

3359-48-01 Athletic policy.

(A) Statement on athletics

(1) Purpose

The university of Akron has established an NCAA division I (FBS) athletics program to provide high quality opportunities for student athletes via athletic scholarships, practices, and competition. Competitive athletic programs contribute significantly to the learning and development of students, and the athletic programs are designed to work in harmony with the essential educational objectives of the institution. Intercollegiate competition in NCAA athletics helps to foster an enthusiastic sense of shared allegiance and collegiality among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the greater Akron community.

(B) Health and wellbeing.

(1) Insurance.

The risk of injury or illness is always present, regardless of athletics participation. Although the department of athletics works diligently to minimize the risk of athletics injury, there is always the possibility of injury through participation in a sports activity. Therefore, the university of Akron shall maintain a supplemental insurance policy to complement existing family plans and other available forms of insurance for use when a student athlete suffers an injury due to participation in their sport.

(2) Drug education and testing.

Substance abuse is a serious health and safety concern in our society, with negative and sometimes deadly effects. The use of illegal substances is a crime and the use of performance enhancing drugs is detrimental to student health and is of cheating.

The department of athletics at the university of Akron firmly believes that substance abuse can have a negative effect on the performance of the student, both in the classroom and on the playing field. Increased drug and alcohol education and counseling, although critical, are not sufficient by themselves to prevent substance abuse. Drug testing is necessary both to deter drug use and to detect such use as it occurs. Therefore, the department of athletics maintains a rigorous testing program, which strictly enforces the prohibition against the use of illegal and performance enhancing drugs.

Students who participate in intercollegiate athletics at the university of Akron are required to participate in the university's drug and alcohol education program and comply with its drug testing policy. Student athletes also are subject to NCAA and conference regulations concerning prohibited drug and alcohol use and their respective drug testing requirements.

(C) Admissions.

The university of Akron shall admit student athletes in accordance with the admissions criteria for all students.

(D) Financial aid.

The university of Akron is committed to a scholarship-based athletics model, where student athletes receive scholarship support for athletic participation. To that end, the university shall support athletic scholarships at a "fully funded" model for athletics, when financially possible. The department of athletics will have the autonomy to determine scholarship allocations among sports within the budgets provided and in accordance with applicable regulations.

(E) Academic support.

The university of Akron and its department of athletics are committed to the academic success of student-athletes. To support this commitment, an athletics academic support staff will be maintained to aid student-athletes in their academic endeavors. This academic support program will prioritize student-athlete academic success, while monitoring academic progress and academic eligibility. However, the ultimate responsibility for athletic eligibility and academic performance rests with the student-athlete.

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