NEW LANGUAGE APPEARS IN CAPS AND BOLD
DELETED LANGUAGE APPEARS WITH A STRIKE THROUGH

I. GRADE POINT AVERAGE STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

A. Beginning with their second year of collegiate enrollment, a University of Minnesota (U of M) UNDERGRADUATE student-athlete AND GRADUATE STUDENT-ATHLETE WITH ELIGIBILITY REMAINING who is otherwise eligible under NCAA and Big Ten rules must present a minimum U of M /Big Ten cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 to be eligible for intercollegiate competition. STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO HAVE GRADUATED WITH A BACHELOR’S DEGREE, ARE TAKING GRADUATE COURSES AND HAVE EXHAUSTED ELIGIBILITY, ARE SUBJECT TO NCAA GPA REQUIREMENTS, BUT NOT THE U OF M 2.0 POLICY.

B. If the student-athlete is eligible under NCAA and Big Ten rules on the first day of the term, but does not meet the requirement in part (A) above, the student-athlete shall become eligible for intercollegiate competition and/or earn the academic progress rate (APR) eligibility point once the student-athlete achieves the 2.0 GPA standard for that term. (For example, an incomplete is completed during the summer term after the spring term in which the student-athlete’s Big Ten cumulative GPA was below the 2.0 GPA requirement. The student-athlete would only earn the APR point.)

REPORTING:

Each academic term the director of the McNamara Academic Center for athletics (hereafter MAC) will provide the Faculty Academic Oversight Committee On Intercollegiate Athletics (FAOCIA) a grade report that includes the number of student-athletes per team whose U of M/Big Ten GPA falls below the 2.00 standard and an academic plan for each student-athlete included on that list.

WAIVERS:

The faculty members of the FAOCIA, by majority vote upon appeal from the Athletics Director, may waive the 2.00 standard for an individual student-athlete. Waivers may be granted on the basis of improved academic performance and not on the basis of athletic skill. Waivers may also be considered for APR reasons especially when there is no impact on the student-athlete.
PROCESS FOR REQUESTING A WAIVER

- The athletics director must make a written request to the chair of FAOCIA to waive the 2.00 standard.
- If warranted, the chair of FAOCIA will schedule a meeting at which the student-athlete and coach will be asked to present the mitigating circumstances. In a case in which the student-athlete is leaving the university, their presence shall be strongly encouraged but not required.
- The athletics director, MAC director, and academic counselor should also be present at this meeting.
- After the case has been presented, the voting members of FAOCIA will go into closed session and vote on the request.
- The committee’s decision to approve or deny the request will be communicated in writing to the athletics director, coach, student, academic counselor, the director of MAC, and the Director of Compliance.
- The committee administrator will also communicate the committee’s written decision to the registrar’s office.
- Any student-athlete who has been suspended for academic reasons will not be considered for a waiver.
- In certain cases for example, if the student-athlete is enrolled in a 9-month IDL course and the grade is not available and therefore the student-athlete receives an “I” (which could drop his/her GPA below a 2.0) or if the waiver request is for APR reasons and there is no impact on the student-athlete, the athletics director and/or the director of the mac may consult the chair of FAOCIA to determine if it is necessary to have the student-athlete attend the hearings or if a hearing is necessary. The decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The FAOCIA will consider the following factors in its deliberations:
- Student-athletes cumulative U of M/Big Ten GPA
- Reasons for leaving the University
- Student-athlete’s overall academic record

INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

The FAOCIA’s decision to restore the eligibility to a student-athlete whose GPA has dropped below the 2.0 standard required by the U of M but remains above the NCAA minimum GPA standard for intercollegiate competition may include an individual academic performance contract. If a contract is warranted, the following steps will be taken:
• The chair of FAOCIA and the MAC staff will design an academic performance contract for the student-athlete. A majority of the members of the FAOCIA must review and approve the initial contract.

• The chair of FAOCIA will schedule a meeting to review the contract with the student-athlete, coach, academic counselor and athletics director. The contract is to be signed by the student-athlete, coach, academic counselor, athletics director, and chair of FAOCIA.

• The academic performance contract will be specific in listing tasks, deadlines, and methods of reporting efforts and/or progress. While the ultimate responsibility is with the student-athlete, specific monitoring responsibilities may be assigned to the coach, the academic counselors, and others. For example, the student-athlete may be required to meet with the FAOCIA to review progress.

• If deemed necessary, the chair of FAOCIA and/or the faculty representative may consult with present or past faculty of the student-athlete and other academic counselors.

• The chair of FAOCIA shall distribute copies of the contract to the student-athlete, the coach, the academic counselor, the athletics director, and the director of academic counseling, THE MAC. A copy of the contract will be kept on file in the office of the staff of the FAOCIA.

The effective date of this regulation is July 1, 1987.

Approved by the FAOCIA fall semester 2001 and 2002; approved by the Assembly Steering Committee, Spring 2003

Revised and approved by the FAOCIA and the Twin Cities members of the Faculty Consultative Committee, Spring 2006

Approved by the FAOCIA and the Faculty Consultative Committee, Spring 2012

Reviewed and approved by FAOCIA and the Faculty Consultative Committee, spring 2014
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Policies having to do with the scheduling of events and practices are province of the Faculty Academic Oversight Committee (FAOCIA) as they directly relate to the academic performance of student athletes.

The following policies and procedures will pertain*:

I. Athletic Events

A. The schedule of athletic events would include no more than nine class days away from campus, including travel, per student, Monday–Friday during any semester. (See section IV.B)

B. During the first week of each semester student-athletes may not miss the first class meeting of any course for athletic events, including travel, unless the student-athletes verify to their coach ACADEMIC COUNSELOR (AT THE MCNAMARA ACADEMIC CENTER) that they have obtained prior approval for their intended absence from the faculty member or instructor. Because the first week of each semester is preceded by a vacation period, it is necessary for the student-athlete to submit to the faculty member or instructor, a written request to hold a place in that class if absence is anticipated.

The Statement of Policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences: The University recognizes the desirability of student participation in various approved non-curricular activities that conflict at times with class attendance. It endorses a policy of reasonable accommodations as described in the policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences. This policy can be found at:
http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html.

C. Home athletic events may not be scheduled before noon on any class day during the regular academic year.

D. Athletic events, including related travel, may not be scheduled from the beginning of Study Day to the end of Finals Week. Requests for exceptions to this policy must be presented to the FAOCIA before being submitted to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) by the athletic director/designee. Athletic events that are part of the [See E.1] IN-
SEASON CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OR to NORMAL PROGRESSION to a Conference or NCAA championship are excluded from this prohibition (E.G., BASEBALL MAY PLAY IN-SEASON BIG TEN CONFERENCE GAMES DURING FINALS WEEK) [SEE E.].

E. In those instances where post-season competitive events occur during Study Day or Finals Week (either of Day School or of Extension Classes), the Senate Committee on Educational Policy will consider them approved (that is, without requiring explicit action on the part of the Committee) subject to the following conditions:

E1. The event is in normal progression in the sport leading from in-season competition to conference, or regional, OR NATIONAL championship and then to national championship competition; [normal progression shall be defined as qualifying for an event or a series of events based on successful prior competition. Participation in Big Ten, NCAA or WCHA contests shall be deemed normal progression if all teams in that league are eligible to participate in that contest. Class days missed for such events will not be counted toward the regular season permitted maximum]; and

E2. The coach or other staff member in the athletic program can demonstrate to the Director of the McNamara Academic Center for Student Athletes that satisfactory alternative academic arrangements have been made; and

E3. The event is conducted under the aegis of the NCAA or the appropriate national sport governing body if it is not the NCAA.

F. Any other post-season competition, such as bowl games or invitational events requires the specific approval of the FAOCIA. However, when these events fall during Study Days or Finals Week, specific approval of SCEP is required before participation may occur.

G. All competition by varsity teams, or student-athletes on those teams, which is sanctioned or supported financially or otherwise materially by the University, must be approved in advance by FAOCIA in the same manner it approves regular schedules. Such approval includes those instances where competition involves teams or individuals not formally affiliated with the University, and it includes any competition that may occur at times other than during the normal academic year. On those occasions when the Committee will not meet before the proposed competition is to occur, the Chair of the FAOCIA or designee shall poll FAOCIA members [by telephone or e-mail], seeking authority to approve or disapprove University representation in the event.
H. University-sponsored athletic events (if not previously approved) held during Summer Session must have prior approval of FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE.

I. All intra-squad events, INCLUDING PRACTICE that take place outside of the Twin Cities metro area must be approved in advance by FAOCIA. (for example, "Twin Cities campus METRO" is interpreted to include the Humphrey Metrodome, Target Field, EXCEL ENGERY CENTER, AND THE VIKINGS STADIUM)

J. By state law (Minnesota Statutes 1982, Sect. 202A.19), no event may be scheduled by the University that would take place after 6:00 p.m. on the day of a major political party precinct caucus, unless permission has been granted by the Board of Regents.

*Procedures for obtaining exceptions to policies are found in Section IV.

K. Missed class time for athletic events scheduled away from campus is counted as follows for days on which classes are scheduled Monday through Friday:

   a. Scheduled time of departure from campus          Class Days

      Missed

      Before 12:00 noon                               1 day
      After 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.                     1/4 day
      After 2:00 p.m.                                  0 days

   b. Scheduled time of return to campus

      Before 8:00 A.M.                               0
      After 8:00 A.M.                                3/4 day

2. Missed class time for home events is counted as follows ABOVE.

   12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.                      1/4 day

II. Practice

A. First year and transfer student-athletes must be excused from practice to attend the academic components of University and college orientation programs.
B. **Student-athletes** must be excused from all scheduled practices to attend scheduled classes, **EXCEPT ON TRAVEL DAYS (AS PERMITTED BY NCAA RULES).** In such cases, **mis**used class days shall be counted from the beginning of practice rather than from departure from campus as in K.1.

C. Regular or scheduled practice should not take place on Study Day. Student-athletes' examination schedules must be considered when scheduling practice during finals week.

III. Reporting
Go to:
http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/ATHLETICSTUDY.html

IV. Schedule Approval Process and Exceptions

A. Proposed competition and travel schedules events and proposed schedule changes shall be submitted by the Athletics Director or designee to the chair of the FAOCIA. The committee will approve a schedule if it meets the policy provisions. If the schedule does not meet policy provisions, the schedule will be brought to the next meeting of FAOCIA, which will determine whether or not to make an exception. Schedules of athletic events will be considered approved following the next regularly scheduled FAOCIA meeting unless they violate the criteria herein stated.

B. An academic plan is required for any travel causing a student-athlete to be away from campus for more than nine missed class days per semester. Coaches in collaboration with the student-athlete and the academic counselor shall regularly make academic plans for their team members while on extended trips. An academic plan includes the travel itinerary dates and provisions for student-athlete to complete assignments, projects and examinations during travel. The academic plan shall be submitted in advance to the FAOCIA for approval. (See section I.A.)

C. If a team or individual team member misses more than nine class days during any semester without prior approval, the Athletics Director or designee must report back to the FAOCIA, with proposed consequences where deemed appropriate. The expectation is that the excess time will be subtracted from the permitted nine days during the corresponding semester of the next academic year. Additional consequences may also be imposed.
Revised May 2001
Revised Fall 2002
Approved by SCEP and Assembly Steering Committee, May 2003
Reviewed and approved by FAOCIA and the Faculty Consultative Committee, spring 2011
Reviewed and approved by FAOCIA and the Faculty Consultative Committee, spring 2014