

# **Reviewing Requests for Student-Athlete Groups to Participate in Extracurricular Activities**

## **BACKGROUND**

The GVSU Athletic Department receives many requests to have individuals and groups of varsity athletes participate in extracurricular activities including community service projects, promotional activities, and research studies, among others. To safeguard such requests from becoming burdensome to the student athletes and to the department administration, and to assure voluntary participation by each student-athlete, the Athletic Department has adopted the following policy and procedures.

## **POLICY**

Varsity athlete participation in extracurricular activities must always be voluntary at the level of the individual participant, including activities sponsored or supported by the GVSU athletic department, NCAA, or other authoritative entities.

The Office of the Head Athletic Trainer in the Athletic Department is the initial processing portal for all requests to have varsity athlete groups participate in extracurricular activities. In reviewing such requests the Head Athletic Trainer will consult with Athletic Director as appropriate. Decisions resulting in approval, delay, or denial of requests will include but is not limited to the following considerations:

- Risk to the athletes from participation in the requested activity
- Time & effort required especially as related to athletes' academic and other schedules
- Compliance with university and departmental policies
- Compliance with NCAA and other policies and regulations
- Costs and other administrative burdens required to support or facilitate the requested activity
- Recent history of participation in extracurricular activities
- Approval of the Head Coach of the team involved
- The student athlete has the ability to refuse participation with no repercussions.

## **PROCEDURES**

### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Athletic Department receives many requests from researchers to allow varsity athlete groups to participate in research studies. All researchers must have written approval from the AD Head Athletic Trainer before any contact with coaches or athletes may be initiated, including for otherwise exempt studies.

Research requests from GVSU researchers must have written approval from the university Human Research Review Committee (HRRC) before the research is initiated, including approaching individuals to participate. Requests from non-GVSU researchers do not require HRRC approval.

**The following procedures do not apply to research activities in which the varsity athletes (individuals or groups) participate as partial fulfillment of an academic course requirement, or as members of a research team.**

- a. Access to some or all of the results of approved research studies will be negotiated with Head Athletic Trainer and the researcher(s) on an individual study basis.
- b. If there is no direct benefit to the athletes from participating in the proposed research, the approval considerations noted in the policy section above may also include consideration of:
  - i. the scientific validity and merit of the study design
  - ii. the likelihood of the research results to contribute to improving the general welfare
  - iii. the likelihood of the research results to contribute to generalizable scientific knowledge
- c. For research studies approved by the Head Trainer, members of the coaching staff and/or department administration may introduce the researcher(s) to varsity athlete groups and make personal comments concerning the proposed research, but may not actively participate in or be physically present for recruitment or enrollment activities involving the athletes.
- d. Each athletic teams' student representative to the Student Athlete Advisory Committee will assist researchers with approved projects to assure that:
  - Coaching staff are not present during or informed about individual's research participation decisions, and
  - All research data collected from participating athletes, including surveys, will be kept securely confidential.

### SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Consistent with the values of Grand Valley State University, students are encouraged to be active citizens, to become active service providers, and to take part in various service learning and volunteer opportunities in the community and abroad. Additionally, the philosophy of NCAA Division II supports the development of positive societal attitudes in service to community.
2. Service projects are selected and coordinated through each team's Head Coach, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and/or Athletic Administration. Members of each team may participate in these service projects on a voluntary basis.
3. Those interested in including student-athletes and or team(s) in a service project should provide a written request to the specific team's Head Coach or in the case where multiple teams are being requested, a written request shall be submitted to the Athletic Director. The decision to include an intercollegiate athletic team rests solely with the Head Coach or Athletic Administration. Approval will be based on, but not limited, to consideration of the following.
  - Time & effort required especially as related to athletes' academic and other schedules
  - Compliance with university, NCAA, and departmental policies
  - Costs and other administrative burdens required to support or facilitate the requested activity

4. The written request must include:
  - Specific individuals/team(s) being requested
  - Date, time, location of event or activity
  - Purpose of event or activity
  - Identification of any institutional, educational, charitable, non-profit, or commercial entities involved with the request

## PROMOTIONS

1. A GVSU intercollegiate athletic team or individual student-athletes name, picture, likeness, or appearance may not be used in any manner without approval from Associate Athletic Director for NCAA compliance. Approval will be based on, but not limited, to consideration of the following.
  - Time & effort required especially as related to athletes' academic and other schedules
  - Compliance with university, NCAA, and departmental polices
  - Costs and other administrative burdens required to support or facilitate the requested activity
2. A written request for use of any GVSU athletic team or student-athlete must be submitted directly to the Associate Athletic Director for NCAA Compliance. The request must contain the following:
  - Specific individuals/team(s) being requested
  - Date, time, location of event or activity
  - Purpose of event or activity with any anticipated disbursement of revenues that are received as a direct result of this event or activity
  - Identification of any institutional, educational, charitable, non-profit, or commercial entities involved with the request
  - Amount of any remuneration being provided to any team/student-athlete