COMPLIANCE FOR SMITH COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Current Student Athletes: All student athletes at Smith College are expected and required to abide by all NCAA, New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC), and Smith College rules and policies.

Academic Eligibility: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be enrolled in a full-time program of studies, be in good academic standing and maintain satisfactory progress toward a degree (baccalaureate or equivalent).

- Good academic standing is determined by the institution (Smith College) and is applicable to all students of the college (not just student athletes). At Smith, if a student-athlete is placed on Probation, that student-athlete is considered to be ineligible which means they cannot practice or compete with an intercollegiate team. The student athlete will remain ineligible until the committee that determines academic standing, removes them from Probation.
- At Smith, a typical class load is 16 credit hours per semester. Therefore, a student should be completing about 32 credit hours each academic year in order to maintain satisfactory progress toward a degree.
- A student-athlete must be enrolled in a full-time program of studies and must be registered for at least 12 credit hours, in order to be eligible to practice or compete with a team.

Exceptions:
1. A student-athlete may practice, but not compete, during the first 5 days of each semester, provided that they are otherwise eligible under all institutional, conference and NCAA requirements. An athlete cannot compete when registered for less than 12 credit hours at any time).
2. In the final semester or quarter, a student-athlete may practice or compete while enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies, as long as the student is enrolled in the final semester or graduate program and the institution certifies that the student is carrying (for credit) the courses needed to complete the degree requirements.
3. A student-athlete who is enrolled as a graduate student at Smith College, and has received her degree from Smith, may participate in intercollegiate athletics as long as that student has eligibility remaining and such participation occurs within the applicable 10 semester/15 quarter period. This also applies to a student who is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate degree or a student who has graduated and is continuing as a full-time student at the same institution while taking classes that would lead to the equivalent of another major or degree as defined by the institution.
**Seasons of Participation:** A student-athlete has 10 full time semesters or 15 quarters to complete 4 seasons of participation in a sport. A student-athlete has used a semester or quarter if they attend a class while they are registered as a full-time student for even one day. A student-athlete will trigger the use of a season of participation if they practice or compete during or after the first contest in the traditional segment.

**Exceptions:**
1. A student athlete can participate in a preseason scrimmage or exhibition played before the first contest without triggering the use of a season of participation.
2. A student athlete can participate in an alumni contest played before the first regular season contest without triggering the use of a season of participation.
3. In the non-traditional season for baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, a student athlete can practice and compete without using a season of participation.
4. A student-athlete participating in athletics while attending a study abroad program recognized by the college, will not use a season of participation as long as all regulations for maintaining amateurism are followed.

**Hardship Waiver:** A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of participation if they suffer incapacity resulting from a season-ending injury or illness that has occurred under all of the following conditions:
1. The injury or illness before the completion of the first half of the traditional playing season for that sport resulting in the athlete’s inability to compete for the remainder of that season.
2. The injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not competed in more than one-third of the maximum contests or dates of competition.

A student-athlete who meets the criteria for receipt of a hardship waiver can practice and/or participate in rehabilitative activities for the rest of the season and still qualify for a hardship waiver. The student-athlete must be able to provide contemporaneous or other appropriate documentation from a physician who administered care for the injury or illness, that establishes the student-athlete’s inability to compete for the rest of the traditional season due to the illness or injury.

**Amateurism:** a student-athlete must maintain amateurism in order to represent Smith College. An athlete is not eligible to participate if she takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay in any form, for participation in the sport they play at Smith College. All student athletes must maintain amateur status.

**Awards, Benefits and Expenses:** a student-athlete will be ineligible for a sport if she has received impermissible awards, extra benefits, or excessive or improper expenses that violate NCAA Amateurism policies for that sport.

**Ethical Conduct:** A prospective or enrolled student-athlete who is found to have engaged in unethical conduct will be ineligible for participation in all sports. Unethical conduct includes:
1. Fraudulence in connection with entrance or placement exams
2. Engaging in any athletics competition under an assumed name
3. Dishonesty in evading or violating NCAA regulations
4. Knowingly furnishing the NCAA or Smith College with false or misleading information during the investigation of a possible NCAA violation.
5. Gambling or betting on any sport at any level, which has a championship sponsored by the NCAA.
6. Receiving financial aid other than that authorized by the NCAA.
7. Allowing oneself to be recruited by Smith College or a representative of Smith’s athletic interests, in a way that violates the NCAA legislation surrounding the recruitment of student athletes.

**Drug Testing:** Each year, a student-athlete must sign the NCAA Drug Testing Consent Form in which the student consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by NCAA legislation. See the Banned Drug List at this link - [https://www.ncaa.org/2016-17-ncaa-banned-drugs-list](https://www.ncaa.org/2016-17-ncaa-banned-drugs-list).

**International Student Form:** All international students must complete the International Student Form. The form will be kept on file with the student’s information.

**Transfer Students:** A transfer student from a 4 year institution will not be eligible until they have served an academic year in residence unless they satisfy one of the following exceptions:
1. The student has never practiced or competed in intercollegiate athletics.
2. The student transfers from a 4 year college and would have been academically and athletically eligible, at the time of transfer had she remained at the previous institution.
3. The student transfers from a 4 year college that did not sponsor the student’s sport and has completed 24 credit hours or 36 quarter hours of transferrable degree credit AND completed at least two fulltime semesters or three full-time quarters.
An exchange student, participating in a formal and established educational exchange program recognized by Smith will be eligible immediately.

**Outside Participation:** A student-athlete cannot compete with an outside team during the declared season of her Smith team.

**Exceptions:**
1. A student-athlete may compete in one game a year involving players from the player’s former high school and its alumni team. In sports other than basketball, this game must take place during an official vacation period in the institution’s academic year.
2. A student-athlete may participate in the Olympic Games or in the final tryouts that lead to qualification for the Olympic Games.
3. A student-athlete may participate in official Pan Am Games tryouts and competition.
4. A student-athlete may participate in official tryouts and competition involving national teams sponsored by national governing bodies.
5. A student-athlete may participate in official World Championships, World University Games, World University Championships, World Youth Championships and World Cup tryouts and competition.
6. A student-athlete can participate in officially recognized state and national multisport events.
7. A student-athlete may compete as an individual or part of a team in triathlons throughout the calendar year. However, if part of a team, the athlete must compete in all three legs of the competition.

A student athlete who competes as a member of a college all-star squad is no longer eligible in that sport.

Transferring: If a student-athlete is interested in transferring to another Division III institution, she must complete the Self-Release Form located at this link [http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/DIII_Permission_to_Contact_%20Self_Release_20160606.pdf](http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/DIII_Permission_to_Contact_%20Self_Release_20160606.pdf). Once this form is sent to the compliance officer at the school of interest, the student athlete can talk to that coach for 30 days without her current institution knowing about this conversation. At the end of 30 days, if still interested in pursuing the possible transfer, the student athlete must send a second Self Release Form. In this instance the institution receiving the form will inform the current institution of the contact made with the student-athlete. If a student athlete is interested in talking with a coach at a Division II or Division I school, Bonnie May will write a letter of release, granting that institution the right to contact the student athlete.

Procedure for Intercollegiate Sports Participation Clearance:

1. Have a physical, performed by a physician, within 6 months of the first date of participation including practice, competition and out-of-season conditioning activities. In following years, an updated history of the student athlete’s medical condition shall be administered by a Smith College athletic training staff member.

2. Smith must confirm the sickle cell trait status of a student-athlete before participation in one of the following ways:
   - Student provides documented results of sickle cell test previously administered.
   - If a student-athlete is tested and is waiting for results, she may participate if she does the educational module OR
   - If she signs a waiver and does the educational module provided by our athletic training staff.

3. Create an account in the ATS system and complete all online NCAA forms.

4. Have an athletic training room staff member take and record height, weight and blood pressure.

5. Attend a mandatory compliance meeting run by Bonnie May, the Associate Athletic Director and Compliance Officer for Smith College

6. Update or complete the individual compliance tracking form.

7. If an international student, complete the International Student Form with Bonnie May’s direction.

Out of Season Athletically Related Activity: Student-athletes and coaches shall not engage in athletically related activities outside of the declared playing season.
**Athletically related activity:** the following are considered athletically relate activities:

1. Practice, which is any meeting, activity, or instruction involving sports-related information held for one or more students by someone on the coaching staff. This includes activities such as:
   - Field, floor or on-court activity
   - Setting up offensive and defensive alignments
   - Chalk talk
   - Discussion of sport related strategies
   - Activity suing equipment related to the sport
   - Discussions or review of game film
   - Any other athletically related activity
2. Competition
3. Required weight-training and conditioning directed or supervised by a staff member
4. Participation in a physical fitness class conducted by an athletic staff member that is not open to all students
5. Required participation in camps, clinics and workshops
6. Individual workouts required or supervised by a member of the coaching staff. Coaches can design voluntary individual workout programs for student athletes, but cannot conduct workouts outside the declared playing season.
7. On-court or on-field activities called by members of the team and confined primarily to members of the team (captains’ practices), that are considered mandatory for participation in that sport.
8. In the sports of cross country, golf and skiing, visiting the competition site.
9. Reservation or use of an institution’s athletic facilities for activities that are supervised or run by a member of the institution’s coaching staff.
10. Involvement of the strength and conditioning staff in required conditioning programs.
11. Observation of student athletes in pick-up games by the coach of that sport, except as permitted (if coach is required to supervise that particular facility as part of their job description)

**Exceptions:** *these activities are not considered athletically related activities.*

1. Administrative or academic meetings that are nonathletic in nature (academic meetings, compliance meetings, etc.)
2. One team meeting (can be mandatory) that is outside the playing and practice season.
3. One individual meeting for each student athlete (can be mandatory) for an athletics purpose outside the playing and practice season.
4. Voluntary fundraising and community service activities that do not involve the use of athletics ability (must be approved by the athletic director in advance).
5. Voluntary out of season fundraising activities involving the use of athletic ability, provided that the activity is open to any and all entrants (must be approved by the athletic director in advance).
6. Observation of an officiating clinic related to the rules of the game that is conducted by video conference and does not require a student athlete to miss class for this observation.

7. Observation of enrolled student athletes in organized competition (e.g., Summer league) provided that no member of the coaching staff is involved in directing or supervising the activity.

8. Voluntary individual workouts monitored for safety purposes by the strength and conditioning coach. If that S&C coach is also a coach of an athletic team, this can only occur if that coach monitors all student athletes using the room at that time.

9. Voluntary workouts by student athletes in a weight room that is just for student athletes, as long as the workout is not directed by a member of the coaching staff.

10. Voluntary individual strength and conditioning activities conducted by strength and conditioning personnel who are certified by a nationally recognized certification program only during the academic year.

11. Observation of enrolled student-athletes in nonorganized sports-specific activities, provided:
- The job responsibilities for the coaching staff member include the monitoring of the facility for purposes of safety and facility security
- The observation occurs while the staff member is monitoring the facility
- The observation occurs while the facility is open to all students. This does not allow the coaching staff member to direct, supervise, or provide instruction, but they can stop any activity that they deem dangerous.