketing, fundraising, and special events such as the end-of-year banquet. This role requires strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills to advocate for clubs, address concerns, and contribute to the program's overall success while maintaining professionalism and fairness.

Primary Duties & Responsibilities:

- Governance & Policy Oversight:
 - Recognition of new clubs and membership within the Club Sports program
 - Hear and make recommendations on club disciplinary issues
 - Review and make recommendations regarding Club Sport policies and procedures
 - Any and all matters deemed appropriate
- Financial Oversight & Resource Allocation:
 - Oversight of the club budget allocation process
 - Assist clubs that may be struggling or need guidance
- Marketing & Promotion:
 - Assist in the marketing and promotion of the Club Sports program
 - Assist the Competitive Sport professional staff with marketing and social media audits for all club sports
- Engagement & Community Building:
 - Assist in the development of Club Sports service projects and fundraising opportunities

- Coordination of the end-of-year banquet

Qualifications & Experience:

Required:

- Must be a current George Mason University student in good academic standing.
- Must be a current member of a club sport.
- Must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to work independently.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office Products.
- Must adhere to all Mason Recreation and Club Sports policies.

Preferred:

- Prior experience with club sports, intramurals, athletics, or event management.
- Knowledge of club sport policies and procedures.
- Previously or currently holds an officer role with their club.
- Previous customer service or supervisory experience.

Officers will serve an annual term from May 1st to April 30th.

Contact Email: gmueccs@gmail.com

Presidents Council

The Club Sports Presidents Council is comprised of officers or appointed members from each active and University recognized club sport. Each active and recognized club is eligible to be represented by one voting member on the Council. Council members will always have the opportunity to present issues or state concerns to the Executive Council for Club Sports (ECCS). Council meetings are held on a monthly basis, typically the first Sunday of each month throughout the academic year.

Council meetings provide the opportunity to share information regarding department policies, procedures, events, etc.

Meeting Requirements

Each club is required to have one member of their executive board (president, vice president, or treasurer) present at each Presidents Council meeting, unless they have been granted prior written approval from the Competitive Sports professional staff. Attendance will be taken at each meeting.

Officers

To be a recognized club sport through Mason Recreation, the student organization must be established, maintained, and developed by volunteer student leaders. Leadership opportunities are available for club members through various officer positions. Club officers and contributing members are responsible for writing, editing, and upholding their constitution and bylaws. Other responsibilities include determining membership requirements and dues structure, establishing a consensus surrounding level and amount of activity, managing club budgets and fundraising. At minimum, clubs must identify the positions of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two Safety Officers. All executive officers must be elected to their positions by a vote of the club's general membership.

Competitive Sports Officers in executive positions must have a cumulative 2.0 GPA or above and be in good standing with their academic departments.

Service as a Competitive Sports Officer offers many opportunities for the building of transferable skills that are valuable when seeking employment after graduation or applying for advanced educational opportunities. Skills gained can include communication, problem solving, ability to work on a team, leadership, and conflict management. Officers serve as leaders within high-functioning organizations and hone these skills through activities such as supervising club membership, managing complex budgets, resolving conflicts, coordinating with vendors and other external organizations, and organizing and executing events.

President:

- Serve as the liaison between the club and the Competitive Sports professional staff
- Inform club officers and members of the program's policies, procedures and resources including the manual

- Utilize the club constitution to structure the club's activity and elections; preside over club meetings
- Attend all Club Sports required trainings and meetings or appoint a representative
- Responsible for meeting all administrative requirements and working with the vice president and secretary to adhere to the program's deadlines
- Work with the treasurer to maintain a knowledge of the club's finances and submit the budget request report annually
- Work with other officers on the maintenance and timely replacement of club owned equipment and inventories items and their locations annually

Vice President:

- Assist the president in meeting Club Sports administrative requirements and deadlines
- Preside in the absence of the president
- Inform club officers and members of the program's policies, procedures and resources including the manual
- Have a comprehensive knowledge of the manual and attend club meetings to support the president in his/her responsibilities

Treasurer:

- Oversee all financial actions and maintain club financial records
- Follow the program's policies regarding the use of purchasing cards, purchase orders, check requests and donations
- Complete the budget request form (annually)
- Track of expenses and revenue

Safety Officers (2):

- Be familiar with the promotion of safe club activity and the identification of risk
- Responsible for enacting the communication action plan in case of an emergency and enforce the department's inclement weather policies (lightning, thunder, tornado etc.)
- Maintain a current American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Professionals and first aid certification – these certified members can provide care during on-campus or travel emergencies
- Document all club accidents/incidents and submit to the Competitive Sports office
- More information on Safety Officers is shared in the Safety & Risk Management section of this manual

Additional Leadership Positions

Some clubs choose to utilize additional officer positions or committees to manage different aspects of the club's operations. Examples of areas that could be overseen by an internal committee or supplementary officer include promotions, recruitment, social media, alumni relations, fundraising, travel, competition coordination, and equipment management.

Elections

The frequency of officer elections is determined by each club's constitution. However, elections are required to be held at least once per year and are recommended to take place around the middle of the spring semester. Elections must be completed prior to teams submitting their reregistration documents (March 1). At minimum, clubs should elect a president, vice president, and treasurer and designate safety officers. The election should be announced well in advance and allow for all qualified applicants the opportunity to run for any position.

New officer information will be collected through the re-registration process. It is recommended that each club have provisions in the constitution for replacement of officers who are unable to serve due to personal situations, school requirements, or other circumstances that may arise during their term.

Club Re-Registration

Each spring, all Club Sports must submit for re-registration through Mason360. This process involves an online application that gathers general information like new club officers, club constitution, and club safety plans. Clubs do not need to complete the online training and quizzes offered through Student Involvement. Clubs that do not re-register will be inactive in the following year.

Constitutions

Clubs are required to have an updated constitution on file with the Competitive Sports office (through Mason360). This document contains club specific policies, procedures, and bylaws specific to each organization. Any changes to the constitution must be submitted to the Competitive Sports office for final ratification prior to implementation.

It is highly recommended that club officers set aside time each semester to review their constitution with their entire executive board. Important documents should be maintained digitally for each club.

Tryouts

Clubs may specify whether they will hold tryouts and set a maximum roster size for each year. If such details are outlined, they will be included in the club's constitution.

Procedures

Club Requirements for Tryout Sessions

- Clubs must notify the Club Sports Office of planned tryouts and create their Mason360 events at least two weeks before the first scheduled tryout.
- Clubs must provide dates, times, duration, and add Mason Recreation - Club Sports as a collaborator to each Mason360 tryout event.
- Verify that all participants:
 - Register for the Mason360 event,

- Complete the waiver included in the template, and
- Meet the membership/day-pass requirement.
- Anyone new to the club that is participating in tryouts must be “checked-in” to the tryout event on Mason360. (Controlled by Club officers)

Non-Contact Sport Clubs

- With Tryouts:
 - Each day of tryouts requires its own Mason360 event and waiver.
 - Clubs do not need to add tryout attendees to IMLeagues during the tryout period.
 - Please see a breakdown of special cases at the end of this section.
- Without Tryouts:
 - Without formal tryouts, any new member may participate in a One-Day Experience session, one time per club, per academic year.
 - After their first day, they must be added to the IMLeagues roster to participate in another practice. Once they are added to the roster, the 3-week grace period begins.
 - Additionally, once this new member joins the roster, they must complete all pre-participation forms before participating in future club activities.

Level 3 Contact Sport Clubs

- Grace Period:
 - Begins once a student is added to the IMLeagues roster.
 - During the grace period, participants may participate only in non-contact activities.
 - Participants must be fully cleared by the Head Athletic Trainer before participating in any Contact Activity or official competition.
 - Physicals that expire during the year do not qualify for the grace period.
 - The Head Athletic Trainer may restrict or prohibit participation at any time for medical or safety reasons.
- With Tryouts:
 - If tryouts involve contact activities, all participants (new and returning) must be on the roster and fully cleared before participating.
 - If tryouts are non-contact only, the grace period applies.
 - Please see a breakdown of special cases at the end of this section.
- Without Tryouts:

- Newcomers may participate once using the one-day experience waiver, unless the club is engaging in contact during practice.
- If contact occurs, newcomers must be fully cleared before participating.

Waivers

- Club officers and coaches must verify waiver completion on-site before participation.
- Waivers are automatically built into the Mason360 event template. Clubs must not create their own waiver.
- One-day experience waivers are found on Mason360 as well; participants may only use this option once.

Membership Requirement

- Club activities held inside Mason Recreation facilities require an active Mason Recreation membership or applicable day-pass.
 - Purchase a Mason Recreation Day pass at the front desk of any Recreation building.
- Outdoor Recreation spaces may also require a membership or day-pass in accordance with Mason Recreation policies.
- Club activities conducted entirely off campus do not require a Mason Recreation Day pass, but all members are required to have a Mason Recreation membership to be an active club member.

Special Case – All-member tryout

Clubs that require all participants – both new and returning members – to earn their roster spot through tryouts (i.e., returning members are not guaranteed to be selected) may forgo the IMLeagues roster process and instead require all participants to register for the appropriate Mason360 tryout event. At the conclusion of the tryout period, all individuals selected to be on the club (even non-competitive members) must be added to the club's IMLeagues roster.

If these tryouts involved contact activities, clubs may only permit participants with approved physicals and ImPACT Baseline testing to participate. Both requirements must be fully approved before an individual may take part in any contact tryout activities. To ensure timely review, all required documentation must be submitted to the Head Athletic Trainer at least one business day before the scheduled tryout date (Monday through Thursday). Participants who fail to meet this deadline will not be permitted to participate in that tryout session.

ADVISORS AND COACHES

Faculty/Staff Advisors

A good advisor can be a valuable asset to a club sport by providing mature judgment and advice based on experience and insight into George Mason University and Mason Recreation policies and procedures. Ideally, the advisor can help bridge the gap from year-to-year club operations without usurping the authority of the student leadership. The primary goal of club sports is student development; therefore, the advisor should encourage and allow students to make their own decisions with the guidance of the advisor.

Role of the Advisor

1. Each club sport must have at least one active advisor selected from the current faculty or staff of the University. If a club is unable to find a suitable advisor, the Competitive Sports office may act as the club's advisor.
2. The advisor should be genuinely interested in the club/activity and play an active role in the development and operation of the club sport's administrative management.
3. The advisor will provide guidance in the development of leadership and responsibility of club sports members.
4. The advisor will provide guidance to the club sport by ensuring that all club activities are within George Mason University and Mason Recreation guidelines. The advisor should not take a formal leadership role or make decisions on behalf of the club.
5. The advisor should be knowledgeable of the club sport's affairs but should not dominate decision making or administrative management.

Coaches and Instructors

Mason Recreation acknowledges that club sports often benefit from the assistance and direction of coaches and instructors. While we realize that most coaches are volunteers, their participation in the University sponsored club requires that they uphold our standards, policies, and regulations.

The Club Sports program does not require club coaches in most cases. Knowledgeable coaches are appreciated to help clubs compete and learn sports skills. Any individual who is not a club member but wishes to serve in a coaching capacity must complete the required onboarding steps before engaging with the team. This includes completing a background check, submitting a coaches' packet, and finishing all necessary trainings. Player-coaches (club members who both play and coach) are exempt from this requirement for lower risk clubs (*see Coaching Requirement below*).

Coaches onboarding deadlines for each semester are listed in the Important Dates & Deadlines section of this manual.

Non-participating student members of the club (affiliate members), such as those who wish to serve as managers or assist with social media, must officially join the club on IMLeagues and complete all necessary forms, with the exception of the physical and baseline test.

Coaches must remember that all clubs exist to support student growth and leadership. They should act as sport experts and mentors to students, with no voting rights within the club.

Coaches must clearly understand their responsibilities, which include acting in a supervisory capacity and adhering to all guidelines set forth by Mason Recreation, University Life, and the university. These guidelines encompass, but are not limited to, policies on sexual harassment, hazing, and alcohol.

Please contact the Competitive Sports office if any questions, concerns, or issues arise. All coaches must complete the steps listed below before they can begin any work with the club.

Coaching Requirement – High Risk Clubs

All combat-based or martial arts clubs, as well as any clubs designated as Level 3 risk, must have an approved and qualified coach or instructor present at every practice. For competitions, these clubs must have any approved coach present – it does not have to be the certified coach. Coaches are required to complete all onboarding requirements and provide documentation verifying their qualifications for the role. A CPR/AED/First Aid certification is highly recommended for a coach fulfilling this role.

The primary responsibilities of a coach are instruction, supervision, and risk management. Club members may serve as coaches if approved, but they cannot simultaneously coach and participate unless another certified coach is actively supervising.

Coaches must maintain certifications from a nationally recognized governing body when available.

- Exceptions may be granted for applicants with significant experience, provided they submit documentation demonstrating mentorship, competitive experience, or instructional involvement. For martial arts, this preferably includes a black belt or an acceptable rank within the sport to be an instructor, a letter of recommendation from a senior instructor or governing body, and evidence of the ability to safely lead participants.

Additionally, coaches are responsible for ensuring participants do not engage in activities beyond their skill level. They must use evaluations, drills, and skill assessments to guide safe instruction at all times.

Clubs may utilize students, alumni or members of the community as paid or volunteer coaches/instructors by submitting the appropriate forms to the Competitive Sports office. There is a different set of forms for PAID and VOLUNTEER coaches.

Volunteer Coaches:

1. Apply to the club and attach any certifications/resume.
2. The club officers shall review the application and share it with the Competitive Sports

professional staff.

3. Upon the approval of the Club Officers, a New Coach Request Form is submitted on Mason360
4. The Club Sports staff will initiate the onboarding process for the coach.
5. Volunteer coaches MUST complete the following trainings/paperwork on an annual basis prior to beginning work with the club:
 - Volunteer MOU
 - Coach Agreement
 - Concussion training
 - Membership Parking Information – Decal Request Form
 - Volunteer coaches will receive a complimentary parking pass and Mason Recreation membership. The cost of the parking pass will be charged directly to the club.
 - Memberships shall be deactivated once the coach is no longer working with the club.
 - Coaches training
6. The candidate MUST then complete a background check which will be administered by Mason HR with costs covered by the club (valid for three years). New candidates will receive an email from TruScreen.

Paid Coaches:

1. Submit an application to the club and attach any certifications/resume.
2. The club shall review the application and upon approval by the Club Officers, a New Coach Request Form is submitted on Mason360
3. The candidate MUST then complete a background check which will be administered by Mason HR with costs covered by the club (valid for 3 years).
4. Determine a rate of pay. This must be an hourly rate for which the coach will be paid for their time. Tracking, reporting and approval of hours worked is the responsibility of the club. Failure to submit timesheet hours will result in a \$20 fee to the club.
5. The Assistant Director of Competitive Sports will submit a Worker Request Form to HR
6. All coaches MUST complete the following trainings/paperwork on an annual basis prior to beginning work with the club:
 - Coach Agreement
 - Concussion training
 - Membership Parking Information – Decal Request Form
 - Paid coaches will receive a discounted rate for a pass, which they must pay for. A letter will be issued by the Competitive Sports office. The letter will be taken to parking services to make payment and receive the pass.
 - Coaches will receive a complimentary Mason Recreation membership. Memberships shall be deactivated once the coach is no longer working

with the club.

- Coaches training
- FERPA Training
- Attend Title IX and Sexual Harassment Training
- Prohibited Relationships training

After all appropriate forms are submitted to the Competitive Sports office, the club will be notified once the coach has been cleared to begin working. Coaches who begin working prior to approval from the Competitive Sports office will be terminated immediately.

Coaches/instructors may be terminated at any time for cause or no cause by either the club or Mason Recreation. Payment may be amended based on consultation between the club and the Competitive Sports professional staff in the case of dismissal or resignation. It is expected that coaches and instructors teach to the diverse levels of the participants of the club. Novice participants should not be expected to perform skills or drills beyond their level of experience and knowledge.

Volunteers

Any individual from the community outside of the university that serves the club in a long-term volunteer role must complete a Volunteer MOU and be approved by the Competitive Sports Office.

Non-participating student members of the club (affiliate members), such as those who wish to serve as managers or assist with social media, must officially join the club on IMLeagues and complete all necessary forms, with the exception of the physical and baseline test.

All one-day volunteer arrangements made by the club are to be shared with the Competitive Sports Office. A one-day Volunteer MOU may be enforced based on the event and the involvement of the volunteer.

Consensual Relationships

In accordance with University Policy Number 1204, Mason prohibits employees, volunteers, and students with a professional power relationship over a student from engaging in any sexual or romantic relationships with the student. Due to the effect of undermining the atmosphere of trust on which the educational process depends, these relationships are prohibited regardless of who initiates the relationship and whether both parties consent to the relationship.

In the context of Club Sports, a prohibited consensual relationship could exist between a student and a coach (volunteer or paid), faculty advisor, or any other employee that may have a professional power relationship over a student (i.e. a relationship in which the employee may have authority to exercise decision-making authority regarding the student).

Any violation of this policy should be reported to Competitive Sports professional staff.

University Policy Number:

<https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/consensual-relationships/>

CONDUCT, CLUB STATUS, AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Standard of Conduct

Club Sports play a pivotal role within the George Mason University community, making them ambassadors of the University both on and off campus. Consequently, both Club Sports organizations and individuals are held to an elevated code of behavior. It is the responsibility of club officers to ensure that their club members adhere to the guidelines and procedures outlined by the Club Sports program, as detailed in this manual, as well as those established by Mason Recreation, University Life, and the University itself. Individuals should consistently conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the University's reputation.

Clubs and their members failing to meet the expected standard of conduct will be subject to consequences determined by the Competitive Sports staff and/or the ECCS (Executive Council of Club Sports). Instances of severe misconduct or violations of the University's Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Student Code of Conduct: <https://studentconduct.gmu.edu/university-policies/code-of-student-conduct/>

Alcohol and Drug Use

To ensure the safety, wellbeing, and inclusivity of all participants, George Mason Club Sports strictly prohibits the use of drugs and alcohol during any club-related activities. This policy applies to all members, regardless of age, and extends to coaches during club travel. Participants and coaches are expected to refrain from using, possessing, distributing, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol during practices, games, meetings, and all club activities. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary actions, including warnings, suspension, or referral to the university's student conduct office, depending on the severity and frequency of the offense.

Sanctions

Sanctions are applied when a club or club member violates University policies, department expectations or program requirements. Depending on the situation (incident, behavior, or violation), the club members, president, or entire club will receive notice that an investigation is being conducted. In some cases, communication could be conducted over email or in-person.

Before taking action, the following information will be considered:

- The club's honesty and cooperation, or lack thereof, with the department; attitude of the club member(s)
- Whether the member(s) take responsibility for their actions; past disciplinary record of the member(s)/club
- The severity of the damage, injury or harm

- Potential risk/liability for the University

Possible sanctions include:

- Warnings, fines, program work project
- Loss of Patriot Points
- Loss of funding, practice privileges, travel privileges, ability to host events
- Expulsion of the member(s) from the club or other department programs
- Probationary status or suspension of the club
- Tier Reduction

The Competitive Sports Office may impose interim restrictions or suspensions when the alleged conduct poses a risk to the safety of participants, the integrity of Club Sports operations, or the reputation of the university. Interim restrictions are precautionary measures, not disciplinary sanctions, and remain in effect until the case is resolved.

Club Status

In addition to adhering to the Club Sports program's policies and procedures, clubs below a tier 4 status are required to maintain either a minimum of 10 active members or 1.5X the number of players needed to field a team in their sport, whichever is higher, on their annual roster. For example, a Curling Club that has a Tier 1 designation would be required to maintain a minimum active roster of 10 participants as that number is larger than 1.5X the team requirement in the sport ($10 > 4 * 1.5$). Clubs that are at tier 4 or higher are required to maintain a minimum of 20 active members on their annual roster.

Clubs that fall below the required roster size will be notified by the Competitive Sports Office and placed on probation for the remainder of the academic year. The Competitive Sports Office will work with each club to set an appropriate deadline to meet minimum membership requirements, understanding that club membership may fluctuate from year to year. If a club fails to meet the roster requirement by the determined deadline, it will be suspended until the requirement is met (tier 3 or lower) or may be dropped down a tier for the following year (tier 4 or higher). Upon reinstatement, the club may remain on probation for the academic year, with membership being monitored periodically to ensure compliance.

Club activity occurs primarily during the fall and spring semesters, although some clubs practice during the summer and winter sessions. Individual club seasons can vary based on the sport and the governing body. Clubs that are only active during one semester are still required to attend training and meet administrative deadlines during their off-season semester to maintain recognition within the Club Sports program.

Active

Active clubs are in good standing with the Club Sports program and Mason Recreation. Active clubs adhere to all program guidelines and club tier requirements. These clubs maintain the required roster minimums, with no more than 25% consisting of faculty and staff.

Provisional

Provisional clubs are those within their first year of membership with the Club Sports program. Clubs may only remain in provisional status for one year, during which they must demonstrate the ability to sustain as a club and follow the policies set forth in this manual. After the provisional year, clubs will be placed into the tier of their choosing as long as they qualify for that tier. Clubs that do not meet satisfactory standards will be removed from the Club Sports program.

Probation

Clubs are placed on probation when members or the group violates program or department policies, procedures, and guidelines and/or fail to meet program requirements and expectations. Clubs may be placed on probation for reasons including, but not limited to: missing required training sessions, repeatedly missing program deadlines, non-compliance with safety and risk management practices, failure to adhere to policies and procedures outlined in the Club Sports manual, Club Sports standard of conduct, and/or University code of conduct. The Competitive Sports staff and/or ECCS determines the length of probation and sanctions to impose based on the severity of the violation. Clubs on probation are not eligible to request or receive emergency funding, but may request one-time emergency funding after their probationary status is lifted. Clubs on probation or suspension are not eligible to move up a tier during the affected review cycle.

Suspension

Suspended clubs will have their activities paused for a specified period due to policy violations, safety concerns, financial issues, or behavioral incidents. Suspension can also be a result of inadequate improvements made during a club's probationary period. During suspension, all club activities, including practices, events, socials, community service, travel, budget utilization, and use of Mason Recreation facilities, are halted. However, clubs are permitted to meet solely for administrative tasks directly related to resolving their suspension, such as fulfilling requirements or preparing necessary documentation. Clubs that remain suspended for an extended period may be made inactive at the discretion of ECCS and the Competitive Sports Office.

Clubs that are suspended during the reregistration period or after may see an impact to their allocation to the next fiscal year. Clubs that are suspended are not eligible to request or receive emergency funding. Clubs on probation or suspension are not eligible to move up a tier during the affected review cycle. A club that is suspended at any point during the academic year may be reduced by one tier for the following academic year.

Inactive

Inactive clubs or disbanded clubs will no longer be recognized by Mason Recreation or the University. Clubs can be made inactive for multiple reasons including but not limited to inadequate improvements made during a club's suspension period, accumulation of significant infractions, or a failure to meet registration requirements over an extended period. This status is permanent; the organization is no longer recognized by or operates under the university's club sports program. If the club wishes to return, a new club application would be required, treated as if the club were being formed for the first time. This may include a waiting period and approval

from the Executive Council of Club Sports and the club sports professional staff. Period of inactivity (1 years).

Organizational Support and Recovery

The Competitive Sports Office reserves the authority to take appropriate administrative action when a club demonstrates patterns of ineffective operations, organizational instability, or other conditions that place the club's long-term success or active status at risk. The purpose of this intervention is to provide guidance, restore effective leadership, and support the continued operation of the club whenever possible.

Administrative actions may include, but are not limited to, requiring corrective action plans, facilitating leadership transitions, or removing one or more executive officers when such action is determined to be in the best interest of the club and the Club Sports Program. The Competitive Sports Office will make these determinations based on the overall health, stability, and operational needs of the organization.

Infractions

Infractions of the Club Sports manual, Club Sports standard of conduct, and/or University code of conduct are divided into three categories. This division is intended to aid clubs in understanding the consequences of various actions deemed detrimental to the Club Sports program. The following list is neither exhaustive nor exact – rather it provides general guidelines, and appropriate actions will be determined in unique situations.

A club's record of infractions will be provided to ECCS during the budget allocation process and will be considered during deliberations.

Level	Description	Examples
Administrative	Managed by Competitive Sports professional staff and have negative Patriot Points implications. Numerous administrative infractions or failure to redress an administrative infraction can escalate to higher levels of discipline.	Missed deadlines for: • Travel itineraries • Weekly reports • Competition schedules • Re-registration • Receipts/reimbursement • Other Club Sports deadlines

Minor	Minor infractions are those negatively impacting the Club Sports program but not directly captured in the Patriot Points system. The accumulation of 3 minor infractions equates to a major infraction and will trigger a hearing with the Club Sports Office.	Facilities: • Failure to respect facility use policies • Failure to cancel a reservation within appropriate timeframe Financial: • Unapproved reimbursement Social Media: • Misrepresentation or misuse of social media Safety: • Member participating without completing required forms • Ineligible participant • No safety officer present • Not completing an accident report • Traveling without an approved itinerary
Major	Major infractions are those that could result in probation or suspension and will be heard by the Club Sports Office. Escalation outside of Club Sports and Mason Recreation may be necessary.	• Drug/Alcohol policy violation • Diversity/Inclusion policy violation • Physical altercations or fighting (including on-field, during travel, or at any club activity) • Threatening, abusive, or violent behavior toward teammates, opponents, officials, staff, or spectators • Harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any kind • Violation of University safety protocols or actions that endanger the health and safety of others • Misuse or mishandling of Club/University funds – including trademarks, licensing, and contracts • Destruction, theft, or unauthorized use of University property • Misconduct that damages the reputation of the program/University

Case Resolution Process

The conduct process for Club Sports is initiated when a major incident is referred to the Competitive Sports office. Anyone can refer an alleged incident of behavioral misconduct. Upon receipt of a referral, the Competitive Sports office will decide whether the alleged incident is within its scope of operation. For those incidents falling under the scope of the Competitive Sports office, the student(s) will receive an email notification from Competitive Sports professional staff providing information on the case resolution process. The Competitive sports office reserves the right to investigate any incident reported to the office. Cases involving violations of the Code of Student Conduct will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct. Cases involving a violation of Title IX policies will be submitted to the Title IX office.

CLUB SPORTS TIER SYSTEM

The Club Sports tier system creates a structured and equitable operating model for recognized club sports. The tier system is primarily intended to reward strong club operations and distribute funding fairly. It also encourages clubs to give back to the university and surrounding community, supports club development, and connects continued access to funding and benefits with responsible club operations.

**The Competitive Sports Office has the right to practice flexibility with this policy and tier placement.*

Tiers

All clubs have a standing tier designation for each academic year that is determined by their performance in the previous academic year. For each annual review, clubs will be automatically placed in the highest tier for which they qualify unless they request to be placed in a lower tier. Higher tiers have access to a larger percentage of the Club Sports student fee allocation pool.

Based on their tier placement, clubs will have annual tier requirements to fulfill. Clubs must fulfill their tier requirements to remain at that tier for the next academic year. Each tier provides benefits to the clubs within it. The main benefit of each tier is the amount of university allocation a club is eligible to receive, and the amount of emergency funding they are eligible to receive. A benefit to higher tiered clubs is that they receive scheduling priorities over lower tiered clubs. Scheduling priority is based on the following considerations in the order of how they are listed.

1. Club standing
2. Tier Status
3. Club Risk level
4. Patriot Points (prior year)

Tier Requirements and Benefits

Tier 1

Maximum funding: \$1,000

Requirements

- Participate in at least 1 competition per year.
- At least 25% of the club membership, or 5 active members, whichever is highest, participate in at least 1 community service event per academic year.
- Fundraise a minimum of 30% of the club's allocated budget.
- Earn at least 8 Patriot Points.

Benefits

- May request emergency funding up to \$500 per semester.

Tier 2

Maximum funding: \$2,500

Requirements

- Participate in at least 2 competitions per year.
- At least 25% of the club membership, or 5 active members, whichever is highest, participate in at least 1 community service event per semester.
- Fundraise a minimum of 50% of the club's allocated budget.
- Earn at least 12 Patriot Points.

Benefits

- May request emergency funding up to 50% of the club's allocated budget.

Tier 3

Maximum funding: \$5,000

Requirements

- Have been a recognized club sport for at least 1 academic year.
- Participate in at least 3 competitions per year.
- Have affiliation with an approved governing body or league.
 - If unable to meet this requirement, proof is needed to show that suitable options are not available.
- Complete 6 community service hours per active member (as of February 1) per academic year, calculated as a club-wide annual total, up to 150 hours.
- Fundraise a minimum of 60% of the club's allocated budget.
- Earn at least 20 Patriot Points.

Benefits

- May request emergency funding up to 60% of the club's allocated budget.

Tier 4

Maximum funding: \$10,000

Requirements

- Maintain a minimum of 20 active members on the club roster.

- Have been a recognized club sport for at least 2 full academic years.
- Have operated within or above Tier 3 for at least 1 academic year.
- Participate in at least 4 competitions per year.
- Have affiliation with an approved governing body or league.
 - If unable to meet this requirement, proof is needed to show that suitable options are not available.
- Complete 8 community service hours per active member (as of February 1) per academic year, calculated as a club-wide annual total, up to 250 hours.
- Fundraise a minimum of 75% of the club's allocated budget.
- Earn at least 28 Patriot Points.

Benefits

- May request emergency funding up to 65% of the club's allocated budget.

Tier 5

Maximum funding: No tier-specific cap; subject to annual funding availability, demonstrated need, budget review, and approval.

Requirements

- Maintain a minimum of 20 active members on the club roster.
- Have been a recognized club sport for at least 3 full academic years.
- Have operated within or above Tier 3 for at least 2 academic years.
- Participate in at least 5 competitions per year.
- Have affiliation with an approved governing body or league.
 - If unable to meet this requirement, proof is needed to show that suitable options are not available.
- Fundraise a minimum of 100% of the club's allocated budget.
- Hold at least 1 alumni event per year.
- Have an approved coach or instructor, if not already required for the club.
- Complete 10 community service hours per active member (as of February 1) per academic year, calculated as a club-wide annual total, up to 350 hours.
- Participate in the University Spring Giving Campaign and Fall Season of Giving Campaign by completing all promotional and engagement requirements established annually by the Competitive Sports Office.

- Earn at least 40 Patriot Points.

Benefits

- May request emergency funding up to 70% of the club's allocated budget.

Community Service Calculation

For tiers with service-hour requirements, the requirement is calculated as a club-wide annual total. The club is responsible for completing the lesser of the following two amounts:

- The required number of hours per active member per academic year multiplied by the active roster (before February 1); or
- The maximum annual club service requirement listed for the club's assigned tier.

Tier	Service Requirement	Maximum Annual Club Requirement
Tier 1	1 community service event per academic year	Event-based requirement
Tier 2	1 community service event per semester	Event-based requirement
Tier 3	6 hours per active member per academic year	150 hours
Tier 4	8 hours per active member per academic year	250 hours
Tier 5	10 hours per active member per academic year	350 hours

New Clubs and Provisional Status

New clubs will begin in provisional status during their first year of recognition. Following the first year, a club may be placed in the highest tier of its choosing, provided the club meets the requirements of that tier and demonstrates the operational readiness expected of that tier.

A club within its first year of existence is eligible for supplemental funding up to \$300 for the academic year.

Annual Tier Review

Club tier status is reviewed annually before the end of the spring semester and applies to the next academic year. Clubs must meet all tier requirements before **April 1** to avoid a tier reduction. The April 1 deadline allows clubs to be placed into their new tiers prior to the period where ECCS will determine distribution of allocated funds for the following fiscal year. Clubs that have not met tier requirements by April 1 may receive an extension for that current academic year at the discretion of the Competitive Sports Staff. Seeking advancement to a higher tier must submit a Tier Advancement Request by **April 1**.

Clubs are responsible for submitting documentation necessary to verify tier requirements by the posted deadlines. The Competitive Sports Office may rely on records maintained through official Club Sports systems, officer submissions, Patriot Points tracking, budget records, travel records, event records, and other approved documentation methods.

Tier Advancement

Clubs will not be able to move up or down a tier during the academic year. Clubs may request to move up a tier for the next academic year. To be considered for advancement to a higher tier, a club must:

- Submit a tier advancement request by **April 1**;
- Meet the requirements of the desired tier level before the posted deadline;
- Remain in good standing with the Competitive Sports Office;
- Demonstrate the operational readiness needed to manage the funding level, event activity, competition expectations, service requirements, and administrative responsibilities of the requested tier; and
- Receive approval through the ECCS and Competitive Sports Office review process.

Requests to advance more than one tier in a single review cycle may be considered only by exception. Clubs requesting Tier 5 status must not have dropped a tier within the previous two academic years.

Clubs on probation or suspension are not eligible for tier advancement during the applicable review cycle.

Tier Reduction

Just as clubs can move up a tier level following each review process, clubs may also experience a tier reduction based on their performance for the year. The following is a breakdown of how tier reductions may occur:

- A club that fails to meet multiple requirements of its current tier will drop one tier for the following academic year.
- A club may have its tier status reviewed and may drop down one tier at the discretion of ECCS and the Competitive Sports Office for the following reasons:
 - A club that fails to meet one requirement of its current tier
 - The club receives fines that equal 25% or more of their annual club allocation during an academic year.
 - The club ends the academic year with a negative Patriot Points total.

- The club is suspended at any point during the academic year.

Clubs that fail to meet their tier requirements for two years in a row may be suspended for one academic year.

When determining whether a club should drop a tier after missing one requirement, ECCS and the Competitive Sports Office may consider the severity of the missed requirement, the club's overall compliance history, whether the issue was within the club's control, and whether the club otherwise demonstrated strong operations.

Tier 1 Clubs That Do Not Meet Requirements

If a Tier 1 club does not meet Tier 1 requirements, the following progressive response may apply:

- First occurrence: the club must meet with the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports for advisory, and the club's funding cap may be reduced to \$500 for the following academic year.
- Second occurrence: the club may be suspended for one academic year.

*This policy may apply for clubs at higher tiers

PATRIOT POINTS

Points are used to distinguish between clubs that fall within the same tier during the budget allocation and facility request processes. Points are awarded and recorded as clubs attend events, submit documentation, and complete tasks by prescribed deadlines. Conversely, points can be deducted when set deadlines or expectations are not met. The Competitive Sports Office and ECCS reserve the right to enforce positive or negative points to additional club actions when deemed necessary. Clubs are responsible for reporting majority of the Positive Point items via the Mason360 form.

Positive Point Items

Item	Notes	Points
Additional Community Service	Case-by-case	TBD
Academic Excellence: Overall Winner*		15
National Championship: Overall Team Winner		15
National Championship: Individual Winner	Max of 18 Points	15
Fundraising 200%+ Allocation*	Tier 4+ clubs	12
Team Award at End-of-Year Banquet*	Limit 1 per Team	12
National Championship: Team Top 4 Finish		12
National Championship: Individual Top 4 Finish	Max of 16 Points	12
Academic Excellence: Top 25%*		12
Alumni Engagement Event	Max of 15 Points	10
Individual Award at End-of-Year Banquet*	Limit 1 per Team	10
Fundraising 150-199% of Allocation*	Tier 3 or lower clubs	8
Attendance at a National Championship Tournament/Event	Max of 8 Points **If no Regional event**	8
Club Member hired to ECCS*		8
Regional Championship: Individual Champion	Max of 12 Points	8
Regional Championship: Team Champion		8
Alumni Newsletter	Released Semesterly Max of 12 Points	6
Academic Excellence: Top 50%*		6
Team Challenge Course Engagement (The EDGE)	50% of Active Membership Attends	6
Membership Bonus: 60+ Members*		6
Club of the Month*		5
Attendance at a Regional Championship Tournament/Event		5
Membership Bonus: 50-59 Members*		5
Club Officer Attends LinkedIn Learning Workshop/Opportunity	Points per session per officer 8 points max per officer	4
Non-Student Head Coach*	Max of 4 Points	4
Membership Bonus: 40-49 Members*		4

Club Love: Support of Another Club Competition (Minimum of 5 Active Roster Members Required)	Must Attend a Different Sport for Each Max of 9 Points per Year	3
Gnorman the Gnome Travels with the Club	Max of 6 points	2
Non-Student Assistant Coach*	Max of 2 Points	2
Active Social Media/Website	Max of 4 Points	2
Advisor*	Non-Mason Rec Staff	2
Club Participation in Intramurals	Max of 8 Points	2
Membership Bonus: 30-39 Members*		2
Participation in Get Connect Fair	Both Fall and Spring Qualify	2
Participation in Yardfest or Fall Premier	Both Fall and Spring Qualify	2
Support of NCAA Athletic Teams	Must Attend a Different Sport for Each Max of 8 Points	2
Professional Team Photo		1

*Denotes item the Competitive Sports Office will track for the clubs.

Club Love

- Clubs are not allowed to claim points when competing at the same event as another club
- As evidence of attendance, clubs must take a group photo and post it to their clubs' Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using #GMUClubSports
- Needs to be reported within 1 week of the event

Social Media Platforms

- An active social media platform will be defined as the following:
 - One post per week, on average
 - Website must be presenting current information
- This will be reviewed at the end of each semester

Participation in Intramural Sports

- Points will be awarded to clubs who complete participation in Intramural Sport seasons, tournaments, or adaptive events with an average sportsmanship rating of 3.0 (if applicable). The team must comprise of 80% club members. The club name must be the name of the IM team.
 - Please note, you cannot play a "like" Intramural Sports due to eligibility restrictions. An example of this would be men's club volleyball not being able to participate in men's intramural volleyball.
- No points are awarded for events with teams less than 3 players on a roster
- Points are awarded per event;
- Take a photo of your members participating

- Reported within one week of the end of the event

Academic Excellence

- Designation will be determined using the average cumulative GPA of active members on the IMLeagues roster
- This will be checked once per semester utilizing the most recent data available
- Points will be awarded based on how each club compares to other clubs within the Club Sports program

LinkedIn Learning Participation

- A club executive officer completes any LinkedIn Learning workshop or course that is relevant to leadership, management, professional development, etc.
- <https://lil.gmu.edu/>
- Clubs will receive points for each learning opportunity completed by each club executive officer

NCAA Team Support

- 25% of the organization attends an NCAA Athletic Event
- Must stay for the entirety of the event
- As evidence of attendance, clubs must take a group photo and post it to their clubs' Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter and tag Mason Athletics, the NCAA Team, Mason Club Sports and Mason Rec

Negative Point System

To promote accountability and ensure compliance with Club Sports policies and procedures, the Competitive Sports Office utilizes a Negative Patriot Points System. Negative Patriot Points are tracked throughout the academic year. At the discretion of the Competitive Sports Office or ECCS, point assessments may be reduced, increased, or replaced with monetary fines, particularly in cases where a violation is determined to have been intentional, deceptive, or a repeated offense.

Examples are illustrative and not exhaustive.

Category	Requirement	Negative Points	
Meetings	All-Officer Training	Per Executive Officers Missing	-6
	President Council Meetings	Each Missed Meeting	1: none 2+ (each): -4
	Admin Check-In Meetings	Each Missed Meeting	1: none 2+ (each): -3

Administrative	Safety Officer Registration	Delinquent	-5
	Executive Officer Trainings Completed	Delinquent	-5
	Fall Competition Schedule	Delinquent	-3
	Spring Competition Schedule	Delinquent	-3
	Equipment Inventory	Delinquent	-2
	Group Re-Registration	Delinquent	-2
	Attendance	Delinquent	1: warning 2-3 (each): -2 4+ (each): fines
	Participation	Invalid	
Travel/ Competitions	Post-Competition Form	per Missed report/deadline	1: none 2: -2 3+ (each): -3
	Tasks/deadlines		
	Hotel Receipts/ Reimbursements	Late	-3
	Visiting Team Assumption of Risk Waiver	Delinquent	-5
	Travel Guideline Violation	Occurrence	Case-by-case

Clubs are expected to demonstrate responsibility and professionalism. If a club accumulates enough negative points to bring its total below -35 Patriot Points, the Competitive Sports Office will notify the club and place it on probation. If the club's point total remains below -35 by the re-registration period, the probation will continue indefinitely, and the club will not be eligible for funding in the next fiscal year.

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Safety Officers

Due to the physical element of sports, all clubs are required to have at least two active Safety Officers. Clubs are required to have at least one Safety Officer at all practices and competitions. These certified members can provide care during practices, events, or travel emergencies.

Safety Officers are required to attend and submit verification of the following before they are approved:

- American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers and first aid (bi-annual renewal)
 - How to Search Available Off-Campus Classes via American Red Cross:
- <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/c31vlqV0F3A>
- Club Sports Safety Officer Training Checklist (Mason360)

Club officers should keep a copy of all certifications on file.

Clubs must have at least one approved safety officer in order to start practicing each semester. From the first day of classes or club practice (whichever occurs first), clubs have two weeks to ensure they have two approved safety officers to continue their practices. Furthermore, clubs must have two approved safety officers in place to participate in competitions.

An approved safety officer must be present at all practices and competitions. Clubs that fail to meet these safety officer requirements by the deadlines will be placed on indefinite suspension.

CPR/AED/First Aid

Safety Officers should be certified in American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers and first aid. Mason Recreation hosts several American Red Cross classes each semester. These classes hosted by Mason Recreation are free to the club. Mason Recreation certification standards require an in-person component for all safety course trainings to ensure the course material is both practiced and assessed, providing confirmation of proficiency in the required skills.

Mason Recreation will cover the cost of up to 4 certifications per club, per year for classes offered through Mason Recreation. Clubs may use funding from their University allocation to pay for additional certifications or through off-campus vendors.

American Red Cross certifications are valid for two years.

Club Sports may accept equivalent or more advanced safety certifications from other organizations in lieu of American Red Cross Professional Rescuer certification. Safety Officers may inquire as to an existing certification's substitutability with the Competitive Sports office.

Mason Recreation Safety Courses: <https://recreation.gmu.edu/aquatics/certification-courses/>

First Aid Kit

Each club will be provided a first aid kit at the beginning of the school year. Clubs with multiple teams (i.e. and “A” and “B” team) will receive first aids kits for each respective team. Clubs are required to carry these kits with them at all practices and competitions. Clubs should reach out to the athletic trainer if any supplies need restocking throughout the year.

At the end of each year, clubs are responsible for returning their first aid kits to the Competitive Sports Office. Clubs that fail to return their first aid kits or return a first aid kit that is damaged beyond repair will be charged for the replacement of the first aid kit and all the materials that come with it.

Injury/Accident/Incident Reporting

It is the responsibility of the club executive officers and safety officers to report and document injuries that occur during club practices or events. A club safety officer or executive officer must complete an accident/incident report within 24 hours.

Reports are submitted through Connect2 at this [link](#). The terminology used in this form reflects the fact that the form is used throughout Mason Recreation. For Club Sports, a “member” is anyone affiliated to Mason. The “Employee Completing Report” section should be completed with information from the club officer completing the report.

At the end of each day of competitions, Club officers should check with the on-site athletic trainer as to which injuries occurred during their hosted event to be submitted to Connect2.

Documents should be complete and only use factual information. It is important to always ask injured individuals if they would like EMS to be called. Should they decline, please make note on the report.

For serious injuries and other emergencies, call 911 and contact your club sport administrator as soon as it is safe to do so.

911 for Medical Emergencies

During a medical emergency, 911 should be called for EMS. For on-campus emergencies, calls placed from a landline or cell phone will be received by county dispatchers and then transferred to University Police. Be prepared to provide information like nature of the injury or illness, victim’s location, identity of the victim, and suspected or known cause of the injury or illness.

If 911 is called during any club activity, club officers must get in touch with a Competitive Sports Administrators immediately following the incident — no later than right after the situation is resolved.

Severe Weather

Mason Recreation will adhere to all university closures related to cold weather conditions. In cases where the university does not issue an official closure, the Club Sports Office reserves

the right to modify or cancel club sport activities based on the severity of the weather and field conditions.

Thunderstorms and Lightning

Clubs must suspend outdoor activities anytime lightning, or thunder, is detected in the area, and clubs will follow the direction of Mason Rec staff. Should staff not be present, clubs should utilize the 30/30 rule to protect themselves from lightning related injury:

- If 30 seconds or less elapse between the time lightning is seen and the subsequent thunder is heard, lightning is a threat to the area.
- Immediately seek shelter in enclosed building (open-air pavilions are not enclosed buildings). If an enclosed building is not accessible, seek shelter in a hard-topped vehicle.
- Play can be resumed 30 minutes after the most recent lightning or thunder is observed. Each lightning strike or sound of thunder restarts the 30-minute waiting period.

Tornadoes

Signs of an impending tornado are a dark, often greenish sky; large hail; a large, dark, low-lying rotating cloud, and a loud roar. The Mason Alert system will often inform users of tornado warnings. During the threat of a tornado, take shelter in an interior space of a hardened structure, ideally on the lowest floor and in an area with no windows. Use your arms to protect your head and neck until the all clear is given.

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat brings with it the possibility of heat- -related illnesses. Clubs should be aware of the heat index and adjust activities to allow for adequate hydration and cooling. Two dangerous heat-related illnesses are heat exhaustion and heat stroke:

- Heat Exhaustion – the body’s inability to cope with heat stress
 - Symptoms – faint or dizzy; excessive sweating; cool, pale, clammy skin; nausea or vomiting; rapid, weak pulse; muscle cramps
 - First Aid – have patient lie down in a cool place; loosen or remove excess clothing; apply cool, wet cloths; fan or move patient to air-conditioned place; provide water to patient to consume slowly; seek immediate medical attention if vomiting occurs or conditions worsen
- Heat Stroke – a life-threatening, heat-related condition
 - Symptoms – throbbing headache; no sweating; red, hot, dry skin; nausea or vomiting; rapid strong pulse; may lose consciousness
 - First Aid – **Call 911 for EMS immediately**; move patient to cooler environment; remove excess clothing; RAPIDLY cool patient with ice packs to the arm pits, groin, neck, and stomach; watch for breathing problems; use fans and air conditioners

Severe Cold Weather

Severe cold weather includes but is not limited to heavy rain, blizzard conditions, hail, extreme cold wind chill index below 0°F.

Precipitation, most notably rain and snow, can significantly increase the risk of an environmental cold injury. Therefore, in circumstances involving cold weather precipitation, decisions about program modification(s) will be made by the Mason Recreation Pro Staff on a case-by-case basis based upon the current and/or forecasted conditions.

Programs that operate indoors may not operate if the facility closes. If the facility is open, pro staff may decide to continue, cancel, or reschedule indoor programs.

Off Campus Inclement Weather

Mason Recreation programs that take place offsite (e.g., club sports tournaments or away competitions) should be reviewed to assess both travel conditions to and from campus, as well as the conditions at the offsite location(s).

Please note that in some cases, travel may be denied even if there are no weather alerts or warnings at the offsite location—particularly if George Mason University has closed due to local conditions.

Recognition of Cold Exposure

Cold Exposure is a potentially life-threatening. This refers to cold-related emergencies that occur when the body loses heat faster than it can produce heat, causing the core body temperature to fall. Typically, the person experiences exposure to cold air temperatures, cold water, or both. This can occur when the weather is not cold, due to prolonged exposure in a wet or windy environment, wet clothes, or sweating.

<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/resources/learn-first-aid/hypothermia>

Signs of life-threatening cold exposure include:

- Shivering, then lack of shivering
- Pale and cold to touch
- Disorientation, confusion
- Unresponsiveness
- Slow or no breathing
- Slow or no heart rate
- Stiff body with rigid muscles

Response – **Call 911 for EMS immediately**; remove patient from cold environment; remove all wet clothing; begin a form of rewarming (Passive vs Active):

1. Passive Rewarming includes interventions to promote heat retention (e.g., cotton blankets, reflective blankets).

2. Active Rewarming involves the application of heat to the body (e.g. Go into a heated space or vehicle, use a heated object to promote warmth under a blanket or sleeping bag).

Weapons Storage and Acknowledgement

Clubs utilizing weapons in their sport are required to exercise special caution when transporting and storing them on-campus. Members of Archery, Fencing, and Trap & Skeet may not keep weapons in their vehicles or in on-campus residencies.

Weapon sports should coordinate with their club sport administrator to review policies and complete any required documentation at the beginning of the year.

Please review the full [George Mason University policy #1120 “Weapons on Campus”](#)

ATHLETIC TRAINING

Mason Recreation Athletic Training is dedicated to providing the best quality healthcare to all student athletes. To do this every participant who uses Athletic Training services must understand and agree to follow all recommendations for limiting, postponing, or ending one's participation in their club sport. Athletic Trainers will make every effort to return a participant back to play, but this must be done in a safe and appropriate manner.

The Club Sport participant **DOES NOT** have the right to make their own return to play decision without the consent of the Certified Athletic Trainers coordinating their care. Should a participant ignore or choose to disregard medical orders given by a Certified Athletic Trainer the participant:

- Will be withheld from any competition, play, physical activity, or practice for an undetermined amount of time until the participant's injury has resolved. This withholding period will be determined by the team physician and/or Certified Athletic Trainer.
- At minimum, could be suspended from participating in all club sports events for one week (includes practices, games, tournaments, travel, etc.) regardless of the season or time of year.
- Any other disciplinary action will be at the discretion of Competitive Sports professional staff.

Athletic Training Coverage

Office Hours

Athletic training office hours are typically offered Monday-Friday during the semester for athletes to drop-in and be seen by an athletic trainer. These hours will be posted on the Mason Recreation athletic training schedule. This time may also be used for Impact baseline testing or updating documentation.

Online Schedule: <https://recreation.gmu.edu/club-sports/athletic-training/>

Email Address: jtolson2@gmu.edu

Practices

The head athletic trainer covers a few on-campus club practices Monday-Friday on a rotational basis. Safety Officers should check-in with an athletic trainer if one is available to cover practice.

Coverage Requirements

Due to the high-impact nature of their sport or league requirements, the following clubs are required to have an athletic trainer present at all home competitions:

- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
- Equestrian

- Football
- Ice Hockey M/W
- Kendo
- Lacrosse – M
- Rugby M/W
- Soccer M/W
- Taekwondo

High-impact clubs requesting to host a home competition via Mason360 will automatically trigger a request for an athletic trainer. Requests for home competitions will not be approved without an assigned athletic trainer.

Risk Assessment Levels *updated 7/25/2025

Risk Level 1 Clubs	Risk Level 2 Clubs	Risk Level 3 Clubs
Badminton	Baseball**	Archery
Lacrosse - W	Basketball - W**	Crew
Olympic Weightlifting	BJJ*	Equestrian*
Pickleball	Fencing**	Football*
Powerlifting	Field Hockey**	Ice Hockey - M*
Running	Flag Football – W**	Ice Hockey - W*
Swimming	Lacrosse - M*	Kendo*
Table Tennis	Soccer - M*	Rugby - M*
Tennis	Soccer - W*	Rugby - W*
Volleyball - W	Softball**	
	Taekwondo*	
	Ultimate - M**	
	Ultimate - W**	
	Volleyball - M**	

* High Impact Clubs (Baseline Concussion Testing & AT Required at Home Competitions)

**AT is not required will be assigned based on risk priority and availability of staff

Crew & Swim participants are required to complete a swim test

Archery & Trap and Skeet are required to complete a Range & Weapon's safety course at their practice facility

Coverage Priorities:

1. High Impact Clubs
2. Risk 3 Sports
 - a. Crew
 - b. Archery
 - c. Trap & Skeet
3. Risk Level 2 Clubs:
 - a. Ultimate M/W
 - b. Volleyball – M

- c. Baseball/Softball
- d. Basketball – W
- e. Field Hockey
- f. Fencing
- 4. Risk Level 1 Clubs:
 - a. Lacrosse – W
 - b. Volleyball – W
- 5. Remaining clubs or if hosting a large tournament

Athletic Training Charge for Additional Services

Club sports teams that host an event, tournament, or game that meet the following criteria are responsible for paying for Athletic Training Services:

- A high impact sport **AND**:
 - The event lasts longer than four (4) hours.
- A non-high impact sport **AND**:
 - The event lasts longer than six (6) hours.
- The event involves minors, community members, and/or alumni.
- A non-high impact sports-based event that has multiple Athletic Trainers at a time for their event.
 - The club will be charged for all hours for each additional athletic trainer

If a club sports event with an athletic trainer scheduled needs to be cancelled, charges for the athletic training services will be determined through the *Cancellation Policy*.

Safety and Risk Requirements

Pre-Participation Physicals

All club members are required to have an annual sports physical completed by a qualified medical professional. Physicals are valid for 365 days from the date of completion.

Mason Recreation will attempt to offer a few dates/times each semester for club sport participants to have pre-participation physicals completed FREE of charge. Space will be limited and is available on a first come, first served basis.

Physicals are also offered through Student Health Services for a small fee, or you may select a qualified medical professional of your choice. Physicals must be documented using the Mason Recreation – Athlete Physical Form.

Download the approved Athlete Physical Form here: <https://recreation.gmu.edu/club-sports/download-waiver-forms/>

Athletes who sign up for scheduled physicals provided by Rec Athletic Training and Competitive Sports are expected to attend their appointments at the assigned time. These appointments are arranged in advance and involve coordination with medical professionals and facilities.

Missed Appointment Policy:

If a club athlete misses their scheduled physical without providing at least 24 hours' notice, a \$30 no-show fee will be charged to the athlete to cover the cost of the unused appointment slot.

If the fee is not paid, a hold will be placed on the athlete's student account prior to the opening of course registration for the following semester.

Individuals that are obligated to pay the no-show fee can do so at the front desk of any at the Recreation Athletic Complex (RAC) during building hours.

Paperwork Deadlines

Participants wishing to play must have the following items submitted by 3:00pm the Wednesday prior to their event. These deadlines are in place to ensure the athletic trainer and Competitive Sports staff have time to review all documents and update rosters. Individuals submitting documents after this deadline will not be eligible to participate until the following week.

- Physical (all club members)
- Baseline (ImPACT) test (members of high-risk clubs)
- IMLeagues Forms (all club members)

Completed physical forms should be submitted through Dynamic Forms or the RAC Club Sports drop box. After submitting, participants should submit the Physical Submission form on IMLeagues.

Baseline – ImPACT Testing

Participants of the following club sport teams will be required to have baseline cognitive testing using the Immediate Post-concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing program (ImPACT):

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| • Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu | • Lacrosse M |
| • Equestrian | • Rugby (M/W) |
| • Football | • Soccer (M/W) |
| • Ice Hockey (M/W) | • Taekwondo |
| • Kendo | |

Individuals participating in one of clubs highlighted in yellow (above) must submit an annual physical and complete baseline testing following the end of the three-week grace period or prior to any club activities involving contact, whichever occurs first.

Participants of clubs not required to complete baseline testing must have a physical on file following the end of the three-week grace period or first competition, whichever occurs first.

Baseline tests will be valid for the duration of an athlete's time at George Mason University.

Water Safety Requirements

Members of the following clubs will be required to pass a swim test prior to any on/in water activities.

- | | |
|--------|------------|
| • Crew | • Swimming |
|--------|------------|

Concussion Education and Management

Mason Recreation is dedicated and committed to providing excellent healthcare to all club sport participants. Concussions are serious medical conditions that must be managed properly. To keep a patient from further harm or damage after a concussion, it is imperative that the participant communicate all symptoms to the athletic trainer. It is also important for other teammates and coaches to spot abnormal behavior and concussion symptoms and report them to the athletic trainer immediately. Hiding or continuing to play while concussed can prolong recovery time, cause further damage to the brain, or lead to serious harm or death.

What is a concussion?

Concussion is an injury that affects the brain following direct or indirect forces to the head. The disturbance of normal brain function is related to a change in the chemical processes of the brain rather than an injury to the actual structure of the brain. The chemical disturbance does not show up during neuroimaging (X-ray, CT scan, MRI, etc.), which is one of the reasons CT scans, or other neuroimaging studies, are not always completed, or necessary, following concussion.

What to expect after a concussion?

A concussion results in a collection of physical, cognitive, emotional, and sleep symptoms. Symptoms may increase as you participate in activities that require thinking or enter into busy/stimulating environments. Signs and symptoms typically decrease gradually over a period of time but may remain longer in select cases.

How to prevent a concussion?

While there is not any protective equipment available to prevent concussion there are strategies that lower your risk.

The strategies to decrease the chance of concussion include:

- Using proper technique at all times
- Practicing good sportsmanship at all times
- Eating well and drinking plenty of water before, during, and after activity
- Terminating play immediately if you think you have a concussion
- Talking to an athletic trainer or coach/safety officer if you think you or a teammate has a concussion
- Withholding return to play until after you are given clearance by a medical professional

Concussion Signs and Symptoms

Most people with a concussion recover quickly and fully. But for some people, symptoms can last for days, weeks, or longer. In general, recovery may be slower among older adults, young children, and teens. Common signs and symptoms include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Loss of consciousness
- Headache
- Dizziness/Drowsiness
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Blurry/Double Vision
- Trouble concentrating
- Ringing in the ears
- Slurred speech
- Fatigue/tiredness
- Difficulty remembering things
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to loud noises
- Balance problems
- Mood changes
- Convulsions/seizures

Some of these symptoms may appear right away, while others may not be noticed for hours or days after the injury, or until the person resumes their everyday life and more demands are placed upon them. Sometimes, people do not recognize or admit that they are having problems. It is important to understand that each concussion is different and must be diagnosed and treated on a case-by-case basis. Once a participant has been diagnosed with a concussion, they will immediately be prohibited from participating in any physical activity. The amount of time an athlete will be prohibited from play is based on the length and duration of concussive symptoms as well as the recommendations of the medical provider managing their care.

What to do immediately after a Possible Concussion?

1. Report it. Don't hide it.
 - a. Playing through or trying to "tough it out" can often make signs and symptoms worse.
2. Remove from play.
 - a. Anyone who might have a concussion should stop playing right away and not return to play that day.
3. Monitor for changes.
 - a. Signs and symptoms may not appear right away and may change over a period of hours or even days.
4. Get checked out.
 - a. Only a health care professional can tell you if you have a concussion and when it is safe to begin a progressive return to activity.

Home Management Techniques after a Concussion

After the initial 24-hour period, limit over-the-counter medications to 2-3 doses per week. Until your appointment with our concussion specialists, you should avoid activities that could pose risk for head injury. However, prolonging rest and avoiding normal day-to-day activities can lead to the development of additional symptoms and therefore it is recommended that you **ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A REGULATED SCHEDULE**, as soon as possible:

1. Diet
 - a. Eating breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day is important, even if three meals are not typically eaten.
2. Hydration
 - a. It is important to stay well hydrated.
3. Sleep

- a. Stick to a strict sleep schedule, with a regular bedtime and wake-up time. We recommend obtaining 7-9 hours each night, with limited naps of no more than 30 minutes. It is not advised or necessary to wake up every hour after a concussion.
4. Physical Activity
 - a. It is beneficial to take walks and/or engage in light non-contact physical activities, following the injury. Once you are seen by the Inova athletic trainer and/or appropriate medical professional, additional recommendations will be discussed.
5. Stress
 - a. Try to reduce additional stress, nervousness and anxiety by limiting focus on the injury and symptoms. Staying in a dark room or being overly withdrawn should also be avoided.

Return to Play Protocol

- STEP 1: REMOVE** Participants displaying concussion-like symptoms or having sustained a suspected concussion **MUST** be removed from play immediately. Participants may not return to play until they have been evaluated by an athletic trainer or other qualified medical professional.
- STEP 2: REPORT** Schedule a follow-up assessment with a Mason Recreation athletic trainer within 24-72 hours. **There is no fee for this follow-up assessment*
- STEP 3: CLEARANCE** Obtain written medical clearance from a qualified health care provider stating you are eligible to return to play. Please use the document provided on the concussion page of the Club Sports website. Completed forms **MUST** be submitted to the Competitive Sports Office at the RAC, faxed to (703) 993-2510 or dropped off in the Club Sports mailbox in the RAC lobby.
- STEP 4: VERIFICATION** Participants may not return to play until you have received a confirmation email from the Competitive Sports Office stating we have received your paperwork, and you are cleared to return to play.

Please contact the Athletic Trainer if you have any questions or concerns regarding the return to play or classroom process: jtolson2@gmu.edu

Student Health Services

Mason Recreation has a close working relationship with Student Health Services. Students may contact an after-hours nurse for medical advice by calling the office number:

Location: Student Union 1 – Suite 2300 Office: (703) 993-2831

Fax: (703) 993-4365

Website: <http://shs.gmu.edu>

FINANCES AND PURCHASING

Budget Allocation Process

The budget allocation process will take place each year between mid-March and late-April. A minimum of three ECCS members must be present for each budget presentation. Each club will present their budget for the upcoming fiscal year to a group of their peers.

- ECCS members MAY NOT hear presentations from their own club. They are permitted to present or assist in the presentation to the ECCS.
- Each club will have the same time limit to present their budget proposal to ECCS

After all presentations have been completed, the ECCS will meet as a whole and make a recommendation to the Competitive Sports professional staff based on the presentations heard. Clubs that fail to present or are on suspension are ineligible to receive funding through the allocation process.

Should a club fail to show up for a scheduled time slot, they may be eligible to reschedule at the discretion and convenience of the ECCS.

Account Types

Clubs have (3) different accounts through the University.

- **Student Fee Allocation** – this account reflects the money allocated to the club by ECCS through the annual budget hearing process. Funds remaining in this account are not eligible to carry over to the next fiscal year. Money from this account MAY NOT be used on personal items. Clubs are responsible for paying off any negative balances that occur in their Student Fee Allocation account.
- **Self-Generated Revenue (SGR)** – Effective July 1, 2022, all clubs are required to have an off-campus bank account for their organization (GMU Policy 6000). This account will be used by the club to collect dues, entry fees, sponsorships, and other revenue generating activities conducted by the club.
- **GMU Foundation Account** – the GMU Foundation is the non-profit arm of the University. The GMU Foundation is a registered 501c3 organization. Clubs seeking donations will want to use these accounts as donations made here are tax deductible for the donor. Contributions to these accounts must be considered philanthropic gifts – an unconditional donation to an institution for which the donor does not expect to receive any reciprocal benefit. Examples:

Philanthropic Gift	Not a Gift
You partner with Chipotle and a certain percent of the proceeds made from sales that night is donated to your team	You buy shirts for \$10 each and sell them for \$20 to raise money for an upcoming trip to nationals – <i>disqualified by the exchange of shirt</i>
You send an email to the parents of your teammates, include a giving link, and ask them to support your team – must use team's Mason approved giving link	You host a Facebook fundraiser for your birthday and ask people to donate through Facebook to your team, and then you plan on donating the lump sum to your team's account – <i>Foundation must be able to attribute each dollar to the specific individual</i>

- This is a great way to raise money for specific goals. Please contact your club sport administrator a minimum of 60-90 days in advance if you wish to conduct a giving campaign.
- The GMU Foundation charges a 6% administrative fee on all donations. This fee is to cover the management of funds, provide for donor documentation, and to assist clubs in the coordination of giving/donation campaigns.
- Clubs must use the Foundation URLs linked to their Mason Recreation webpage to ensure donations are routed to the appropriate organization.

The University W9 forms and state tax exemption forms are available by request from your club sport administrator.

Each fiscal year, clubs have access to 70% of their allocation immediately (barring any sanctions, probation, or suspension). The remaining 30% of the allocation becomes available on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis tied to the accumulation of self-generated revenue by the club. Fundraising beyond the 30% impacts tier placement.

Viewing Your Budgets

At the start of the fiscal year, a SharePoint Excel sheet is shared to each club containing revenues and expenses maintained by the Competitive Sports office for all three account types. Each expense line includes an account number, transaction date, vendor, description, amount, payment method and any relevant notes. Revenue transactions are generally listed as lump sums.

It is the club's responsibility to keep a separate updated club budget for their records and cross reference on a regular basis.

Income/Deposits/Dues

As of July 1, 2022, clubs will be required to use off-campus bank accounts to collect all self-generated revenue (i.e. dues, sponsorships, entry fees, etc.). To be recognized as a club sport and to be eligible to utilize university facilities and allocations, clubs will be required to share quarterly bank statements with their Club Sports Administrator.

Donations

GMU Foundation – The GMU Foundation is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization. The GMU Foundation is the only account that may accept tax-deductible donations on behalf of the club. Individuals making donations through the foundation will be eligible to receive tax deductions through the IRS.

GoFundMe – As of July 1, 2022 clubs will be permitted to utilize 3rd party crowdfunding platforms. Prior to utilizing a 3rd party platform such as GoFundMe, clubs' should consult with their club sport administrator.

Sponsorships

Club Sports organizations may establish sponsorship agreements with businesses or organizations to obtain financial or in-kind support for club activities. Sponsorships are business arrangements in which the sponsor receives recognition or promotional benefits in exchange for its support and are not considered tax-deductible charitable donations.

All sponsorship agreements are entered into by the club and must be managed through the club's approved off-campus bank account. Sponsorship funds may not be deposited into university-managed accounts or personal bank accounts. Clubs are responsible for maintaining records of sponsorship agreements, correspondence, and financial transactions.

Before beginning sponsorship outreach, clubs must consult with their Club Sport Administrator. Sponsorship agreements must use the club's official name, The [Club Name] at George Mason University, and comply with all applicable university policies and branding guidelines. Clubs may not represent Mason Recreation or George Mason University as a party to a sponsorship agreement, promise the use of university facilities or trademarks without approval, or display sponsor logos on competition uniforms unless permitted under current university branding standards.

Organizations wishing to make tax-deductible contributions must coordinate with the Club Sport Administrator and University Life Advancement to process the donation through the George Mason University Foundation. If a prospective sponsor requests a tax receipt or indicates that a contribution is intended to be tax-deductible, the club must consult with its Club Sport Administrator before accepting the funds.

Purchasing – Special Conditions for University Allocations

Tax Exemption

George Mason University is a State Agency and therefore is exempt from paying most Virginia sales taxes. This exemption covers purchases made by the Club Sports program (university allocated funds) within the state of Virginia for goods/services, food, beverage, or related catering services. The exemption does not apply to lodging, gas, or car rentals. Club officers should inform vendors of their tax-exempt status prior to requesting payment from their club sport administrator.

Clubs may not use the George Mason University tax exemption status for their off-campus bank accounts. Please consult a CPA if you would like to file for tax exempt status for your organization.

Food and Beverage

All food and beverage purchases utilizing university fee money MUST be preapproved by your club sport administrator. Clubs will be required to provide documentation of attendance for events they have requested food and beverage items.

Delivery and pick-up food services can be purchased from any vendor. Catering services must be purchased from a vendor on the Approved Caterers list: <https://shopmason.gmu.edu/approved-caterers-list/>

Licensing, Branding, and Apparel Policy

As recognized representatives of George Mason University, all Club Sports teams are required to present a unified and consistent visual identity that reflects the standards of the university. To protect the integrity of the George Mason University brand, all use of university marks and related identifiers must comply with the policies and guidelines established by the Office of University Branding.

Approval Requirement

All apparel, uniforms, merchandise, and promotional items that reference George Mason University or a Mason-affiliated club must be reviewed and approved by the Club Sports Office prior to production. Approval ensures alignment with university branding standards and appropriate use of licensed marks. Link to submit approval requests: <https://cglink.me/2d7/s95436>

Licensed Vendor Requirement

All products bearing George Mason University names, marks, or logos must be produced by a licensed vendor through the university's Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC) program. Licensed vendors are authorized to reproduce university trademarks in compliance with institutional standards for quality, consistency, and legal protection.

Approved Marks and Wordmarks

Only the official logos, wordmarks, and design elements provided by the Office of University Branding may be used on team apparel, uniforms, marketing materials, and digital platforms.

No club, officer, coach, or volunteer may alter, recreate, or design new logos that include or

resemble George Mason University identifiers, including the use of the university name, word “Mason,” or “Patriots,” without written authorization from the Office of University Branding. This logos can be accessed by club officers through the Club Sports Office.

Prohibited Uses

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Use of unapproved, altered, or recreated logos or wordmarks.
- Production of any apparel or merchandise through an unlicensed vendor.
- Combining university trademarks with third-party logos, slogans, or graphics without prior written approval.
- Any design, color scheme, or visual presentation that may reasonably imply an affiliation or endorsement not approved by George Mason University.

Compliance and Enforcement

All designs must be submitted to the Club Sports Office for review prior to order placement or public use. Noncompliance with these requirements may result in the revocation of apparel privileges, denial of future orders, or further administrative action.

Questions or approval requests may be directed to the Club Sports Office, which will coordinate with the Office of University Branding to ensure compliance with the university’s trademark and licensing standards.

T-Shirts, Screen Printing, and Embroidery

Clubs should work with their club advisor when making any purchases/inquiries for items of these kinds.

Come back soon for more information

Sublimated Uniforms

Clubs should work with their club advisor when making any purchases/inquiries for items of these kinds.

Come back soon for more information

Mason Logo and Fonts

Clubs are required to use “George Mason” when referencing the University and should refrain from using “Mason” or “GMU.”

Clubs should work with their club advisor when making any purchases/inquiries for items that include the University’s logo.

Come back soon for more information

All apparel designs must be preapproved by your club sport administrator.

Purchasing Methods

Payment requests need to be submitted 10 business days in advance of desired purchase date when utilizing university allocated funds.

Purchases involving use of the University or department logo or university trademarks MUST be preapproved by your club sport administrator.

Department Credit Card

The club sport administrators each have a purchase card that may be used to make payment for club related travel, equipment, food/beverage, lodging, apparel, and any other club related needs. Purchases over \$4999 may need additional approval outside of the Competitive Sports office. Clubs seeking to make a purchase with department credit card should email all pertinent purchase information (website, quantity, items, etc.) to their club sport administrator 15-business days prior to the desired delivery date.

Payment by Invoice

Payment by invoice can be made to pay entry fees, referee associations, and vendors that do not accept credit card.

Steps to Complete Payment:

1. Vendor/payee must provide an itemized invoice.
 - a. Purchases over \$4999 may need additional approval outside of the Competitive Sports office, please plan accordingly.
2. Vendors/payees that have not been paid previously by the University must self- register with the University and submit a VA-W9: <https://fiscal.gmu.edu/purchasing/do-business-with-mason/>
 - a. On the online form, “Mason Contact Information” refers to your club sports administrator.
3. Club officers should email the itemized invoice to their club sport administrator for payment.
4. Checks requests require a net 30 days from the day accounts payable has accepted the documents for disbursement. Club officers are responsible for communicating the payment terms to the individual/vendor.

Reimbursements

Clubs seeking reimbursements for purchases made utilizing university allocations MUST be preapproved by your club sport administrator. Reimbursements require extensive documentation and take a significant time to process, so payment with department credit card is preferred as a transaction method. Individual meals or expenses, lodging, rental vehicles, flights, and rail tickets will not be reimbursed. The most common reimbursable expenses are gas, tolls, and team meals during travel.

Link to Reimbursement Form (Mason360) *must be submitted by a member of the club's executive board. <https://cglink.me/2d7/s51195>

Third Party Processors

Use of third-party processors (Venmo, PayPal, Square) is the least preferred method of payment and should only be used when a merchant will not directly accept credit card. *Third party processors cannot be used to make payment to an individual for services.*

Equipment

All equipment purchased on behalf of a club becomes property of George Mason University and will become part of the club's official inventory. A formal inventory of all University- purchased equipment will be conducted annually. Clubs will be held responsible for lost and/or damaged equipment. Individual club members and officers can also be held personally responsible for lost and/or damaged equipment.

All awards earned by teams and/or individual sport club participants will become property of the George Mason University and made available to the general club membership immediately upon receipt. Equipment or cash awards cannot be retained by individuals and must be used to support the entire club. All equipment must be inventoried, and all cash awards must be deposited in the club's self-generated revenue account.

Emergency Funds

Club Sports may request emergency funds from the ECCS. This fund has been set aside to assist clubs facing unforeseeable expenses such as those tied to qualification for a national tournament or an unexpected equipment replacement cost. Clubs may only request emergency funds after their other forms of funding have been exhausted.

Clubs must submit the Emergency Fund Request Form on Mason360 and meet with the ECCS to request emergency funds. Emergency funds are intended for unforeseeable expenses, not to cover deficits due to improper planning or poor financial management.

TRAVEL

As representatives of George Mason University, it is expected that all club members conduct themselves in a manner that aligns with the University's core values, the University's Code of Student Conduct, and the Club Sports Standard of Conduct at all times. Any behavior that reflects negatively on the University will be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to, denial of reimbursements/funds or a travel suspension. Club Sports has implemented the following travel policies to help clubs make safe travel arrangements for competitions off-campus.

All club travel must be approved in advance by the Competitive Sports office. Prior to traveling, clubs must be in good standing with the Competitive Sports office and submit the appropriate paperwork.

Authorized Travelers

Only approved club members, coaches, or volunteers are allowed to travel with the club. Travelers must be listed on the official travel itinerary and have completed all necessary paperwork before embarking on the trip. This policy ensures a well-organized and compliant travel experience for all involved parties.

Travel Eligibility

This policy outlines the guidelines and expectations for club sport teams regarding who is permitted to travel for away competitions, scrimmages, and other related activities.

Eligibility for Travel and Competition:

- **Eligible to Travel and Compete:** Any individual listed on the IM Leagues roster without a line through their name (~~example~~) is eligible to both travel and compete.
- **Ineligible to Compete*:** Individuals with a line through their name on the IMLeagues roster cannot compete. Their eligibility to travel depends on the reason for ineligibility, as detailed below:

Special Circumstances:

- There are special circumstances in which individuals may travel and not compete, such as injured players, team support staff, and coaches. These individuals must complete all required paperwork on IMLeagues or Mason360, but do not need to have a physical or baseline test completed, or they must be completely onboarded as a coach. All individuals that do not meet the travel eligibility requirements must receive written approval from the Competitive Sports Office before traveling.
- **Medical Hold:** Individuals with a medical hold/suspension may travel with the team but are ineligible to compete. This hold could be due to injury, pending medical clearance, or

other health concerns. Club officers should list these individuals as “non-playing travelers” in the comment section.

- Example: ~~John Doe~~ (Suspended) *This is an example of how an individual that has a medical hold/suspension will be listed on IMLeagues. They are eligible to travel if they are approved by the Competitive Sports Office but may not compete or practice until cleared.
- **Club Support Staff (Non-Competing Members):** Non-competing members of the club—such as team managers, photographers, videographers, or social media volunteers—are student members who play an important support role within the organization. While they are not players, they contribute significantly to the team’s operations. These individuals must have a Mason Recreation membership, be listed on the roster in IMLeagues, and complete all required forms, with the exception of the physical and baseline test forms. Additionally, they must be included on the team’s travel itinerary as “non-playing travelers” in the comment section and receive written approval from the Competitive Sports Office before traveling.
- **Coaches:** All coaches must be listed on the travel itinerary in the “comments” section if they will be traveling to a competition.
 - Coaches must be fully onboarded and approved by the Competitive Sports Office.
 - If coaches or any other individuals will be driving vehicles for travel purposes, they must be identified as a driver on the travel itinerary.

SSOInel (Part-Time Fee): If an individual is labeled with “S-S-O-L-N-E-L,” they are ineligible to travel because they do not have a Mason Recreation membership. These individuals cannot travel or compete until a membership is purchased. The fee may be paid online or via the front desk at the RAC.

***It is the responsibility of club officer to ensure that individuals that are approved to travel but are ineligible to compete do not compete during team competitions at away events.**

Teams that fail to comply with these guidelines may face penalties, including but not limited to ineligibility to travel, suspension of team activities, or disciplinary action as determined by the Competitive Sports Office.

Travel Forms

The following section includes a detailed description of travel forms, including their respective due dates and information requests. Failure to complete required forms will result in sanctions.

Competition Schedule

Each semester, clubs are responsible for submitting a competition schedule. This competition schedule should include all anticipated home and away events even if any details of those competitions have not been confirmed. The semesterly competition schedule is submitted through a Mason360 form with a specified template.

Travel Itinerary Form

The travel itinerary form is due through IMLeagues by 8:00am two business days prior to departure for any travel (Exception: home events and local practices). The form is still needed for clubs that attend events at locations they also practice at). This deadline will typically be Thursdays at 8:00am for clubs traveling over the weekend. The purpose of this form is to detail all important aspects of the trip including:

- Trip leader contact information
- Reason for travel
- Destination address
- Departure date/time
- Arrival date/time
- Mode of transportation
- Drivers (if any)
- Lodging details
- Travelers

Any changes to travel plans prior to departure or while traveling must be reported to the Competitive Sports office by email or phone immediately.

Post Competition Form

This Mason360 form is used to document results from club competitions and inform the Competitive Sports office of any injuries, problems, or incidents. It also collects scans of Visiting Team Assumption of Risk forms or Hotel receipts from the past week. This form is due Mondays by midnight and should include information from the previous week's competition(s).

Class Absences

Club participants who anticipate class absences as a result of club-related travel are encouraged to engage in advance discussions with their instructors regarding the circumstances. Upon request, the Competitive Sports office can generate a memorandum confirming the club's affiliation with the Club Sports program and verifying the travel plans. It is important to note that this memorandum does not grant exemption from academic responsibilities. Ultimately, the decision to allow makeup work lies with the instructor. Students seeking such memos are advised to inform their club sport administrator at least fourteen days in advance, allowing sufficient time for the memo to be crafted and forwarded to faculty members.

Pre-Travel Check-In

Traveling clubs may organize a meeting time with their club sports administrator to obtain their credit card authorization if staying at a hotel, retrieve any equipment needed, restock first aid kits, and review any relevant policies with Competitive Sports staff prior to traveling.

Hotels/Lodging

Room Sharing Policy – Team Travel

To maintain a respectful and professional environment during team travel, it is strictly prohibited for men and women to share rooms. Additionally, coaches are not permitted to share rooms with students. This policy aims to uphold appropriate boundaries, ensure privacy, and promote a safe and comfortable atmosphere for all individuals during team-related trips.

Lucid Travel

Clubs that wish to book hotel accommodations using their on-campus funds may do so through Mason Recreation's preferred booking platform [Lucid Travel](#). * If your club lacks sufficient funds in your on-campus account, you must use your off-campus account to make the reservation.

- [Learn How to Make a Reservation Here](#)
- [Use This Link to Make Your Reservation via Lucid Travel](#)
 1. Clubs should research and select the most economical lodging option that fits their travel needs. Please be sure to read reviews to ensure the safety of your members.
 2. Clubs must select a room rate with free cancellation. *Please make sure all rates are "Pay at Hotel" as George Mason University staff may not pay in advance for hotels. Please check the cancellation policy prior to submitting your request.
 3. Clubs will enter the required information on the booking page and choose "Notify my administrator to approve and provide payment arrangements." Once you have reviewed all details to ensure your reservation information is correct, hit "Request Confirmation From My Administrator."
 4. After your reservation has been approved and confirmed by your administrator, you will receive an email with your confirmation information. *Should you need to cancel your reservation, it is the responsibility of the club officers to ensure all deadlines are met. *Mason Recreation will not be held responsible for any fees for non-cancellation.
 5. Club officers must pick-up a credit card authorization form from their club sport administrator to be used when checking into team hotels. This form gives permission for room and tax only to be charged to the p-card. All other charges must be applied to individual members' card.
 6. Clubs are required to submit copies of receipts to their club sport administrator within 2 business days of their return to campus. Clubs may request that the hotel email receipts directly to their club sport administrator.

*Clubs members and approved travelers are required to travel together and utilize the same lodging arrangements. Clubs are not permitted to use home sharing services like Airbnb. Club will need to indicate who is staying where.

Mason Recreation is unable to provide reimbursements for hotel expenses. When utilizing the

university credit card for bookings, only the room fees and taxes are chargeable to the card. The club is responsible for any incidental charges and damages. Using Lucid Travel simplifies the management of hotel booking requests.

Hotel Procedures

Check-In

- 1) Provide your reservation number and the credit card authorization form at check-in
 - a) Credit card information is not to be shared with anyone and is solely for use by the hotel staff.
 - b) This is confidential information and anyone breaking University policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 2) Club Sports will only pay for room fees, taxes, and parking charges.
- 3) A club member's personal credit or debit card must be used for incidentals
 - Males and females may not share hotel rooms
 - Club members must refrain from loud or inappropriate behavior that reflects poorly upon the University and/or negatively impacts the ability of clubs to use the hotel in the future

Check-Out

- 1) Check-out at the front desk and provide any additional information needed by the hotel.
- 2) Obtain an *itemized* receipt for your hotel stay. Ensure that the charges listed are accurate and reconcile any discrepancies.
- 3) Email or drop off receipts to the Competitive Sports office within two business days following the trip.

Drivers

Mason Recreation encourages the use of rental vehicles when available because use of personal vehicles carries a higher risk.

Personal Vehicles

Individuals traveling in personal vehicles for Club Sports purposes understand they do so at their own risk. Passengers must be aware that by choosing to travel in personal vehicles, they assume responsibility for their own safety during the trip. Drivers must also be aware that by offering transportation in their personal vehicles, they take on the responsibility for the safety of those traveling with them. George Mason University is not liable for any costs as a result of an accident, including injury and property damage, incurred during the travel to club activities. Therefore, both the driver and owner of the vehicle should understand that taking personal vehicles exposes them to personal liability as a result of an accident. Drivers are responsible for ensuring they are properly insured at all times. It is essential for all individuals involved to exercise due caution and take necessary precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable club experience.

When using personal vehicles, only approved club members, registered coaches, and staff may travel in the same vehicle.

Accidents

In the event of an accident in a personal vehicle, the driver must:

1. Assist anyone injured and call for an ambulance if needed.
2. While the vehicle is at the accident scene, notify the State Police (911) or, if the accident occurs on-campus, George Mason Police (703-993-2810).
3. Follow the accident reporting procedure for their personal vehicle insurance policy.
4. Notify (phone call) their club sport administrator of the accident immediately.

Rental Vehicles

When renting a vehicle, clubs should contact their club sport administrator two weeks in advance to help them make reservations for rental vehicles. George Mason University has a contract with Enterprise Rent-A-Car which covers Mason students and staff on approved University trips. Under the Mason contract, any student or employee (including coaches who have completed the Volunteer MOU) that has been approved via the MVR and driver training course is covered under the University's insurance policy. Clubs should not purchase additional insurance when using a rental under the Mason contract.

Minimum age for drivers:

- 21 yrs. old

When using rented vehicles, only approved Mason students, registered coaches, and staff may travel in the vehicle.

Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) Request and Release: [Form](#)

Due *at least two* weeks prior to departure. Club members who drive rental vehicles must submit this form to the Office of Risk Management. A new MVR authorization is required by the Office of Risk Management if a driver receives a new license in a different state or separates from and returns to Mason.

Drivers of Enterprise rental vehicles must be approved by the Office of Risk Management following their MVR check.

Driver Acknowledgement Form: <https://public.huddle.com/b/BkpxDq/index.html>

Due *at least two* weeks prior to departure. Potential drivers must submit a signed copy of a Driver Acknowledgement Form to Competitive Sports office.

Driver Awareness Training

Drivers seeking to utilize rental vehicles must also register for and complete a mandatory driver awareness class offered through the Office of Risk Management. **Students, volunteers and**

contractors (anyone who does not have access to Mason Leaps) can complete online Driver Awareness training [here](#).

Note To receive credit, you must submit the completion form to the Club Sports Office after viewing the training*

Driver Log Form

Before departure, clubs will be given a Driver Log to complete during their trip. This log records the individuals who drove a rental vehicle during club travel and the duration of their driving. The completed log must be submitted to the Competitive Sports Office by the first business day after the club's return.

Accidents

In the event of an accident in a rental vehicle, the driver must:

1. Assist anyone injured and call for an ambulance if needed.
2. While the vehicle is at the accident scene, notify the State Police (911) or, if the accident occurs on-campus, George Mason Police (703-993-2810).
3. Notify their club sport administrator and the Office of Risk Management. Failure to make a report of a vehicle accident as required by the Vehicle Use Policy and the laws of the Commonwealth will be handled in accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia Standards of Conduct and Performance.
4. Document the names, addresses, phone numbers, vehicle license numbers and insurance information of all persons and vehicles involved, including this information from any witnesses. Also document the names, phone numbers, and addresses of anyone injured or claiming to be injured. The Driver must provide this information to his or her club sport administrator immediately upon return, as well as to the Office of Risk Management as soon as possible following the accident.
5. Complete an "Auto Loss Notice" form and forward to the Office of Risk Management as soon as possible. (Available in the insurance information packet of vehicles owned by the Commonwealth, or online from the Office of Risk Management: <https://risk.gmu.edu/vehicle-accidents/>.)
6. Complete an Employers' First Report of Injury Accident form as soon as possible if an injury to an employee (paid coach) occurs (<https://seerm.gmu.edu/report-an-injury-or-illness/>).
7. Do not comment on fault or make any statement to anyone except Driver's immediate supervisor, a representative of the Commonwealth's Division of Risk Management, a law enforcement officer, or the Office of Risk Management.

Return of Vehicles

Clubs are highly encouraged to return vehicles during normal business hours; however, we understand that this is not always possible. When returning vehicles outside of regular business hours, clubs should document the date and time the vehicle was dropped off and take a few

photos of the interior and exterior of the vehicle(s) to protect against unwarranted fees.

Charter Buses

Clubs are encouraged to make use of charter services when traveling more than 350 miles. The costs associated with using a charter company should be considered prior to making plans to attend an event. There are no limitations for travel time when using charter services. Clubs who would like to use their on-campus allocated funds must use the following vendors for charter buses:

Academy Bus

Contact Name: Dena Ennis

Phone Number: 302-537-4805 x3440

Email: dennis@academybus.com

Website: <https://www.academybus.com/>

LW Transportation

Contact Name: Beth Forsht

Phone Number: 703-955-7801

Email: beth@lw-transportation.com

Website: <http://lw-transportation.com/>

Reston Limousine Service Inc

Contact Name: Kristina Bouweiri

Phone Number: 703-478-0500 x3440

Email: Kristina@restonlimo.com

Website: <https://www.restonlimo.com/>

Air

Clubs needing air transportation are required to contact their club sport administrator well in advance of the proposed trip. Club members are required to travel on the same flights to and from the destination. Clubs will be responsible for booking their own flights.

Booking Domestic Flights:

1. Clubs research flights for the approved trip and submit information to the Competitive Sports office.
2. Club will schedule a meeting to review purchase and must provide a list of travelers. The following information is needed for each traveler:
 - a. Legal name
 - b. DOB
 - c. Gender
 - d. Any travel out of the country will need passport and expiration date(s)

FACILITIES

Facility Spaces

Mason Recreation oversees multiple facilities that are available for Club Sports use, pending the proper submission of forms and confirmation of reservation. When utilizing the facility spaces, clubs are required to adhere to all facility use guidelines. Mason Recreation's spaces that may be reserved by Club Sports include:

Outdoor Facilities:

RAC Field (turf w/lights), Field 3 (turf w/lights), Field 4 (Bermuda w/lights), Field 5 (Bermuda no lights), Field 1 (Bermuda no lights) *this field belongs to athletics and is rarely available*, West Campus Tennis Courts, Outdoor Basketball Courts, West Campus Pavilion, and Pickleball Courts

RAC:

Linn Gym, RAC Gym, Squash/Racquetball Courts, Martial Arts Room, Yoga/Pilates Room, Overlook, Classroom

Aquatic and Fitness Center:

Multipurpose Room, Competition Pool, Rec Pool, Hospitality Room, Full Classroom or Half Classroom

Field House:

Courts 1-4, Batting Cage (drop-down), Indoor Track

Only available Sun – Thurs 7:00pm – 11:30pm with approval.

Requests to utilize the Field House due to inclement weather must be submitted to the Competitive Sports Office by 12:00pm via masoncs@gmu.edu

***On rare occasions, a club may be able to reserve an Athletics' (NCAA) field. If this opportunity arises additional preparation may be required to include staffing. Clubs should consult with their club sport administrator and submit requests to intercollegiate athletics no less than 6-weeks in advance of the requested date(s).**

Facility Use Guidelines

Clubs are expected to treat facility space with care. All spaces must be cleaned and restored to their original setup after use. Once a club's event has ended, the space will become available for open play, allowing other participants to use the area. If patrons from another activity request the space, the club must vacate it. However, if no one requests the space, the current activity may continue, provided they ask the on-site facility supervisor or manager for permission to extend their use.

Upon completion of outdoor events, trash is to be picked up, bagged, and disposed of in the nearest dumpster. Any damage or maintenance problems with recreation facilities should be reported immediately to the Competitive Sports office.

On-site staff has the authority to handle concerns with unruly participants, coaches and spectators. Alcoholic beverages, smoking and use of tobacco products are not permitted at any Club Sport practice or event. Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave the facility. Pets (except service animals) are not permitted at any Mason Recreation facility.

Inclement Weather Policy

The Competitive Sports and Facility staffs reserve the right to cancel indoor or outdoor practices and events if weather poses a threat to club participants. However, every effort will be made to provide ample notice. We will notify clubs of any weather-related warnings via email and text message during normal business hours. On-site staff will have final authority in decisions to delay or cancel events in progress.

University Closures

Practices and events during university closures are not permitted. Clubs that are still in season (traveling or competing) can request hold practices during the exam period, but member attendance cannot be mandatory.

Practice Times

On-campus practice times will be assigned based on point and tier placement. Clubs request practice times at the end of the spring semester for the following year.

Facility requests from clubs that are currently suspended or on probation will be filled last. Based on the number of requests and available facility space, clubs may need to be flexible with their dates, times, and location. It is very likely that clubs may need to share spaces.

Clubs utilizing off-campus facilities are responsible for coordinating all quotes and reservations. Please meet with your club sport administrator for guidance.

Practice schedules for most clubs will be consistent throughout a year. Some practice times and spaces may vary mid-semester due to Intramural Sports and availability. It is the club's responsibility to notify the Competitive Sports office of any cancelations, regardless of whether it is a one-time cancelation or for a prolonged period. Reserved space that is continually found to be unused will be reallocated.

Once the final practice schedule is set, it becomes a binding contract between the club and Mason Recreation. Failure to notify the Competitive Sports staff when your club is not practicing will result in disciplinary action. If a permanent change to your practice schedule is desired, please contact the club sport administrator.

For all facility reservations made by clubs—including meetings, practices, and competitions—

reservation times are strictly enforced and must be respected. Clubs are not permitted to enter the reserved space before their scheduled time and must vacate the space promptly at the end of their reservation. For practices and games, setup and breakdown must be completed within the reserved time. Clubs should account for this when submitting reservation requests.

Clubs are expected to make proper use of their assigned practice space and time by maintaining a reasonable number of members at each session. Practices with fewer than 5 participants do not meet this expectation (this number may differ based on the size of a club). Clubs that consistently fail to demonstrate adequate attendance may have their practice times adjusted or removed.

Event Requests

Requests to host events such as games, tournaments, and seminars require an On-Campus Competition - Facility Request Form on Mason360. The form must be filled out completely at least one month prior to the event for tournaments and 10 business days for home games involving 1-3 teams. Prior to submitting a request, clubs should check the Mason Recreation facility schedules to see if their desired venue is already reserved: <https://recreation.gmu.edu/facilities-hours/facility-schedules/>.

It is highly recommended clubs begin the process as soon as they know they want to host an event. In addition to requesting a facility, clubs should begin the process of contacting potential traveling clubs and any necessary officials and/or judges at least one month prior to the event. Clubs should not promote a tournament or special event until facility space has been confirmed.

Off-Campus Home Events

Clubs utilizing off-campus venues for home events are responsible for finding a venue and making arrangements with the Competitive Sports office to secure the facility reservation. Clubs that are required to have an athletic trainer must submit their request for coverage a minimum of 10 business days prior to the event date(s).

Meeting Rooms and Non-Mason Recreation Reservations – 25Live

Clubs who want to have business/informational meetings may reserve rooms within Mason Recreation facilities by emailing the Competitive Sports office at masoncs@gmu.edu a week in advance.

Clubs wishing to reserve academic classrooms or on-campus spaces not under control of Mason Recreation must submit requests through 25Live. These spaces include kiosks and outdoor areas throughout campus. Club officers must complete the 25Live training module before the start of the fall semester to be granted 25Live access. A club can have two officers with 25Live access each year.

Facility Inspections

In cooperation with the Mason Recreation staff, each club shares responsibility for its own safety

at games and practices. A facility inspection should take place before all events. All hazards should be documented and avoided. Practices and games should be canceled if the safety of all participants involved cannot be guaranteed. If any hazards are found, notify staff as soon as possible.

Cancelation Policy

Clubs must notify the Competitive Sports staff of any reservation cancelations in advance by email or phone call. Failure to do so may result in fees and/or loss of privileges.

- Practice Reservation – 24 hours prior to scheduled practice times
- Competition, Recruitment, or Alumni Event Reservation – eleven (11) days advanced notice
- Gameday Inclement Weather Cancelation (Outdoor Facilities) – communicate with club sport administrator as soon as forecasted weather could impact event

If a club needs to cancel a game, tournament, or event within ten (10) days of the reservation and an athletic trainer is scheduled the club team will be charged for Athletic Training Services. Club teams will be charged the number of hours the Athletic Trainer was scheduled to work for the event. Charges will vary depending on when the Competitive Sports staff are notified of the cancelation:

- Eleven (11) or more days prior = No charge
- Five (5) to ten (10) days prior = Club will be charged ½ the scheduled hours
- Day of to four (4) days prior to the event = Club will be charged the full hours

In the event the Competition Reservation is canceled due to an opponent backing out within the ten (10) day window the Athletic Training charge may be waived. To qualify, the club must provide a timestamped email forward from the opponent indicating they were unable to compete.

Hosting Events

All Club Sports events hosted on- or off- campus must be approved by the Competitive Sports office. Check-in meetings with Competitive Sports staff are recommended for most events to ensure adherence to policies and aid in the staging of a successful event.

Competition involving minor teams, community members, or alumni may see restrictions or additional requirements to host competitions of these types.

Check-in meetings are **required** for all club sports events that are larger than a single-round robin (3 teams) **OR** last longer than 4 hours **OR** involve community members, minor teams, or alumni. Check-in meetings for these events must be completed 7 (seven) days before the event. Prior to your check-in, please complete the Event Check-In document.

Clubs may not co-host their event with any external groups. Any co-hosted events with external

groups will need to enter into a contract with Mason Recreation Facilities as if the club were an external group themselves (no affiliation to Mason Recreation Club Sports).

Pre-Event

Facility Reservation

Clubs obtain a facility reservation using the previously outlined procedure.

Event Staff

Athletic trainers (see Athletic Training)

Clubs are responsible for booking and arranging payment for any referees, judges, or other officials utilized in their sport.

Facility Staff (on-campus events)

Registration Fees

All registration fees should be collected by the club and deposited into their off-campus bank accounts. Clubs must provide an invoice to each club (school) in advance of their payment deadline. Clubs must provide an itemized receipt to each club immediately following payment.

Best Practices

- Provide a detailed invoice a minimum of 6-weeks prior to the payment deadline or event date
- Deposit any onsite payments the next business day following your event
- Maintain an accurate record of all cash received

Event Equipment

Items like chairs, tables, coolers, and cash boxes are available for loan from Competitive Sports. Any desired equipment should be included in the special requests section of the Game Request Form.

Visiting Team Information

In the lead up to the event, clubs should provide visiting teams with information relevant to their time at the event venue. This material can include directions to the facility, parking instructions, facility policies, athletic training/medical services, lodging, and nearby dining options. Providing visiting teams with useful information will help encourage them to return to your event in the future.

The Competitive Sports office has developed a [Visitors Guide](#) to aid in the communication of this information.

Assumption of Risk Waiver

All visiting team players, coaches, and volunteers who will be on the sidelines or competing must complete the Visiting Team Assumption of Risk form. Only one form is required per team, even if the team is participating in multiple games. If the team is competing across multiple days, a date range will be listed on the form.

It is the club's responsibility to ensure that no games begin until the following process has been fully completed by each visiting team:

- Ensure that all visiting players, coaches, and sideline personnel (anyone associated with the visiting team) print their names and sign the form.
- Count the names listed on the form and compare them to the total number of individuals with the team. Make sure the numbers match. If they do, proceed to the next step.
- Next, check for any missing signatures next to the printed names. If a signature is missing, call out the name of the individual who hasn't signed.
 - Example: "Who is John Smith?" *John raises his hand* - "John, please sign the form before participating."
- The visiting team's officer or coach must complete the **Verification Acknowledgement** section.

Once all steps are complete, you may begin the competition.

Minor Waiver

All minors must complete the Visiting Minor Assumption of Risk Waiver and submit it to the Competitive Sports office before arriving to any competition, whether they are playing or not.

Vendors

Club teams are permitted to have vendors at their club events. To be eligible to table, showcase items, or provide a service during club events, a vendor must provide the following to the Competitive Sports Office thirty (30) days prior to the event:

Certificate of Insurance that provides the following coverage:

- Commercial General Liability in an amount no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$2,000,000 aggregate
- Workers Compensation in an amount not less than that prescribed by statutory limits*
- An Umbrella/Excess policy in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 to apply over and above the above insurances*
- If the club event will have minors present, Sexual Abuse and Molestation in the amount of no less than \$1,000,000 with a \$2,000,000 aggregate*

Signed contract

If the vendor does not already have a contract for tabling, to showcase items, or to provide a service to the University the Competitive Sports Office has one they can provide as a starting point

*Denotes the insurance coverage may not be required, depending on the event, product, or services provided.

Vendors are not permitted to sell food or handle cash (including checks) during the club event. If they wish to sell their items, they will need to utilize electronic payment. To table or sell items at a club event, the vendor will be charged the following depending on their categorization:

- Non-Mason Affiliated Vendors: \$30 per hour
- Mason Affiliated Vendors: \$10 per hour

Contractual Limitations

Club Sport Organizations and their leaders at George Mason University (“Mason”) are not authorized to sign contracts or agreements on behalf of Mason. Any contract that lists George Mason University as a party or permits the use of George Mason University’s name or branding is not permitted. Only authorized university personnel may sign contracts that commit Mason to any obligations (e.g., use of space on Mason’s campus, allowing use of Mason’s name or brand, agreeing that Mason will perform any service or provide anything to others). Organizations may consult with the Club Sports Office for guidance on processes for contracts that involve Mason.

Club-Specific Agreements

Club Sports Organizations may enter into contracts between themselves and other entities. Contracts signed by club leadership should be in the official club name only, without reference to Mason.

Event Operations

Set-Up/Break Down

Club members should be assigned to assist in the set-up and break down of the event. This function may include gathering any equipment from storage areas, fillings water coolers, setting up game equipment, and posting signage. Set-up and breakdown time should be accounted for in the Game Request Form’s arrival and departure times.

On-Site Payments

Fees collected on-site for home events, fundraisers, and any other revenue should be deposited to the clubs’ off-campus bank account the next business day following the event. Cash boxes may be checked out by contacting your club sport administrator.

Policy Enforcement

Club officers and members should assist Mason Recreation staff in informing visitors of and enforcing any facility/programmatic policies. This enforcement can include areas like addressing

irresponsible behavior from fans, coaches, or participants; violations of drug and alcohol policies; and removing pets from restricted areas.

Post-Event

Final financial reconciliation should occur directly after the event. On-site collections should be recorded and deposited at the RAC or AFC front desk. Any event registrations that were not paid prior to playing should be invoiced immediately to ensure timely payment. Official receipts should be emailed to anyone who paid by cash or check and may be seeking reimbursement from their university.

It is beneficial to draft a post-event summary. Club officers should list the steps in planning and executing the event, reflect on what went well with the event, and determine what can be improved upon when hosting similar events in the future. This summary is valuable to future club leadership when hosting events.

Post-Competition Forms must be submitted by clubs that participate in home or away competitions, including off-campus clubs. The form is due on Mason360 by the end of the Monday following the weekend of the competition(s).

Event Participation – Minors

A minor participant is defined as an individual who is under the age of 18 and not a member of a university sponsored club team.

All clubs seeking to host minors at their events must receive approval from the Competitive Sports Office six (6) weeks prior to the event.

On-Campus Events

All events at George Mason are required to carry insurance and provide George Mason with a Certificate of Insurance that names the University and the Commonwealth of Virginia as “Additionally Insured” (or the Certificate Holder).

Requirements:

- Contracts:
 - The hosting club must enter into a contract with Mason Recreation Facilities.
 - **Mason Recreation may waive facility fees for club teams, but facility staffing costs will remain the responsibility of the hosting club.**
- Insurance:
 - Clubs must provide insurance that meets the university’s requirements, including Sexual Abuse and Molestation (SAM) coverage.
 - The insurance requirements are as follows:
 - Commercial General Liability in an amount no less than \$1M per occurrence with a \$2M aggregate.

- If minors are present, Sexual Abuse and Molestation in the amount of no less than \$1M with a \$2M aggregate
- If you will be driving people around on campus for the event, Commercial Automobile Liability in the amount not less than \$1M per occurrence
- Workers Compensation in an amount not less than that prescribed by statutory limits
- An Umbrella/Excess policy in an amount not less than \$1M to apply over and above the above insurances.
- At all times during this Agreement Client shall maintain the following insurance coverage:
 - Commercial General Liability in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$2,000,000 aggregate.
- If you do not currently have insurance coverage, you can obtain Special Event Insurance for your event.
- Safety Plan:
 - Clubs must submit a comprehensive Safety Plan to their Club Sport Administrator a minimum of 3 weeks prior to their event.
 - The plan must include check-in/out procedures, monitoring, staffing roles, and emergency protocols.
- Parental Supervision (Individual Minors):
 - For events involving minors without a coach, a parent or legal guardian must remain onsite throughout the event.

Off-Campus Events

Requirements:

- Contracts and Agreements:
 - Clubs must enter into a contract or agreement with the off-campus facility/vendor. George Mason University will not be included in these agreements.
 - All agreements must be made in the name of the club, not George Mason University.
 - George Mason University staff will not provide legal guidance; clubs are responsible for seeking their own legal advice before signing agreements.
- Insurance:
 - Clubs must provide insurance that meets the requirements of the off-campus

facility.

- Safety and Compliance:
 - Clubs must ensure all legal and regulatory requirements for the event are met.
 - Clubs must submit a comprehensive Safety Plan to their Club Sport Administrator a minimum of 3 weeks prior to their event.

Event Participation – Community Members

A Community Member is defined as a non-George Mason University participant in a club sports event that does not have an affiliation with a college or university that is 18 years old or older. Community Members may not participate on a George Mason affiliated team, and they must be part of a community-based team/organization or participate as an individual. Prior to participation, Community Members must complete an Assumption of Risk specific for Community Members, and it is preferred that these documents are submitted to the Competitive Sports Office prior to the event. On the day of their event, clubs are responsible for ensuring that all participating community members have signed an Assumption of Risk Waiver on file before that individual is allowed to participate in any club competition.

Club teams must notify the Competitive Sports Office of all scrimmages, games, or events that will include community members. **Clubs may be charged for the facility staff and the athletic trainer working their competition (if applicable).** The number of scrimmages and/or games that involved community members may be limited due to facility and staffing availability.

Alumni Events

An Alumni Event is defined as a tournament, game, or event hosted by a club to engage their alumni members. Clubs may host up to two (2) sports-based alumni events a year (i.e. games or tournaments). Other alumni events that do not put a strain on Competitive Sports Office resources (such as dinners, banquets, invitations to tournaments, etc.) have no restriction.

To be considered an Alumni Event, and to receive Patriot Points for it, the club must complete the following:

- Accurately report alumni attendance of the event including names and emails
- Submit at least one group photo to the Competitive Sports Office
- Provide at least one of these additional experiences to the alumni:
 - Lunch/dinner before or after the event
 - Campus tour to show the new changes occurring on campus/in our spaces
 - Spectate at an NCAA/professional sports game
 - Alumni specific gear/swag for participants
 - Other experiences that are approved by the Competitive Sports Office

If a club sports team would like to host a competition-based Alumni Event, the team will be responsible for:

- **Paying the entire athletic training and/or facility staffing costs.**
- Meeting the guidelines provided in the Event Participation – Community Members policy.
- Meeting the above criteria to be considered an Alumni Event.

Food & Beverage

All food and beverage activities on-campus must comply with [University Policy Number 1135](#), and all applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that food and beverages are obtained from appropriate sources, distributed in a safe manner, and that all waste generated by the event is properly removed.

Club events involving food service must receive approval prior to the event. Clubs should work with their Club Sports administrator when planning events involving food service to ensure all University requirements are met. Any required approval should be obtained at least two weeks prior to the event.

Food provided at Club Sports events should be obtained from approved sources, including licensed restaurants, grocery stores, approved caterers, and other food establishments regulated by the appropriate health authority. Food prepared by club members or other individuals must not be distributed to the public.

Clubs wishing to sell or distribute food or beverages as part of a fundraising activity must receive prior approval from the Competitive Sports staff and comply with all applicable University requirements.

Public Events

Clubs may provide food and beverages at approved Club Sports events; however, requirements differ depending on the type of event. For public events, food and beverages must be commercially prepared, individually packaged or served directly from commercially sealed containers, and purchased in their final form from a licensed food establishment. Homemade food, on-site food preparation, and cooking are not permitted. Food service at public events may also be limited based on the event location, and clubs should consult their Club Sports administrator when planning events involving food or beverages.

Private Club Functions

For private club functions (invite only), including practices, meetings, and banquets, and alumni events, clubs may provide food purchased from a licensed food establishment or through an approved university caterer. Potluck-style events are permitted only for club members and coaches and may not be open to the public. Clubs are responsible for ensuring food is handled safely, maintaining event cleanliness, and designating a club representative to address any food safety concerns during the event. Clubs should also make reasonable efforts to communicate potential food allergens whenever food is not provided through an approved caterer.

For catered events, food service should be limited to designated event participants and invited guests and should not be available for unrestricted public distribution. If access to the food service area cannot be reasonably controlled, catered food service may not be permitted.

Equipment Storage

Various options for storing equipment are available to clubs at no cost. Club teams can utilize the West Campus Pavilion and the Club Sport storage areas located in the RAC and AFC.

Clubs are required to maintain an accurate inventory of all items. **Equipment must be kept neat and organized.** Clubs are not permitted to store personal belongings in Mason Recreation facilities. Only equipment purchased with club funding may be stored in recreation facilities/spaces. Equipment purchased with club funds is considered property of the University and must be picked up and returned from storage annually. Specific items, including large ticket items, may take upwards of a few weeks to be delivered, so clubs should plan accordingly.

It is highly recommended that clubs do not allow players to keep uniforms, as it is very difficult to track them down and they often go missing. Clubs will be held accountable for missing equipment, and it may be reflected on their annual allocation from the ECCS.

Club Sports Equipment and Apparel Policy

In the event of lost or stolen club sports equipment or apparel, the responsibility for replacement lies with the club member to whom the item was assigned. It is essential for all club members to exercise diligence in safeguarding club property. If a loss or theft occurs due to negligence or violation of club policies, the member may be held accountable for covering the replacement cost of the item. The replacement cost will be determined based on the current market value of the lost or stolen item, accounting for factors such as depreciation and usage. It is recommended that members report any loss or theft promptly to the designated club authority. This policy underscores the importance of responsible handling and care of club sports equipment and apparel by all members to ensure their longevity and continued availability for the benefit of the entire club community.

Procedure for Accessing Club Storage Spaces

Each club may provide a list of up to four club members that are authorized to access equipment in the designated club storage space around campus. Listed members are to present their ID to facilities staff members during the facility's hours, and facilities staff will provide access to the storage area. Access to the first-floor club storage area must be prearranged through Competitive Sports staff. This process is in place to protect items like uniforms that are stored here and more likely to go missing with less restricted access.

Clubs are responsible for maintaining a clean, organized, and safe storage area at all times. Equipment and supplies must remain within the club's designated storage space and may not encroach upon another club's assigned area or common walkways. Clubs are expected to remove trash, properly store equipment after each use, and promptly report any maintenance concerns

or damage.

Clubs are limited to 5 minutes in storage spaces to retrieve/return their equipment and depart from the space. Clubs that exceed the allotted time will be dismissed by the facility staff.

If clubs need to access the space for more than 5 minutes, they must coordinate this access with the Competitive Sports Administration prior to entry.

Repeated or significant violations of this policy may result in the temporary or permanent loss of storage privileges, as determined by the Competitive Sports Office.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

Club Sports Webpage

The Club Sports webpage (<https://recreation.gmu.edu/club-sports/>) is the main resource for members of the public seeking information on Mason Club Sports.

Clubs should review their individual pages on the club sports website each semester to ensure that all information is correct. It is highly recommended that pictures are updated on a regular basis. Header images should be of high quality and saved at: 723pixels x 264pixels. Please email updated photos to masoncs@gmu.edu.

Mason360

Mason360 is the University's student engagement platform. Mason360 offers a number of features including a mobile app, personalized resource content, events calendar and registration, and chatting. At minimum, clubs are expected to provide updated contact information, officer listings, and constitution on this platform.

The Club Sports program also has a separate Mason360 page containing most internal forms and document utilized by clubs.

Social Media

Club Sports are encouraged to use social networking platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to enhance their visibility. When creating a group for promoting the club and disseminating club-related information, it is recommended to utilize the official club name as the group name (e.g., Club Baseball at George Mason University). Content on the group page, including pictures, events, and discussions, should uphold a positive image of the club, Mason Recreation, and the University. Inappropriate language, negativity towards individuals/staff, or any improper behavior by club members should be avoided. It's important to note that the student code of conduct is applicable to all content on group pages. Additionally, the use of club pages to promote parties, events involving alcohol consumption, or similar activities is not permitted. All content on group pages should adhere to the guidelines provided in this handbook and be regularly updated.



Masonclubsports

Photo and Filming Policy

As private spaces, photography and videography at Mason Recreation facilities and fields strictly regulated. Clubs wishing to film or photograph within these areas must request permission to do so: <https://recreation.gmu.edu/about-us/photo-video-request/>.

Communication & Outreach

When communicating with the public, clubs should avoid sending mass messages and requests to any university affiliate whose contact information they happen to find. Instead, clubs are encouraged to develop a contact list of interested and affiliated individuals, including club alumni, friends, family, and other key stakeholders.

For any clarification regarding this policy, teams are encouraged to contact the Competitive Sports Office.