Teaching by Athletic Department Personnel

Vanderbilt University strives for excellence while maintaining the highest ethical standards. We support the ideals of goodwill, fair play, and transparency. A robust national dialogue continues about the ability of colleges and universities to uphold those ideals while also seeking success in Division I athletics. As we learned from the experiences of other institutions, the risk of real or apparent conflict of interest is especially acute with respect to the relationships between athletics department personnel and student-athletes. We have adopted this policy to support the goal of avoiding conflicts of interest as well as to prevent apparent or actual favoritism, bias, or other issues of professional ethics.

To avoid bias or the appearance of bias, all athletic department personnel, including those with faculty appointments, are prohibited from serving as an instructor (primary or secondary) for an undergraduate course and from academically evaluating any student athlete. Nor may such personnel teach any substantial portion of an undergraduate class. Personnel may make a single appearance as a guest lecturer in a course. Questions or requests for review should be directed to the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (vpf@vanderbilt.edu).