

MINUTES

**University Athletics Committee
September 18, 2025
3:30 pm
Lane Stadium, 5th Floor Media Dining**

Present: Jennifer Irish (presiding), Angela Page (for Simon Allen), Chris Wise, Jill Sible, Jane West, Gina Seebohm, Kenneth Stiles, Alexis Henderson, Angela Anderson, Robin Queen, Dirk Buengel, Mark Feldman, Eric Martin, Dan Thorp, Brent Kremer, Amy Ingram, Katerine Lemke, David Stanford, Philip Miskovic

Absent with Notice: Whit Babcock, Brad Wurthman, Lisa Karlish, Julie Ross, Joseph Tront

Absent: Travis Burns

Guests: Bridget Brugger McSorley, Sarah Armstrong, Les Myers, Derek Gwinn, Mike Young

Irish called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of April 17, 2025.

Irish noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: governance.vt.edu

3. Reports

- Athletics update – Derek Gwinn for Whit Babcock: Gwinn provided an overview of the House settlement terms, to (a) post July 1st changes related to name, image, and likeness (NIL) and the NCAA's new approval and oversight mechanisms, (b) post July 1st revenue sharing requirements, and (c) Virginia Tech's expectations related to academic eligibility and progress toward degree. Gwinn also provided an update on Athletics compliance operations and previewed upcoming NCAA legislative items.
- Academic Success Subcommittee – Irish: Irish summarized the subcommittee's accomplishments during Spring 2025. The subcommittee met with coaching staff, sport administrators, and SAASS counselors for five teams who encounter challenges with balance between competition schedules and class schedules. These teams included Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer, Women's Tennis, Women's Golf, and Volleyball. The subcommittee developed and finalized a Plan for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success for each of these five teams (Attachment 1). Irish also solicited self-nominations to serve as the subcommittee's third member this year.

4. Presentation

Mike Young, Head Coach, Men's Basketball, presented on House Settlement Coach Perspective. Coach Young previewed this year's roster, including incoming freshman as well international student-athletes, and introduced recent staff additions and changes, including the team's first

general manager. Coach Young discussed challenge related to the transfer portal, specifically noting challenges related to the fast pace of the transfer process given competition between institutions for top recruits. Coach Young recognized the outstanding support provided by Athletics Compliance and SAASS.

5. Other Items

- Irish reviewed this year's University Athletics Committee Work Plan (Attachment 2) and provided an overview of key work items for the year. These include (a) review of Student-Athlete Conduct Policy (Policy 1035) and (b) revision to procedures for missed class for student-athlete participation in university-sanctioned athletics competitions (including related travel).

6. Announcements

- Bridget Brugger McSorley briefed the committee on Athletics current events, including the very fluid situation related to football.
- Irish announced upcoming meeting dates and noted the committee will use the university governance SharePoint site as its primary mechanism for sharing committee materials.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Plan for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success

Team Information	
Team:	Women’s Soccer
Sport Administrator:	Reyna Gilbert-Lowry
Head Coach:	Charles Adair
Assigned SAASS Staff Member:	Laura Nichols

Virginia Tech holds paramount both the academic success and athletic success of its student-athletes. The purpose of this plan is to document the strategies adopted by the team to support student-athlete academic success when competition schedules exceeding Athletics Department missed-class policy limits are justified.

Justification

Women’s Soccer typically competes on Thursdays and Sundays while in season, where this pacing allows proper recovery between competitions and aligns with Conference scheduling priorities. To provide proper pre-game nutrition, meals for home competitions on Thursdays are scheduled to begin at 3:30 to 4pm. Consequently, student-athletes potentially miss a disproportionate number of classes scheduled on Thursday afternoons.

Historical Academic Performance of the Team

Women’s Soccer student-athletes excel in the classroom. Over the last three years, team-averaged semester GPAs exceeded 3.4 in all semesters, and no student-athletes received a semester or cumulative GPA below 2.0 in Fall 2024. Over the past two years, no student-athlete has had to enroll in summer or winter courses to maintain eligibility.

Plan

The team will use the following strategies to support the academic success of its student-athletes:

1. Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) staff works with coaching staff to strategically schedule courses in light of athletic competition.
2. For home competitions, student-athletes with Thursday afternoon classes are allowed to come to the team's pre-game meal late, after their classes have ended.
3. During multi-day travel for away competitions, student-athletes are encouraged to communicate with their professors ahead of time to see if Zooming into class can be arranged.

Recommendation for Student-Athletes


If an individual student-athlete's NCAA academic eligibility could be in jeopardy by their participation in the competition(s) beyond the Athletic Department Policy limits, for academic reasons the Academic Success Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee strongly recommends the student-athlete prioritize class attendance over athletic competition.

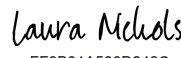
Approval and Revisions


Approved on April 23, 2025 by the Academic Success Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee.

This plan will be appended to the *Athletics Department Scheduling Policy and Procedures*. The plan must be reviewed every four years, but can be reviewed earlier as needed.

Signatures

DocuSigned by:

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Name: Reyna Gilbert-Lowry
Sport Administrator

DocuSigned by:

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Name: Laura Nichols
Assigned SAASS Staff Member

DocuSigned by:

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Name: Charles Adair
Head Coach (or designee)

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Name: Jennifer Irish
Faculty Athletics Representative

Plan for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success

Team Information	
Team:	Men's Soccer
Sport Administrator:	Chris Helms
Head Coach:	Mike Brizendine
Assigned SAASS Staff Member:	Timothy Moore

Virginia Tech holds paramount both the academic success and athletic success of its student-athletes. The purpose of this plan is to document the strategies adopted by the team to support student-athlete academic success when competition schedules exceeding Athletics Department missed-class policy limits are justified.

Justification

Men's Soccer currently competes on Tuesdays and Fridays while in season, where pacing allows proper recovery between competitions and aligns with Conference scheduling priorities. Time missed for travel for away competitions varies by distance and mode of transportation, where competitions far from Blacksburg typically require an earlier departure the day prior to competition. For home competitions, student-athletes need to report at a minimum 1.5 to 2 hours prior to the start of competition.

Historical Academic Performance of the Team

Men's Soccer student-athletes do well in the classroom. Over the last three years, team-averaged semester GPAs exceeded 3.0 in all semesters, and no student-athletes received a semester or cumulative GPA below 2.0.

Plan

The team will use the following strategies to support the academic success of its student-athletes:

1. Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) staff works with coaching staff to strategically schedule courses in light of athletic competition.
2. For home competitions, student-athletes with class conflicts on Tuesday afternoons and Friday afternoons will be allowed to miss, or come late to, the team's pre-game meal.

Recommendation for Student-Athletes

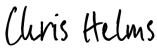
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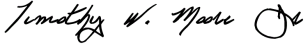
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Name: Mike Brizendine
Head Coach (or designee)

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Name: Jennifer Irish
Faculty Athletics Representative

Plan for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success

Team Information	
Team:	Women’s Tennis
Sport Administrator:	Reyna Gilbert-Lowry
Head Coach:	Terry Ann Zawacki-Holdren
Assigned SAASS Staff Member:	Hope Thomas

Virginia Tech holds paramount both the academic success and athletic success of its student-athletes. The purpose of this plan is to document the strategies adopted by the team to support student-athlete academic success when competition schedules exceeding Athletics Department missed-class policy limits are justified.

Justification

Women’s Tennis focuses on individual competition in the Fall semester and team competition in the Spring semester, with the Spring semester segment emphasizing Conference competitions occurring on Fridays and Sundays. The Spring semester competition schedule is more intense.

During the Fall semester, Women’s Tennis engages in many tournaments, where most individual student-athletes participate in three tournaments and a few participate in four tournaments (maximum). Student-athletes who do not move on in a tournament have the opportunity to return to campus early.

During Fall and Spring semesters, the team times their departure to leave as late as possible for competitions that are closer to Blacksburg. The team has to depart the day prior to competition when competitions are farther away (e.g., West Coast).

Historical Academic Performance of the Team

Women's Tennis student-athletes excel in the classroom. Over the last three years, team-averaged semester GPAs exceeded 3.3 in all semesters, and no student-athletes received a semester or cumulative GPA below 2.0.

Plan

The team will use the following strategies to support the academic success of its student-athletes:

1. Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) staff works with coaching staff to strategically schedule courses in light of athletic competition.
2. SAASS staff works with student-athletes to intently plan lighter course loads in the travel intensive Spring semester segment.
3. When driving to away competitions, the team travels in multiple vans with departure times staggered to minimize missed class.

Recommendation for Student-Athletes

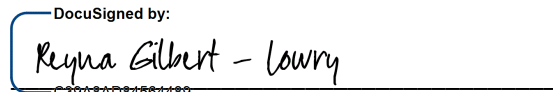
If an individual student-athlete's NCAA academic eligibility could be in jeopardy by their participation in the competition(s) beyond the Athletic Department Policy limits, for academic reasons the Academic Success Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee strongly recommends the student-athlete prioritize class attendance over athletic competition.


Approval and Revisions


Approved April 23, 2025 by the Academic Success Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee.


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Head Coach (or designee)

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Name: Jennifer Irish
Faculty Athletics Representative

Plan for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success

Team Information	
Team:	Women’s Golf
Sport Administrator:	Chris Helms
Head Coach:	Carol Robertson
Assigned SAASS Staff Member:	Sarah Armstrong

Virginia Tech holds paramount both the academic success and athletic success of its student-athletes. The purpose of this plan is to document the strategies adopted by the team to support student-athlete academic success when competition schedules exceeding Athletics Department missed-class policy limits are justified.

Justification

All of Women’s Golf’s competitions are away at established tournaments. These established tournaments are typically held at private golf courses that request the tournaments be held on weekdays. A typical tournament requires four to five days away from campus: one travel day, one practice round day, and two or three competition days with the team returning on the last competition day. A maximum of 24 regular-season competition dates are scheduled across the Fall and Spring semesters. Because competition days are typically long, intense days it can be difficult for student-athletes to make up work on competition days.

Historical Academic Performance of the Team

Women’s Golf student-athletes excel in the classroom. Over the last three years, team-averaged semester GPAs exceeded 3.3 in all semesters, and no student-athletes received a semester or cumulative GPA below 2.0.

Plan

The team will use the following strategies to support the academic success of its student-athletes:

1. Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) staff works with coaching staff to strategically schedule courses in light of athletic competition.
2. When driving, the team will consider both class attendance and driver safety, maximizing class attendance to the extent practical.
3. SAASS staff coordinates proctors via host institution when appropriate.
4. Student-athletes are encouraged to be proactive:
 - a. Communicate ahead of time with faculty for any missed class, both before and after
 - b. Complete any / all assignments prior to departure

Recommendation for Student-Athletes

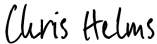
If an individual student-athlete's NCAA academic eligibility could be in jeopardy by their participation in the competition(s) beyond the Athletic Department Policy limits, for academic reasons the Academic Success Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee strongly recommends the student-athlete prioritize class attendance over athletic competition.


Approval and Revisions


Approved April 23, 2025 by the Academic Success Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee.

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Name: Carol Robertson
Head Coach (or designee)

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Name: Jennifer Irish
Faculty Athletics Representative

Plan for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success

Team Information	
Team:	Women’s Volleyball
Sport Administrator:	John Ballein
Head Coach:	Marci Byers
Assigned SAASS Staff Member:	Laura Nichols

Virginia Tech holds paramount both the academic success and athletic success of its student-athletes. The purpose of this plan is to document the strategies adopted by the team to support student-athlete academic success when competition schedules exceeding Athletics Department missed-class policy limits are justified.

Justification

Women’s Volleyball competes on Fridays and Sundays during the Fall season, as dictated by Conference scheduling. For away competitions, the team typically departs campus on Thursdays. Thursday departure timing depends on travel distance, whether the team travels by bus from Blacksburg and/or by commercial air from Charlotte, NC. For away competitions outside of Virginia and North Carolina, the team often departs Thursday afternoon. During the Spring season, Women’s Volleyball student-athletes do not miss class for competitions.

Historical Academic Performance of the Team

Women’s Volleyball student-athletes excel in the classroom. Over the last three years, team-averaged semester GPAs exceeded 3.3 in all semesters, and in Fall 2024 no student-athletes received a semester or cumulative GPA below 2.0.

Plan

The team will use the following strategies to support the academic success of its student-athletes:

1. Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) staff works with coaching staff to strategically schedule courses in light of athletic competition. SAASS staff works with student-athletes to develop multi-semester course plans, to enable lighter course loads in the Fall semester by making use of Summer terms and heavier course loads in the Spring semester.
2. Study hall on the road (at least two hours on Friday mornings).
3. Encourage students to be proactive:
 - a. Communicate ahead of time with faculty for any missed class, both before and after
 - b. Complete any / all assignments prior to departure
4. SAASS staff coordinate proctors via host institution when appropriate.

Recommendation for Student-Athletes


If an individual student-athlete's NCAA academic eligibility could be in jeopardy by their participation in the competition(s) beyond the Athletic Department Policy limits, for academic reasons the Academic Success Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee strongly recommends the student-athlete prioritize class attendance over athletic competition.

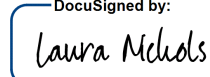
Approval and Revisions

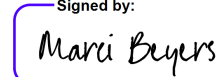
Approved May 6, 2025 by the Academic Success Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee.

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Signatures

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Name: John Ballein
Sport Administrator

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Name: Laura Nichols
Assigned SAASS Staff Member

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Name: Marci Byers
Head Coach (or designee)

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Name: Jennifer Irish
Faculty Athletics Representative

2025-26 Work Plan - University Athletics Committee

Goal 1

Review student-athlete focused university and athletic department policies and provide recommendations to the executive vice president and provost on matters related to academic progress of athletes, the admission policy for athletes, academic advising of athletes, and relationships with academic departments and faculty in general.

Goal 2

Receive information from and provide feedback to the athletic director and/or their leadership team on such matters as financial aid for student athletes, residential life for student athletes, program balance between revenue and non-revenue sports, recruiting, admissions, NCAA compliance, and general intercollegiate athletic budgetary and operational matters. Committee is informed by the athletic director and Faculty Athletics Representative on all NCAA and ACC conference-related items and changes.

Goal 3

Receive updates from university leaders in relation to student-athlete well-being with a focus on academics, such as academic support services, mental health support services, wellness, and sports science (e.g., research).

Goal 4

Provide a platform for student-athletes, faculty, Faculty Athletics Representative, and university leaders to address and respond to athletics-related opportunities, challenges, and needs, and to raise awareness of these opportunities, challenges, and needs across campus.

Goal 5

At the conclusion of the academic year, submit an annual report to the athletic director that includes an executive summary of key discussions during the year's UAC meetings.