UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Office of the Provost

Dear UO faculty,

This is your quarterly reminder about the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules on academic misconduct and academic extra benefits for student-athletes.

Please take the time to read the important memo below. If you have any questions, please contact Joshua Gordon, the university's faculty athletics representative, at jgordon9@uoregon.edu, or by phone at 541-346-1634.

As always, thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
The Office of the Provost

Memo to UO Faculty
To: UO Faculty
From: Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee (IAAC)
RE: NCAA Academic Misconduct and Academic Extra Benefits

Student-athletes at all National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) member universities must follow certain rules that may not apply to other students. Most NCAA rules do not involve faculty. The rules concerning "academic misconduct" and "academic extra benefits" create the potential for faculty to unintentionally contribute to violations that could jeopardize a student-athlete's athletic career and result in sanctions.

Student-athletes receive a letter at the start of each term outlining their travel schedules, which they are expected to share with their instructors. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to discuss any potential class conflicts and negotiate arrangements with faculty during week one or as soon as they qualify for postseason competition with any additional travel requirements.

This memo summarizes this rule and provides compliance guidance. Please note that this information is shared with a full commitment to academic freedom and to the academic integrity of the UO. If you have any questions, please contact Joshua Gordon, the UO faculty athletics representative.

Academic Extra Benefits

Under NCAA rules, an academic extra benefit is "substantial assistance or the granting of an exception that is not generally available to an institution's students, which results in the certification of a student-athlete's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics or receive financial aid." This rule applies to all university faculty, staff, and student employees. It is possible for a university employee with good intentions and no connection to the athletic department to provide a student-athlete with an impermissible academic extra benefit.

There are two bright lines to keep in mind concerning academic extra benefits:

1. Student-athletes may not be given special treatment simply because they are student-athletes. Any accommodation for a student-athlete must be one you would offer to any

student.

2. Athletic eligibility may never be a factor in any academic decision. E.g., if a student-athlete says they need to earn a certain grade to compete, please inform them that you cannot consider athletic eligibility in any decision.

Academic Misconduct

While academic misconduct at the UO primarily focuses on student behaviors, it is possible that an instructor of record who engaged in fraudulent behavior, such as intentionally awarding a false grade or giving credit to a student based on the work of others to protect athletic eligibility, would be in violation of university policy. Such behavior may also be viewed as academic misconduct under NCAA rules.

In addition, an instructor of record could unintentionally violate the NCAA's academic extra benefits rules. Failure to follow university policy regarding grading or university policy regarding academic integrity could result in sanctions for the university.

STUDENT-ATHLETE TRAVEL AND CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION
Team travel will result in student-athletes missing classes during terms when their sport is in season. Because they are traveling for university-sponsored activities, faculty are strongly encouraged to make pedagogically sound and justifiable accommodations that enable the student-athletes to be successful in the classroom, just as we would encourage such accommodations for other students traveling on university-sponsored activities. However, this request has limits and conditions:

- Student-athletes are given a letter to share with instructors at the beginning of every term that reports when they will be traveling. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to share this letter with their instructors and to discuss travel conflicts in time to arrange for appropriate accommodations

- In classes with substantial class participation, projects, or lab work, appropriate accommodations may not be possible. In those instances, the student-athlete should be informed that the course is not a good fit in a term with significant travel. Under no circumstances should the instructor offer accommodation pedagogically unsound or unavailable to other students.

As per the Course Attendance and Engagement policy, students missing class to participate in university-sponsored events, including student-athletes, can be exempted from course attendance policies if all students in that situation are treated similarly. These students are taking part in and representing the university at important curricular and extracurricular events. As such, the university encourages faculty to make allowances for student absences where possible.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS
Student-athletes have demanding schedules as they juggle athletic and academic demands, as do many other students. Student-athletes should be held to the same standards for late assignments as other students who have professional or family obligations or who are traveling on university business.

GRADE CHANGE
Any grade change for a student-athlete must be based on consistent criteria applied to all students in a class and should follow the guidelines and procedures for such grade changes published by the registrar.

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