



**BYLAWS
OF THE
ATHLETIC COUNCIL
OF
THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
REVISED APRIL 9, 2026**

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*Bylaws of the Athletic Council of
The University Senate*

The Ohio State University

Introduction

The Athletic Council, through its authority established by the University Bylaws [3335-5-48.5], through its activity as a standing committee of the University Senate, [3335-5-48.5(B)(1)], and through its responsibilities to develop and establish policy for intercollegiate athletics [3335-5-48.5(B)(1)[a][b][c], does hereby prescribe and organize the Athletic Council Bylaws. The current version of the bylaws was revised and approved by the Athletic Council on April 3, 2024.

Article I. Athletic Council Membership [3335-5-48.5(A)].

Section 1: Composition of the Council

The Athletic Council shall include faculty, students, staff, and an alumnus. An Organizational Chart of the Athletic Council appears in Appendix C.

Section 2: Members

The Council is composed of sixteen (16) voting members, including:

- (1) Eight (8) regular faculty. At least 75% of the faculty shall be tenure-track.
 - a. Four (4) faculty members selected by the Faculty Council.
 - b. Four (4) faculty appointed by the President.
 - c. Term of service shall be four (4) years.
- (2) Five (5) students.
 - a. One graduate student, appointed by the council of graduate students. The term of service is one year.
 - b. One professional student, appointed by the inter-professional council. The term of service is one year.
 - c. Two undergraduate students, appointed by the Undergraduate Student Government. The term of service is one year.
 - d. One undergraduate student-athlete, appointed by the Student-Athlete Advisory Council. The term of service is one year.
- (3) One (1) alumnus designated by the Alumni Association.
 - (a) Term of service shall be four (4) years.
- (4) Two (2) staff members.
 - (a) One (1) selected by the University Staff Advisory Committee.

- (b) One (1) appointed by the President.**
- (c) Terms of service shall be four (4) years.**
- (d) Terms shall be staggered so that one member is retiring every two (2) years.**

Section 3: Terms of Service

Terms of service shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30; incoming members may attend meetings as non-voting members upon appointment. [3335-5-46(A)(5)].

Section 4. Ex-Officio Members.

There are also five (5) ex officio, non-voting members, including:

- (1) Director of Athletics;**
- (2) Vice President of Student Life;**
- (3) Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR);**
- (4) Director, Student Athletic Support Services Office (SASSO);**
- (5) President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC); and**
- (6) Senior Vice President/CEO of Alumni Association or their designated representative**

Section 5: Officers.

The officers of the Athletic Council shall be the Chair and the Vice Chair/Chair elect.

- (1) The Chair of the Council shall be a faculty member serving in the last year of a four-year term. The Chair shall:**
 - a. Preside over Council meetings and organize the agenda of the Council in consultation with the Executive Committee;**
 - b. Preside over the election of the Vice Chair;**
 - c. Select Chairs and members of the Circle of Care Committee and the Finance and Facilities Committee;**
 - d. Establish ad hoc committees as necessary;**
 - e. Serve as the Athletic Council representative to the President of the University, the University Senate, and the Board of Trustees;**
 - f. Serve as the Athletic Council representative to external organizations and commissions addressing concerns of intercollegiate athletics;**
 - g. Prepare and submit a timely annual report to the University Senate based on the overall activity of the Council and the timely annual reports of the standing committees.**

(2) The Vice Chair of the Council, and Chair-elect, shall be a faculty member serving in the third year of a four-year term and shall be the Chair of the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (AP&E);

(3) A Recording Secretary shall work with the Officers and circulate the Council agenda and keep minutes of all Council meetings; The Director of Athletics shall designate a Department of Athletics staff member as Recording Secretary.

(4) The Vice Chair for the subsequent year shall be elected at the last regular meeting of the year. Terms of office shall commence on July 1 and end on June 30.

(5) In the event the position of Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chair shall assume the position of Chair for the duration of the former Chair's term of office and of the following year.

Article II. Duties and Responsibilities.

Section 1: Policy Creation and Development [3335-5-48.5(B)(1)].

(1) The Athletic Council, as an agent of the Senate, in accordance with the University Bylaws, and subject to the general authority of the President and the Board of Trustees. The Council may develop and recommend policies to guide the Director of Athletics in the administration of athletics.

(2) The Council shall consider and review matters involving, but not limited to:

- a. The income and expenditures budget
- b. Student-athlete academic mitigation and recovery plans, and missed-class-time guidelines
- c. Awards to athletes;
- d. Facilities and capital improvements
- e. Ticket prices and ticket distribution;
- f. Public and campus relations of the athletic program.

(3) The Council shall review, adopt, alter, or abolish its policies and bylaws relating to intercollegiate athletics based on the following authority:

- a. Establish standing committees;
- b. Establish an executive committee for consultation with the Chair on matters relating to the Council;
- c. Consider matters brought before it by its members from its constituent bodies;
- d. Maintain an official record of its proceedings, which shall be made available to the University Senate.

(4) Council recommendations and decisions on matters shall be reported to the Senate and to the Department of Athletics.

Section 2: Selection of Faculty Athletic Representative(s) (FAR). [3335-5-48.5(B)(2)]:

- (1) Participate with the President in selecting one FAR.**
 - a. For the position of FAR, the Council shall prepare a list of no fewer than two members from the regular tenured university faculty;**
 - b. The President shall select a representative from the Council's recommendations.**
- (2) The Chair of the Athletic Council shall appoint a nominating committee with the following responsibilities:**
 - a. Inform the university community about the position of the FAR.**
 - b. Invite written applications from tenured faculty and/or recommendations for nominations in writing from the university community;**
 - c. Prepare and provide a schedule for receiving applications and nominations.**
- (3) Final approval of nominees submitted to the President shall be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members of the Athletic Council:**
 - a. The nominees shall be presented to the president in June of the year before the start of the next term of office of the FAR to allow a smooth transition between outgoing and incoming representatives.**
 - b. The new FAR shall be appointed as faculty athletics representative-elect on July 1 of the year before becoming FAR.**
 - c. The FAR-elect shall shadow the FAR for a year and attend all meetings to which the FAR has access, but the FAR-elect shall have no right to vote until becoming the FAR.**
- (4) Terms of appointment of the FAR are based on the following:**
 - a. FAR terms of office are four (4) years;**
 - b. Reappointment is permissible for no more than two additional four-year terms.**
- (5) If an incumbent FAR desires an additional four-year term and is eligible, then at least nine (9) months before the current term, the Athletic Council shall undertake a review of the incumbent's performance.**
- (6) If the Athletic Council decides that the incumbent should serve a second term, and the President concurs, the FAR's term shall be renewed.**
- (7) An FAR shall not serve simultaneously as a member of the Athletic Council but shall attend meetings of the Council.**
- (8) In the event the FAR cannot serve for a temporary period of time, the Chair of the Athletic Council, or the Chair's designee from the membership of the faculty members of the Council, shall serve as an ex officio alternate of the FAR with full voting privileges at NCAA, Big Ten, or other conference meetings. If the faculty athletics representative does not complete a full term, the Faculty Athletics Representative-elect shall complete the remainder of the uncompleted term. If there is no Faculty Athletics Representative-elect at the time the Faculty Athletics Representative vacates the position, the Chair of the Faculty Council, or the Chair's designee from among the faculty members of the Athletic Council, shall serve as the interim Faculty Athletics Representative until the appointment**

of a new Faculty Athletics Representative. Upon notice of a vacancy or an imminent vacancy in the Faculty Athletics Representative position, the Athletic Council shall move immediately to prepare a list to submit to the president following the procedures of paragraphs (2) to (3) of this section.

Article III. Procedures of the Council

Section 1: Election of a Vice Chair/Chair-elect

The Athletic Council shall elect a Vice Chair from its faculty voting members during the last meeting of the spring semester. The Vice Chair shall also serve as Chair-elect and preside at Council meetings in the Chair's absence. The Vice Chair shall assume the office on July 1 of the fourth year of Council service.

Section 2: Meetings

- (1) The Council and its committees shall meet at least monthly during the autumn and spring semesters. At least one meeting during the summer session can be held remotely. Special meetings may be held at any time of the year, as called by the Chair, or upon the request of a simple majority of members of the Council. Committee Chairs may cancel committee meetings if there are no significant issues before the body. No more than two meetings of each committee may be canceled in a single academic year. The full Council meeting may be canceled up to twice each academic year by a vote of the Executive Committee.**
- (2) A simple majority of Council members shall constitute a quorum.**
- (3) Except as otherwise provided specifically by these bylaws, all matters before the Council shall be decided by a simple majority of the voting members.**
- (4) All meetings of the Council shall be open unless the Council goes into executive session.**

Article IV. Athletic Council Standing Committees

Section 1: Preamble.

- (1) The standing committees of the Council shall consist of the Executive Committee, the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (AP&E), the Circle of Care Committee (3C), and the Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFa).**
- (2) The Chair of the Council is a member of the Academic and Eligibility Committee (AP&E), as are all Council faculty members. The Chair of the Council is also an ex officio, non-voting member on all other committees. The Director of Athletics is a member of the Executive Committee and is an ex officio, non-voting member of all other standing committees.**

- (3) All committee reviews, decisions, and recommendations are subject to the approval of the Council. The Council and each committee, through its Chair, shall submit an end-of-the-year report by April 1, the contents of which are to be included in the Council's annual report.
- (4) Committee members serve from July 1 until June 30 the following year.

Section 2: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Council, the Director of Athletics, and the Faculty Athletics Representative(s). The Executive Committee shall meet as needed and consult with the Chair on matters relating to the Council, with an agenda developed by all committee members. Official recommendations of these meetings shall be reported to the full Council. The committee will also schedule one meeting each semester with the athletic director to receive updates.

Section 3: Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (AP&E)

The AP&E Committee is composed of all eight (8) faculty members and one (1) graduate student member of the Council. The Vice Chair/Chair-elect of the Athletic Council presides over AP&E meetings. Ex officio members include the Director of Athletics, the Faculty Athletics Representative, the Director of Compliance, the Director of Student-Athlete Support Services (SASSO), and the sport administrators for each team. A simple majority of the committee membership shall constitute a quorum.

- (1) AP&E works to ensure that university regulations conform to or exceed the standards of the Big Ten Conference and the NCAA, and in addition, that they are consistent with the high standards of academic work at The Ohio State University.
- (2) When petitions must be submitted to external governing agencies such as the Big Ten or the NCAA, the committee may be consulted by the FAR. SASSO and/or Compliance may provide the committee with updates of petitions submitted to and actions taken by external governing agencies.
- (3) The Director of SASSO provides the committee with semester reports on the academic performance and progress of student-athletes.
- (4). The committee selects the winners of the Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor and Student-Athlete Academic Achievement Award.
- (5) Use the Academic Stress Test to review trends in university student-athlete academic data (GPA, retention, graduation rates, major distribution) to identify emerging issues, reporting findings with potential recommendations.
- (6) Evaluate the academic implications of scheduling, travel, and competition demands and provide recommendations to limit missed-class time or inequitable burdens.

- (7) Meet with new coaches and incoming athletics staff about academic expectations.**
- (8) Work with the athletic department, in coordination with SASSO, to nominate student-athletes for national academic awards (e.g., CoSIDA Academic All-America, Rhodes Scholarship), and recognize them at the Athletic Council.**

Section 4: Circle of Care Committee (3C)

Section 4: Circle of Care Committee (3C) The 3C committee is composed of at least four (4) faculty members, one (1) staff member, one (1) student-athlete representative, one (1) USG student member, and one (1) graduate/professional member, all members of the Athletic Council. Ex-officio members include the Chair of the Athletic Council, the Director of Athletics, a SAAC representative, the appointed alumnus from Varsity O, a representative from the Office of Legal Affairs, an Assistant or Associate Athletics Director designated by the Director of Athletics, and the FAR. A simple majority of the committee membership shall constitute a quorum. The Chair of 3C will also serve on the institution's Big Ten Standards Review Committee.

This committee shall:

- (1) Review risk assessment and mitigation plans for all Circle of Care domains not accounted for in other processes, including the Big Ten Standards.**
- (2) Review and approve the Time Management Plan annual report prior to presidential review and approval.**
- (3) Promote faculty engagement initiatives that enhance understanding of student-athlete experiences, including faculty/student-athlete engagement programs, classroom outreach, recognition efforts, and structured dialogue with student-athlete leadership;**

Section 5: Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFa)

(1) Composition and Standing

The Finance and Facilities Committee (FiFa) is a standing committee of the Athletic Council and shall be composed of at least four (4) faculty members, one (1) staff member, one (1) alumni representative, (1) USG student member, and one graduate/professional member, all of whom are voting members of the Council. Ex-officio, non-voting members shall include associate or assistant athletic directors designated by the Director of Athletics and a representative from the Office of University Resource Planning and Institutional Analysis. A simple majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Appointment to this committee constitutes a two (2)-year commitment for members serving a four-year term. Students on a one-year term will rotate annually. This is a year-round committee appointment that will include two summer sessions.

(2) Fiscal Stewardship and Facilities Oversight

FiFa is charged with exercising oversight on behalf of the Athletic Council over the Department of Athletics' financial health and physical infrastructure. In fulfilling this responsibility, the committee shall:

- a. Analyze and evaluate the Department of Athletics' proposed annual budget, and report findings and recommendations to the Athletic Council;
- b. Conduct quarterly reviews of financial statements to assess fiscal performance, trends, and risk;
- c. Monitor anticipated revenues—including ticket sales and external financial support—and long-range expenditures, with a focus on sustainability, strategic priorities, and capital planning;
- d. Receive updates on proposals involving the construction, expansion, renovation, or repurposing of athletic facilities, including the condition, utilization, and long-term needs of athletic facilities.

(3) Ticketing Policy and Access

FiFa shall provide oversight and recommendations regarding ticketing matters, including:

- a. Proposed changes to ticket pricing structures;
- b. Promotion of transparent processes for ticket allocation, distribution, and access to athletic events and facilities, consistent with the university's mission.
- c. Ticket allotments for post-season championships

(4) Green Committee Oversight

- a. The Green Committee is a committee of the Department of Athletics and operates with formal accountability to the Athletic Council through FiFa;
- b. FiFa shall review and evaluate proposals related to facilities at the University Golf Courses;
- c. FiFa shall review and make recommendations on Green Committee proposals concerning fees, access, and usage of the University Golf Courses;
- d. At least one member of the Athletic Council shall serve on the Green Committee to ensure coordination, transparency, and consistent governance.

Article V. The Faculty Athletic Representative(s) (FAR)

Section 1: Description

- (1) The FAR is selected by the Athletic Council and the President to represent The Ohio State University and its faculty in the institution's relationships with

the NCAA and the Big Ten Conference. [University Bylaws 3335-5-48.5(B)(2)]; [NCAA Constitution 4.02.2 (2007)].

(2) The FAR shall carry out his or her responsibilities, as permitted by University Bylaws.

(3) Such persons shall be members of the faculty and shall not hold any position in the Athletics Department. [NCAA Constitution 6.1.3].

(4) Duties of the FAR shall be determined by The Ohio State University. [NCAA Bylaws 6.1.3].

Section 2: Duties

(1) serve as faculty advisor(s) to the President and the Director of Athletics as regards oversight of the intercollegiate athletics program at OSU.

(2) participate in the assurance of academic integrity of the Athletics program;

(3) monitor the student-athlete experience.

(4) participate in the assurance of institutional compliance with the NCAA and Big Ten Conference Regulations.

(5) participate in the review and transmission of petitions and waivers to the NCAA or Big Ten on behalf of student-athletes.

(6) present timely reports to the Athletic Council concerning academic integrity, compliance, and petitions and waivers as listed above.

(7) The FAR shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Council.

Article VI. Athletic Council Rules and Awards

Athletic Council Bylaws establish rules and awards involving OSU intercollegiate athletic teams, student-athletes, and others. Such rules and awards may be proposed or recommended by any of the Council committees and adopted or revised by a simple majority of the voting members of the Athletic Council. In the event of inconsistencies between the Bylaws and any proposed or recommended rule or award, the Bylaws shall prevail. Rules and awards are listed in Appendices A and B of the bylaws.

Article VII. General Rules

Section 1: University Statutes: Bylaws: Rules [3335-5-46]; [3335-5-48].

Statutes applying to the University, Bylaws of the Board of Trustees and Rules of the University Faculty shall supersede the provisions of this document.

Section 2: Parliamentary Procedure

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Athletic Council in all cases in which they are applicable. These bylaws affirm the values of open discussion and the exercise of

democratic procedure in conducting the business of the Council and its committees.

Article VIII: Orientation and Professional Development for Council Members

Section 1: Onboarding and Orientation

1. All incoming members of the Athletic Council shall be provided a formal orientation during the summer term or prior to their first official Council meeting. Returning members' attendance is strongly encouraged.

Orientation shall include:

- a. An overview of the Council's mission, structure, bylaws, and current initiatives;
 - b. A briefing on NCAA, College Sports Commission and Big Ten governance structures and OSU's compliance responsibilities;
 - c. An introduction to major partners such as SASSO, SAAC, and the Faculty Athletics Representative(s).
 - d. Explanation from the Chair of expectations and the required time commitment.
2. The Chair, in consultation with the Subcommittee Chairs, shall coordinate the development and delivery of onboarding materials, including written guides, presentations, and videos. The appointed Recording Secretary shall provide the appropriate orientation materials.

Article IX. Year-Round Operations and Summer Work Plan

Section 1. Year-Round Council Operations

The Athletic Council shall operate as a year-round body in recognition of the continuous nature of intercollegiate athletics governance, including financial planning, facilities development, post-season participation, student-athlete welfare, and compliance obligations.

Section 2. Summer Work Plan

Prior to the conclusion of the spring semester, the Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee and Standing Committee Chairs, shall establish a summer work plan outlining anticipated Council and committee activities for the summer months. This plan may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Budget development and financial forecasting;
- b. Facilities planning, maintenance, and capital project review;
- c. Post-season and bowl participation, including ticketing and travel considerations;
- d. Policy review related to NCAA, Big Ten, or institutional changes;
- e. Time-sensitive matters requiring consultation prior to the autumn semester.

Section 3. Summer Consultation and Continuity

a. Standing committees or designated subsets of committees may meet during the summer to receive updates, review materials, and provide preliminary input on matters requiring timely attention.

b. Summer consultation is advisory in nature and intended to preserve continuity, preparedness, and transparency; it shall not limit the authority of the full Council during the academic year.

c. A summary of summer consultations, materials reviewed, and recommendations shall be reported to the full Council at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the autumn semester.

Article X. Revision and Amendment of the Bylaws

Section 1: Revision or amendment of the Bylaws may be initiated by the Chair or by any of the committees of the Council.

Section 2: Discussion of proposed revisions or amendments to the Bylaws shall take place at a Council meeting at least one month before final action is to be taken. A positive vote by a simple majority of the voting members is required to revise or amend the Bylaws.

Section 3: The voting process for revision or amendment of the Bylaws shall be conducted by open vote in a meeting or by written or electronic ballot. If the vote is by written or electronic ballot, the Chair shall report the voting results to the Council within one week of the ballot count.

Section 4: If a simple majority of the Council votes in favor of a revision or an amendment, the changes to the Bylaws shall be immediately effective, unless otherwise specified.

Appendix A

Rules of the Athletic Council

Appendix A1

Student-Athlete Grade-Point Average Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To ensure that student-athletes with heightened academic needs are receiving appropriate assistance.
- 1.2 To assist student-athletes in balancing the time demands between academics and intercollegiate athletics.
- 1.3 To ensure that student-athletes are maintaining good academic standing.

2 Persons Affected

- 2.1 A student-athlete with a term GPA of 0.00
- 2.2 A first-year and second-year student-athlete with a cumulative GPA below 1.8
- 2.3 A third-year student-athlete with a cumulative GPA below 1.9
- 2.4 A fourth and fifth-year student-athlete with a cumulative GPA below 2.0
- 2.5 Student Athlete Support Services Office (SASSO)
- 2.6 Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)
- 2.7 Head Coach
- 2.8 Academic Progress & Eligibility Subcommittee (AP&E)

3 Policy

- 3.1 0.00 Rule—a student-athlete who earns a term GPA of 0.00 at the conclusion of any full-time regular term at Ohio State shall be suspended from practice and competition activities at 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth business day after the last scheduled exam for that term.
 - 3.1.1 A student-athlete who successfully completes at least 6 hours of non-graded coursework is not subject to this rule (i.e., internship, satisfactory/unsatisfactory courses, etc.).

On or after the fifteenth business day, SASSO is required to submit a petition to AP&E on behalf of the student-athlete. AP&E may ask the student-athlete and head coach to appear to discuss the plan. AP&E shall determine whether the student-athlete is eligible to engage in practice or competition for the applicable academic term.
- 3.2 First-Year Student-Athlete 1.8 Rule – a first-year student-athlete who does not earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 1.8 at the conclusion of each regular full-time term of enrollment must complete an Academic Recovery Plan within 30 days of the first day of classes for the subsequent regular academic term. This plan shall be approved by the

applicable sport administrator and FAR and submitted to AP&E for review.

- 3.3 **Second Year Student-Athlete 1.8 Rule**—a second year student-athlete who does not earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 1.8 by the first day of classes of their third term of regular full-time enrollment is not eligible to practice. An Academic Mitigation Plan must be submitted to AP&E within 30 days of the first day of classes for the applicable term to regain practice eligibility. This student-athlete is ineligible for competition under NCAA rules.
- 3.4 **Third-Year Student-Athlete 1.9 Rule**—a third-year student-athlete who does not earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 1.9 by the first day of classes of their fifth term of regular full-time enrollment is not eligible to practice. An Academic Mitigation Plan must be submitted to AP&E within 30 days of the first day of classes for the applicable term to regain practice eligibility. This student-athlete is ineligible for competition under NCAA rules.
- 3.5 **Fourth and Fifth-Year Student-Athlete 2.0 Rule** – a fourth or fifth year student-athlete who does not earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 by the first day of classes of their seventh or subsequent term of regular full-time enrollment is not eligible to practice. An Academic Mitigation Plan must be submitted to AP&E within 30 days of the first day of classes for the applicable term to regain practice eligibility. This student-athlete is ineligible for competition under NCAA rules.

4 Definitions

- 4.1 **Full-Time.** Enrollment and attendance in a minimum of 12 credit hours (undergraduate student) or 8 credit hours (graduate student) in any regular term on or after the first day of classes.
- 4.2 **Regular Term.** A fall or spring semester, or fall, winter, or spring quarter.
- 4.3 **First Year Student-Athlete.** A student-athlete who has not completed two regular full-time semesters or three quarters at any four-year or two-year collegiate institution.
- 4.4 **Second Year Student-Athlete.** A student-athlete who has completed two regular full-time semesters or three quarters at any four-year or two-year collegiate institution.
- 4.5 **Third Year Student-Athlete.** A student-athlete who has completed four regular full-time semesters or six quarters at any four-year or two-year collegiate institution.
- 4.6 **Fourth Year Student-Athlete.** A student-athlete who has completed six regular full-time semesters or nine quarters at any four-year or two-year collegiate institution.

- 4.7 Fifth Year Student-Athlete.** A student-athlete who has completed eight regular full-time semesters or twelve quarters at any four-year or two-year collegiate institution.
- 4.8 Grade Point Average (GPA).** Institutional grade point average that includes all credits earned at Ohio State, including the May and summer terms.
- 4.9 Practice.** All countable athletic-related activities, including but not limited to practice, skill instruction, film sessions, team meetings, and strength and conditioning.
- 4.10 Competition.** All intercollegiate competition and competition-related activities, including pre- and post-game meals, per diem, lodging, travel, dressing in team uniform, receiving coaching, receiving complimentary admissions for away competitions, receiving guest complimentary admissions for home competitions, participating in warm-up activities, and access to the bench.
- 4.11 Competition Ineligible.** A student-athlete who is academically ineligible for competition is subject to the following:
- 4.11.1** May only watch the competition from the stands or bleachers;
 - 4.11.2** May not be in the contest area (i.e., dugout, bench, sidelines, etc.) during a home or away competition;
 - 4.11.3** May not receive complimentary admissions to a home competition, other than one complimentary admission for the student-athlete's personal use;
 - 4.11.4** May not receive complimentary admission to an away competition unless the student-athlete receives one from an eligible student-athlete;
 - 4.11.5** May not dress in team uniform;
 - 4.11.6** May not receive any other game day benefits (i.e., pre- or post-game meal, lodging, transportation or any other benefit incidental to participation with the exception of a ticket to a home contest);
 - 4.11.7** May not travel with the team, even if the student-athlete pays for their own travel expenses;
 - 4.11.8** May not participate in any team warm-up activities (i.e., catching, throwing or hitting with other student-athletes, team meetings, etc.),
- 4.12 Individual Academic Recovery Plan.** A plan to assist a first-year student-athlete to recover academically that is approved by SASSO, the sport administrator, and the FAR. Such plans may include limitations in practice or competition in addition to enhanced study tables and/or tutoring hours.
- 4.13 Individual Academic Mitigation Plan.** A plan to assist a student-athlete after the completion of their first year to recover academically, which is approved by AP&E. Such plans may include a significant reduction

in practice or competition in addition to enhanced study tables and/or tutoring hours.

5 Responsibilities

- 5.1 SASSO will track the academic eligibility of student-athletes who are ineligible under this policy.**
- 5.2 SASSO will assist in preparing an Academic Recovery Plan or Academic Mitigation Plan for student-athletes who are ineligible under this policy.**
- 5.3 AP&E will assist SASSO in developing guidelines for Academic Recovery Plans and Academic Mitigation Plans.**
- 5.4 SASSO, the FAR, and the Sport Administrator will provide annual education to the student-athletes regarding this policy.**
- 5.5 SASSO, the FAR, and the sport administrator will determine applicable practice restrictions for first-year student-athletes who are subject to this policy.**
- 5.6 AP&E will determine applicable practice restrictions for second, third, fourth, and fifth year student-athletes who are subject to this policy.**
- 5.7 Student-athletes, the head coach, and the sport administrator will work with SASSO to generate an academic recovery plan.**

6 Approvals and Revision History

- 6.1 The 2.0 GPA rule has been eliminated to increase efficiency and avoid redundancy.**

Appendix A2

Examination-Period and Missed-Class-Time Rules

- 1. Declaration of Policy: Regular class attendance is a critical part of being a fully involved student at The Ohio State University. The Athletic Council expects regular class attendance, student presence at scheduled final examinations, and preparation for class and for final examinations in all courses. Because the Athletic Council believes these expectations are shared by the university community, it has promulgated the following rules to govern team travel and competition.**

When team travel or competition requires student-athletes to miss class, absences are involuntary for student-athletes. Furthermore, when team travel or competition is scheduled during the examination period or the reading days reserved for examination preparation, student-athletes have no choice but to engage in the team travel or competition. Consequently, the The Athletic Council believes that examination-period rules and missed-class-time rules are essential to preserving the primacy of the academic mission of the university in the face of the competitive demands of intercollegiate athletics.

The Athletic Council understands that it is sometimes necessary for teams to travel and to compete at times that necessitate missing class, and to travel or to compete during the examination period. Consequently, the following rules attempt to balance the academic requirement of regular class attendance and final examination preparation and attendance with the desire to field highly competitive intercollegiate athletic teams.

The Athletic Council wants the University's teams to participate in postseason conference and NCAA championship tournaments and events. Furthermore, the Department of Athletics has little or no control over the schedule of postseason championship competitions. Accordingly, special rules apply to such post-season competition.

In addition, for events in which individual student-athletes must qualify, missed class days will be treated the same as postseason competition. Such missed-class days must be identified on the missed-class-time form, but they will not count toward the semester's total number of missed classes. Potential participation in such events must be reflected in an academic mitigation plan submitted by the head coach.

Because missed-class time may negatively affect the academic performance of student-athletes, the following rules require that the head coach submit an academic mitigation plan for approval by the Academic Progress & Eligibility ("AP&E") Committee of the Athletic Council before a team may miss an excessive number of class days during a single semester (Level Two). When a team's absences during a single semester become unduly excessive (Level Three), however, the AP&E Committee may permit additional missed time only in extraordinary, infrequently recurring circumstances.

Because student-athlete preparation for and attendance at regularly scheduled final examinations are critical to the academic mission of the University, the AP&E Committee will approve scheduling team travel or competition during the examination period only after it has approved an academic mitigation plan. Furthermore, if a team has missed an excessive number of class days in a single semester (Level Two), the team may be permitted to travel or compete during the examination period only in extraordinary, infrequently recurring circumstances.

2. Definitions:

A. Missed class day. A missed-class day occurs whenever team travel or competition occurs after 6:00 a.m. and before 3:00 p.m. on a regularly scheduled day of classes during a semester, regardless of whether any student-athletes on the team have a regularly scheduled class. Days missed due to travel for or participation in post-season conferences, NCAA

championship tournaments, and events are not included in the missed-class-day policy. In calculating the number of missed-class days for this rule:

- (i) A day on which departure from campus occurs before 12:00 noon counts as a full day missed; a day on which departure from campus occurs between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. counts as a half (.5) day missed; and a day on which departure from campus occurs after 3:00 p.m. does not count as a missed day.
- (ii) Any day on which a team returns to campus after 12:00 noon counts as a full day missed; any day on which a team returns to campus between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon counts as a half (.5) day missed; and any day on which a team returns to campus before 9:00 a.m. does not count as a day missed.
- (iii) The schedules of individual student-athletes and the possibility that only part of a team may travel to a particular event will not be considered in determining compliance with this rule.

- B. **Examination Period.** For the purpose of this rule, the examination period begins at 6:00 a.m. on the day after the last day of regularly scheduled classes for the semester and ends after the last scheduled final examination. All scheduled reading days and weekend days during the period between the last day of regularly scheduled classes and the last scheduled day of final examinations are part of the examination period. Travel for, or participation in, post-season conference and NCAA championship tournaments and events, events where individual student-athletes or teams must qualify, or events scheduled by the conference or NCAA during the examination period, does not constitute a violation of the examination-period rule.
- C. **Academic Mitigation Plan.** An academic mitigation plan must describe what steps will be taken to mitigate the possible adverse academic effects of more than seven missed-class days in a semester or travel or competition during the examination period by setting forth plans for matters such as communicating with classroom instructors, making up missed exams/assignments, and providing study time during team travel. The academic mitigation plan must set forth the team's and its individual student-athletes' past academic performance, including the effects of prior academic mitigation plans on team and individual classroom performance. No academic mitigation plan will name any individual student-athlete. An academic mitigation plan must be submitted by the head coach for any Level Two or Level Three schedule. An academic mitigation plan must also be submitted for any events scheduled by the conference or the NCAA during the examination period.
- D. **Level One Schedule.** A semester when a team will not have more than seven missed-class days or any travel or competition during the examination period. A team with a Level One schedule is not required to

submit an academic mitigation plan or seek approval of its schedule from the AP&E Committee.

- E. **Level Two Schedule.** A semester when a team will have more than seven but fewer than ten missed-class days. Level Two is also reached when a team has not missed more than seven class days but travels or competes during the examination period. A team whose proposed schedule would fall within Level Two must have its academic mitigation plan approved by the AP&E Committee before its schedule may be approved.
 - F. **Level Three Schedule.** A semester when a team will have ten or more missed-class days. A Level Three Schedule is also a semester when a team will miss more than seven and fewer than ten class days and travel or compete during the examination period. The AP&E Committee may not approve a Level Three schedule except in extraordinary, infrequently recurring circumstances.
3. **Missed-Class-Time Rule:**
- A. Teams should aim to develop a Level One Schedule and not schedule more than seven missed-class days per semester, excluding participation in and travel for postseason team competitions.
 - B. Teams that propose a Level Two Schedule must gain approval of an academic mitigation plan from the AP&E Committee prior to scheduling.
 - C. Teams should not have a Level Three Schedule with ten or more missed-class days. Waiver of this rule may be granted by the AP&E Subcommittee only in extraordinary, infrequently recurring circumstances. Any such waiver of this rule must be reported by the Chair of the AP&E Committee to the full Athletic Council at the next regularly scheduled Athletic Council meeting.
4. **Examination-Period Rule:**
- A. Neither team travel nor competitions, excluding participation in and travel for post-season team competitions, should be scheduled during the examination period.
 - B. If a team will not miss more than seven class days but plans to schedule travel or a competition during the examination period, the schedule will be considered a Level Two schedule and will require the head coach to submit and obtain approval of an academic mitigation plan. Any media contract scheduling a regular-season competition, and any conference- or NCAA-scheduled event during the examination period or requiring travel during that period, must have an academic mitigation plan approved by the AP&E Committee.
 - C. If a team will miss more than seven class days during the semester and seeks to schedule travel or a competition during the examination period, the schedule will be considered a Level Three schedule, and a waiver of this examination-period rule may be granted by the AP&E Committee only in extraordinary, infrequently recurring circumstances. Any such waiver of

this rule must be reported by the Chair of the AP&E Committee to the full Athletic Council at the next regularly scheduled Athletic Council meeting.

- D. Events scheduled by the conference or the NCAA during the examination period do not require a waiver of the examination-period rule, but the head coach must submit an academic mitigation plan. The continuing practice of mitigating the effects of travel or competition during the examination period will be expected by the AP&E Committee.

5. Compliance:

- A. The Department of Athletics will not approve a team schedule, arrange transportation, or publicize the schedule without first determining that the schedule complies with the missed-class-time rule and the examination-period rule.
- B. Missed-class time for participating in, or traveling for, post-season championship competitions such as conference tournaments and NCAA championships, events where individual student-athletes or teams must qualify, or events scheduled by the conference or NCAA will not be counted in determining whether the team's schedule complies with the missed-class-time and examination-period rules.
- C. The AP&E Committee will regularly monitor the effects and applications of these rules to determine whether they strike an appropriate balance between the academic mission of the University and the desire to field highly competitive intercollegiate athletic teams. Furthermore, the AP&E Committee will continuously monitor the effects of the academic mitigation plans to ensure that they enable all student-athletes to realize their full academic potential, notwithstanding their teams' schedules.

**Appendix A3
Varsity Credit**

- 1) In determining a student-athlete's academic eligibility for competition under the NCAA Fulfillment of Credit-Hours Bylaw 14.4.3.1 (the "six-hour rule") and the Minimum Quantitative Requirements of Big 10 Rule 14.4.3.1, a student-athlete will not be credited for participation in KNSFHP 1196 (Varsity Squads) if the student has carried the class to completion twice before.
- 2) In determining a student-athlete's academic eligibility for competition under the NCAA Fulfillment of Credit-Hours Bylaw 14.4.3.1 (the "six-hour rule") and the Minimum Quantitative Requirements of Big 10 Rule 14.4.3.1, a student-athlete will not be credited for participation in KNSFHP 1196 (Varsity Squads) for any term outside of the terms of active sport participation.

Appendix B

Awards of the Athletic Council

Appendix B1
The Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor

1. History. In 1914, the Conference established a Medal of Honor to be awarded annually at each member institution to a male student-athlete in the graduating class. An additional award for the top female athlete was instituted in 1982. Chosen by the Academic Progress and Eligibility (AP & E) Committee, the winners of this most prestigious award are the male and female student-athletes who have epitomized excellence in both academics and athletics. All nominees must have a minimum overall grade point average of 3.00, be of senior standing, and have completed their athletic eligibility within the current academic year. This honor includes a \$5,000 post-graduate scholarship for any recipient who chooses to pursue a graduate or professional program at The Ohio State University.

2. Guidelines:

- a. Candidates must be seniors who have exhausted their eligibility during the year of the award. Candidates must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Candidates must submit a personal statement and a letter of support from their coaches.**
- b. The SASSO Office will solicit and screen nominations for this award. The Director of SASSO will forward the applications of the top five male and female candidates to the AP&E faculty and the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) for final consideration.**
- c. Faculty members of AP&E and the FAR will review candidates and establish preliminary findings before the AP&E meeting at which the final selections are determined by a vote of AP&E-eligible members;**
- d. Candidates will be evaluated on both academic and athletic performance. Because candidates have already met the for consideration, particular attention will be given to athletic accomplishments. The consideration of academic accomplishments will not involve comparisons of various fields of study.**

Appendix B3

Miechelle Willis Student Athlete Academic Achievement Award

This award recognizes student-athlete improvement and work ethic that is exemplified and inspired by Miechelle Willis. Established in 1999, this award recognizes student-athletes who have overcome obstacles to achieve academic success while competing in their sport. These young men and women typically have demonstrated significant academic improvement to be recognized by this award, not necessarily at the level of a scholar-athlete. Awardees must have persevered and made noticeable personal strides to improve their academic performance. A common criterion for all recipients of this award is motivation to succeed and the work ethic to overcome academic difficulty or other obstacles to academic achievement. In 2017, the award was renamed in honor of Miechelle Willis' tireless commitment to student-athlete success at the Ohio State University.

Minimum Requirements for Nomination:

- 2.00 cumulative GPA
- Completion of 2 academic semesters (summer term excluded)
- Full-time student

Award Process:

- The Athletics Council will present awards to one male and one female student for both the Fall and Spring semesters.
- SASSO will forward the names of one male and one female student athlete to the Chair of the Athletics Council at the beginning of the third week of November and March.
- SASSO will have plaques prepared for presentation to the winner(s) at the December and April Athletics Council meetings.
- Winner(s) will attend the Athletics Council meeting in either December (fall semester) or April (spring semester) with their coach and SASSO counselor.
- The Athletics Council Chair will work with Athletics Communication and Miechelle Willis for release to the media.
- Media release will be shared with Miechelle Willis and the Athletics Council.
- The Athletic Council Chair will contact Willis to invite her participation in the awards presentation

Appendix C

Organizational Chart of the Athletic Council

