



DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS  
STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK



*“Pursuing Athletic Excellence...Developing  
Christian Character”*

(Revised 03/07/2013)



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Intercollegiate  
Athletics

Dear Messiah College Student-Athlete:

As a member of an intercollegiate athletic team it is your responsibility to become familiar with all of the policies and procedures of the Messiah College Athletics Department. In addition to providing valuable information to you as a student-athlete, it also contains information that you as a team member are responsible to know.

It is in your best interest to review the handbook and if you have any questions regarding the information contained within, please consult your respective head coach or a member of the Athletics Department administration.

Finally, it is important to recognize that it is a privilege to be a member of a Messiah College intercollegiate team. Along with the opportunity to participate in athletics is the responsibility to always conduct yourself in a manner that reflects positively on both your team and Messiah College. Whether you are competing in practice or an athletic contest, on campus or away on a team trip, in a classroom or in your dorm, you represent the Department of Athletics at Messiah College. Please keep this in mind and always be accountable to your teammates, coaches and most importantly, yourself!

Go Falcons!  
Jack Cole  
Director of Athletics

Messiah Athletics  
Middle Atlantic Corporation  
Commonwealth Conference  
NCAA Division III

*Pursuing Athletic Excellence  
Developing Christian Character*

**FALCONS**

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## **SECTION 1: MESSIAH COLLEGE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS PROGRAMS**

### **Mission Statement**

As an integral part of Messiah College, the intercollegiate athletics program emphasizes excellence in athletic and academic performance and seeks to develop athletes who strive to be scholar-servants; who demonstrate Christ like character in sportsmanship; and who exhibit fair play and ethical conduct in harmony with the ethos of the College. Messiah College's intercollegiate athletics program seeks to treat all student-athletes and all support personnel with respect as equal and valued persons.

### **Philosophy**

The Messiah College intercollegiate athletics program is committed to excellence in Christian higher education and embraces the evangelical heritage of the Christian faith. As part of that heritage, the athletics program integrates scripturally-based principles and promotes individual wholeness. The professional staff of the Athletics Department-administrators, coaches, and trainers- seek to practice the spirit and mind of Christ, both in and out of the athletic arena. Messiah College expects its athletics representatives who serve in professional leadership roles to serve and adhere to institutional, conference, and national association guidelines and regulations. Intercollegiate athletics at Messiah College places a high priority on the student-athlete's educational experience and the successful completion of academic programs. The athletics program promotes an environment in which the activities of student-athletes and student support personnel are integrated into their larger educational experience.

### **Guiding Principles**

1. Athletics personnel shall seek to incorporate scriptural principles into each component of the athletics program so as to be consistent with the College's commitment to the integration of faith and learning.
2. Ultimate control of the College's athletics program rests with the Chief Executive Officer (President). Approval of the addition or deletion of intercollegiate sports programs is by action of the Community of Educators (COE) and the President.
3. Evaluation of one's performance as a coach or student-athlete shall emphasize the accomplishment of educationally valuable goals, more so than the results of contests.
4. The intercollegiate athletics program is part of the academic and educational program of the College. Its benefits should be extended to as many participants as possible, within the limits of available resources, while maintaining a high quality program.
5. Resources and supporting services shall be made available to all student-athletes in an equitable manner, regardless of gender or level of competence.
6. The athletics program shall be administered in a fiscally prudent manner that assures financial stability and provide adequate opportunities for athletics competition as part of the educational experience.
7. Educational enrichment opportunities via athletics participation, such as extended trips and international competition, shall be promoted within the context of fiscal prudence and diverse educational experiences.

## **Student-Athlete Learning Objectives**

The following student-athlete learning objectives were developed to satisfy the institution's assessment plan in compliance with the Middle Atlantic States Association certification board for higher education:

1. As part of the NCAA Division III philosophy and the mission of Messiah College athletics, Messiah College student-athletes will perform academically at or above the level of the general student body, 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in comparison with the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) student-athletes, and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in comparison with all NCAA Division III institutions. (Cognitive Development)
2. The student-athlete at Messiah College will demonstrate an increase awareness and understanding of Christian faith and practice. Messiah College student-athletes will achieve the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of service hours in comparison with the general student body. (Identity Development and Spiritual Formation)
3. Student-athletes at Messiah College will exhibit leadership qualities and civic engagement throughout their four years at Messiah College. (Leadership and Civic Engagement)
4. Increase the level of sportsmanship and character development of each student-athlete at Messiah College during their four years competing in intercollegiate athletics. (Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Competence)

## **Governance**

President:	Dr. Kim Phipps
Direct Report:	Dr. Kris Hansen-Kieffer
Director of Athletics:	Jack Cole
Associate Athletics Director for Operations/SWA:	Amy Weaver
Assistant Athletics Director for Operations:	Brad McCarty
Assistant Athletics Director for Public Relations/Marketing/SID:	Steve King
Faculty Athletics Representative:	Dr. Ed Arke
SAAC President:	Derek Mosley

## **Intercollegiate Athletic Programs**

Messiah College is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III and the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC). Messiah College offers 22 intercollegiate sports, 11 men's and 11 women's. The NCAA Division III and the MAC do not offer athletically related financial aid. The Messiah College sport module consists of the following sports:

<b><u>Men's Sports</u></b>		<b><u>Women's Sports</u></b>	
Cross Country	Lacrosse	Cross Country	Softball
Soccer	Tennis	Field Hockey	Tennis
Basketball	Track & Field (Outdoor)	Soccer	Lacrosse
Track & Field (Indoor)		Volleyball	
Swimming		Basketball	
Wrestling		Track & Field (Indoor)	
Baseball		Swimming	
Golf		Track & Field (Outdoor)	

## SECTION 2: STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Violations of standards of conduct impede the ability of Messiah College to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and is supportive of achieving its mission. Generally, prohibited conduct for which a student is subject to discipline is defined as follows:

1. Behavior that violates Messiah College standards on personal integrity. This includes acts of dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty), misrepresentation (e.g., lying or materially misrepresenting information to a College official), fraud, or forgery.
2. Behavior that disrupts or materially interferes with the basic rights of others and the educational functions of Messiah College.
3. Assault. Any physical attack on another person that prevents that person from conducting his or her customary affairs, puts that person in fear for his or her safety, and/or causes injury.
4. Harassment. Subjecting another person or group to abusive, threatening, intimidating, or harassing actions, including, but not limited to, those based on race, religion, gender, disability, age, economic status, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation. This includes any verbal attack or interference with a person that prevents that person from conducting his or her customary affairs, puts that person in fear for his or her safety, or causes actual physical injury.
5. Sexual misconduct. This includes a broad range of behaviors, including sexual intercourse outside of marriage, homosexual behavior, acts using force, threat, intimidation, or advantage gained by the offended student's mental or physical incapacity or impairment of which the offending student was aware or should have been aware.
6. Use, possession, manufacture, and/or distribution of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
7. Theft or attempted theft of property and/or possession of stolen property.
8. Vandalism of any kind.
9. Possession, use, or distribution of firearms, ammunition, explosives, or other weapons. Weapons include, but not limited to, BB guns, paintball guns, CO2 guns, air soft guns, pellet guns, water balloon launchers, bows and arrows, crossbows, knives, clubs, whips, spears, swords, martial arts weapons, machetes, etc. Gambling, profanity, and occult practices are prohibited. In addition, although difficult to detect, wrong attitudes such as greed, jealousy, pride, lust, prejudice, and factiousness are also prohibited.

**If a student-athlete is found to be in violation of a College policy, the Office of the Associate Dean of Students will be responsible for conducting their own investigation and establishing necessary sanctions. The head coach has the flexibility to administer additional sanctions upon the student-athlete, but these sanctions will not be considered by the Office of the Associate Dean of Students when establishing their own sanctions. When a violation occurs and the head coach is notified, it is a requirement for the head coach to meet with the Director of Athletics to discuss the violation and possible additional sanctions that the head coach may impose.**

### SECTION 3: NCAA DIVISION III PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Colleges and universities in Division III place highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and on the successful completion of all students' academic programs. They seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's athletics activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete's educational experience, and in which coaches play a significant role as educators. They also seek to establish and maintain an environment that values cultural diversity and gender equity among the student-athletes and athletics staff.

To achieve this end, Division III institutions:

- a. Expect that institutional presidents and chancellors have the ultimate responsibility and final authority for the conduct of the intercollegiate athletics program at the institutional, conference and national governance levels;
- b. Place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators and place greater emphasis on the internal constituency (e.g., students, alumni, institutional personnel) than on the general public and its entertainment needs;
- c. Shall not award financial aid to any student on the basis of athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance;
- d. Primarily focus on intercollegiate athletics as a four-year, undergraduate experience;
- e. Encourage the development of sportsmanship and positive societal attitudes in all constituents, including student-athletes, coaches, administrative personnel and spectators;
- f. Encourage participation by maximizing the number and variety of sport offerings for their students through broad-based athletics programs;
- g. Assure that the actions of coaches and administrators exhibit fairness, openness and honesty in their relationships with student-athletes;
- h. Assure that athletics participants are not treated differently from other members of the student body;
- i. Assure that student-athletes are supported in their efforts to meaningfully participate in nonathletic pursuits to enhance their overall educational experience;
- j. Assure that athletic programs support the institution's educational mission by financing, staffing and controlling the programs through the same general procedures as other departments of the institution. Further, the administration of an institution's athletics program (e.g., hiring, compensation, professional development, certification of coaches) should be integrated into the campus culture and educational mission;
- k. Assure that athletics recruitment complies with established institutional policies and procedures applicable to the admission process;
- l. Exercise institutional and/or conference autonomy in the establishment of initial and continuing eligibility standards for student-athletes;
- m. Assure that academic performance of student-athletes is, at a minimum, consistent with that of the general student body;
- n. Assure that admission policies for student-athletes comply with policies and procedures applicable to the general student body;
- o. Provide equitable athletics opportunities for males and females and give equal emphasis to men's and women's sports;



- p. Support ethnic and gender diversity for all constituents;
- q. Give primary emphasis to regional in-season competition and conference championships; and
- r. Support student-athletes in their efforts to reach high levels of athletic performance, which may include competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities.

The purpose of the NCAA is to assist its members in developing the basis for consistent, equitable competition while minimizing infringement on the freedom of individual institutions to determine their own special objectives and programs. The above statement articulates principles that represent a commitment to Division III membership and shall serve as a guide for the preparation of legislation by the division and for planning and implementation of programs by institutions and conferences. (2012-2013 NCAA Division III Manual, p. vii)

## SECTION 4: MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE (MAC)

Messiah College is a member of the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC). The MAC, which includes 18 member colleges and universities, is aligned into three separate conferences: the Middle Atlantic Conference, the Commonwealth Conference, and the Freedom Conference. Messiah College participates in the Commonwealth Conference.

### **Middle Atlantic Conference** (18 members)

Albright College	King's College
Alvernia University	Lebanon Valley College
Arcadia University	Lycoming College
Delaware Valley College	Manhattanville College
DeSales University	Messiah College
Eastern University	Misericordia University
Elizabethtown College	Stevenson University
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham	Widener University
Hood College	Wilkes University

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### **Commonwealth Conference** (10 members)

Albright College  
Alvernia University  
Arcadia University  
Elizabethtown College  
Hood College  
Lebanon Valley College  
Lycoming College  
Messiah College  
Stevenson University  
Widener University

### **Freedom Conference** (8 members)

Delaware Valley College  
DeSales University  
Eastern University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham  
King's College  
Manhattanville College  
Misericordia University  
Wilkes University

### **Conference Awards Program**

The MAC provides awards as follows:

1. **Conference Championship Teams:** The Conference presents a championship plaque to each conference championship team. Championship plaques are displayed in the Hallway of Champions located in the Sollenberger Sports Center. In addition, each team member will receive a certificate from the conference.
2. **Conference Champions (Individuals):** The Conference presents medals to the top finishers in individual championships (e.g., cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track & field, wrestling).
3. **All-Conference Recognition:** The Conference presents a certificate to student-athletes who have been named to the All-Conference Team in their respective sport.
4. **Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year Honors:** The Conference presents a plaque to the Player of the Year and a certificate to the Rookie of the Year.
5. **Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP):** For team sports, the Conference presents an award to the Tournament's MVP.

6. **Player of the Week:** For all sports, the Conference recognizes a Player of the Week.
7. **Academic Honor Roll:** The Conference recognizes an Academic Honor Roll at the conclusion of each sport season (fall, winter, and spring). Student-athletes of sophomore class standing or higher, with a 3.20 or higher cumulative grade point average, are named to the Academic Honor Roll. Each student-athlete named to the Honor Roll will receive a certificate.

## SECTION 5: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### Eligibility (NCAA Bylaw 14)

1. To be eligible for practice or competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the institution. For purposes of this bylaw and its subsections, to be eligible for competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in not less than 12-semester-or-quarter hours, regardless of the institution's definition of minimum full-time program of studies.
2. A student-athlete may practice or compete while enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies, provided the student is enrolled in the final semester or quarter of the baccalaureate or graduate program and the institution certifies that the student is carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete degree requirements.
3. If a student-athlete's academic eligibility changes at the end of a quarter or semester, the student-athlete shall become eligible or ineligible to compete on the date his or her eligibility officially is certified by the appropriate institutional authority. In a case in which the student becomes eligible at the end of the term, the earliest date on which the student can become eligible to compete is the day after the date of the last scheduled examination listed in the institution's official calendar for the term that is ending. In a case in which the student becomes ineligible, the ineligibility shall become effective not later than the first day of classes of the following semester or quarter. In any case, if the student-athlete is academically eligible to compete at the time of the student-athlete's or the institution's first participation in an NCAA championship, he or she shall remain eligible for the remainder of the championship.
4. A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation during the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which the student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the regulations of that institution.
5. A season of intercollegiate participation shall be counted in the student-athlete's sport when a student-athlete participates (practices or competes) during or after the first contest in the traditional segment following the student-athlete's initial participation of that academic year at that institution or when the student-athlete engages in intercollegiate competition during the nontraditional segment in that sport. This provision is applicable to intercollegiate athletics participation (practice or competition) conducted by a Division III collegiate institution at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team level.
6. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall maintain satisfactory progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree at that institution as determined by the regulations of that institution. As a general requirement, "satisfactory progress" is to be interpreted at each member institution by the academic authorities who determine the meaning of such phrases for all students, subject to controlling legislation of the conference(s) or similar association of which the institution is a member.

### **Medical Hardship**

A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of participation (per NCAA Bylaw 14.2.4) by the conference or the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for reasons of “hardship.” Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from a season-ending injury or illness that has occurred under all of the following conditions:

- (a) The season-ending injury or illness occurs before the completion of the first half of the traditional playing season in that sport for the season being waived and results in incapacity to compete for the remainder of the traditional playing season. The first half of the traditional playing season is measured by the maximum contest or date of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) limitation in each sport as set forth in Bylaw 17 plus one contest or date of competition; and
- (b) The season-ending injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not competed in more than one-third of the maximum contest or date of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) limitation in each sport (as set forth in Bylaw 17) plus one contest or date of competition.
- (c) The following criteria are to be employed in the administration of the hardship waiver:
  - Nature of Injury/Illness
  - Medical Documentation
  - First-Half-of-Season Calculation (refer to Figure 14-1)
  - Reinjury in Second Half of Season. A student-athlete, who suffers an injury in the first half of the traditional season, enters competition during the second half of the traditional season and then is unable to participate further as a result of aggravating the original injury does not qualify for the hardship waiver.

### **Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)**

A Faculty Athletic Representative is a member of the faculty at an NCAA member institution. The FAR has been designated by the institution to serve as a liaison between the institution and the athletics department and also as a representative of the institution in conference and NCAA affairs. The role of the FAR is to ensure that the academic institution establishes and maintains the appropriate balance between academics and intercollegiate athletics.

Dr. Ed Arke (Associate Professor of Communications) is the FAR at Messiah College. Dr. Arke attends eligibility signings and periodic Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and Athletics Department meetings throughout the academic year. He is a major proponent of student-athlete academic awards and post-graduate scholarship opportunities via the NCAA.

**FIGURE 14-1**

**Hardship Waiver Calculations – Standard Denominators Based on Bylaw 17 Maximums**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Standard Denominator *</b>	<b>First Half of Playing Season</b>	<b>One-third of Contests or Dates of Competition</b>
Baseball	41	Before the start of the 21 <sup>st</sup> contest	14
Men’s Basketball	26	Before the completion of the 13 <sup>th</sup> contest	9
Women’s Basketball	26	Before the completion of the 13 <sup>th</sup> contest	9
Men’s Cross Country	11#	Before the start of the sixth date of competition	4
Women’s Cross Country	11#	Before the start of the sixth date of competition	4
Field Hockey	21	Before the start of the 11 <sup>th</sup> contest	7
Men’s Golf	21	Before the start of the 11 <sup>th</sup> date of competition	7
Men’s Lacrosse	18	Before the completion of the ninth date of competition	6
Women’s Lacrosse	18	Before the completion of the ninth date of competition	6
Men’s Soccer	21	Before the start of the 11 <sup>th</sup> contest	7
Women’s Soccer	21	Before the start of the 11 <sup>th</sup> contest	7
Softball	41	Before the start of the 21 <sup>st</sup> contest	14
Men’s Swimming	17	Before the start of the ninth date of competition	6
Women’s Swimming	17	Before the start of the ninth date of competition	6
Men’s Tennis	21	Before the start of the 11 <sup>th</sup> date of competition	7
Women’s Tennis	21	Before the start of the 11 <sup>th</sup> date of competition	7
Men’s Track and Field (Indoor)	9**	Before the start of the fifth date of competition	3
Men’s Track and Field (Outdoor)	9**	Before the start of the fifth date of competition	3
Women’s Track and Field (Indoor)	9**	Before the start of the fifth date of competition	3
Women’s Track and Field (Outdoor)	9**	Before the start of the fifth date of competition	3
Women’s Volleyball	23	Before the start of the 12 <sup>th</sup> date of competition	8
Wrestling	17	Before the start of the ninth date of competition	6
*= Maximum number of contests or dates of competition plus one pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.5-(a)-(b) #= Maximum of nine dates of competition (Bylaw 17) plus two dates of competition pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.3 **= See Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1			

## **Transfers**

The student-athlete who transferred to Messiah College is responsible to complete all required paper work mandated by the NCAA and to meet with the Associate Athletics Director for Operations prior to participation. The following NCAA bylaws must be met for transfers:

**14.5.5.1 General Rule.** A transfer student from a four-year institution shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition until the student has fulfilled an academic year of residence at the certifying institution, unless the student qualifies for one of the transfer exceptions noted below. A transfer student (other than one under disciplinary suspension per bylaws 14.5.1.2) may qualify for an exception to the academic year of residence requirement provided he or she does not have an unfulfilled residence requirement at the institution from which he or she is transferring.

**14.5.5.1.1 Exception.** A student who transfers to the certifying institution shall be immediately eligible if:

- (a) The student has not previously used a season of participation at a Division III institution pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.4.1, and has never practiced or competed in intercollegiate athletics at a non-Division III institution. This provision is not applicable to a Division III student who has been granted a hardship waiver per Bylaw 14.2.2 or season-of-participation waiver per Bylaw 14.2.6 or 14.2.7;
- (b) **The student transfers from a four-year collegiate institution and would have been academically and athletically eligible, at the time of transfer to the certifying institution had he or she remained at the previous institution;** or
- (c) The student transfers from a four-year collegiate institution that did not sponsor the student-athlete's sport and, while at that institution, the student-athlete:
  - (i) Successfully completed at least 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of transferrable degree credit; and
  - (ii) Completed at least two full-semesters or three full-time quarters.

## **College Credit for Intercollegiate Sport Participation**

Student-athletes who complete a season as a member of an intercollegiate athletics team may receive academic credit for their participation via PHED 102 Intercollegiate Sports (1). A maximum of two credits can be applied to a student-athlete's transcript (one credit per season of participation). Only one credit can be applied toward the General Education Physical Education requirement; the second credit can be applied as an elective credit; the two credits in totality cannot be substituted for PHED 101 Introduction to Wellness (2). The Athletics Department Administrative Assistant will facilitate the process with the College's Registrar's Office (Note: PHED 102 Intercollegiate Sports cannot be calculated for full-time status).

## **Sunday Competition**

Intercollegiate athletics teams at Messiah College will not compete on Sundays during the regular season (including trips during college breaks; rescheduled contests). In exceptional circumstances, the Director of Athletics, in consultation with the Vice Provost/Dean of Students, has the authority to allow competition, only after the head coach has discussed this with the student-athletes. During Middle Atlantic Conference and NCAA post-season play, Messiah College is allowed to host/participate on Sundays.

## **Missed Classes**

Messiah College student-athletes are considered representatives of the institution; as such, it is the responsibility of each student-athlete to assure that participation in practice and competition is done so without the sacrifice of academic achievement. The following NCAA bylaws apply to all Messiah College student-athletes:

**17.1.4.2 Missed Class Time:** A student-athlete shall not miss class for the following:

- (a) Practice activities in any segment; and
- (b) Competition in the nontraditional segment.

**17.1.1.2.1 Exceptions:** A student-athlete may miss class for practice activities in the following circumstances:

- (a) When a team is traveling to an away-from-home contest and the practice is in conjunction with the contest; and
- (b) Student-athletes representing the host institution shall be permitted to miss class time for practice activities scheduled in conjunction with an NCAA championship.

As a NCAA Division III institution, Messiah College's emphasis is on the academic success of each student-athlete. Our student-athletes are here, first and foremost, to receive an outstanding education. The Messiah College community recognizes that cocurricular activities and intercollegiate athletics have a significant positive effect on students who choose to participate.

Student-athletes are required to prioritize academic responsibilities over athletics practice sessions. In general, the daily time of intercollegiate practices is 4:00-6:30 p.m. There will, however, be days when an athletics contest conflicts with class schedules. The following action steps will be conducted to minimize potential conflicts with faculty members:

1. Head coaches are responsible to complete prior to their respective season a Student Absence form located in MCSquare.
2. The Athletics Department, in coordination with the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), will send to all faculty members a schedule of away contests and departure times for fall, winter, and spring sports teams.
3. Ultimately, the student-athletes are responsible to meet with the individual faculty member a week in advance to discuss submission of assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.
4. The FAR will be the intermediate between student-athlete and faculty member if warranted.

## **Chapel**

Chapel attendance is required of all undergraduate students. Each student is required to attend 24 chapels per semester. Students who exceed the allowable number of absences will be placed on Chapel Probation. Since student-athletes are expected to be exemplary models, an active chapel probation status is likely to negatively impact one's eligibility for service in a student leadership position (e.g., team captain role).



### **Community Covenant**

In the motto “Christ Preeminent” the Messiah College community affirms that life draws meaning from submission to Christ and service to others. Our philosophy statement affirms the triune God as the creator of all that is, the source of all truth. As beings created in the image of God, we have special responsibilities and challenges. In our community of believers-scholars we affirm the interrelatedness of what we believe, the way we live, and the way we learn. Our search for truth and commitment to Christ connect us not only to each other but also to God’s creation and God’s people throughout history.

Within this community, it is not easy to find the right balance of challenge and support for each individual. Personal freedom and community obligation sometimes seem to be in tension as individuals work to integrate belief and behavior. The growth-producing process benefits from the dynamics of a diverse but concerned community, as well as the sense that the lordship of Christ and a commitment to being part of the body of Christ are key values to guide us. With the task before us of searching for truth and promoting personal growth, we join together in the hope of achieving more together than we could separately. We agree to pursue the obligations and challenges of community membership with integrity, respecting our institutional heritage and practicing accountability.

### **Academic Eligibility/Probation**

According to NCAA guidelines, each individual institution establishes its own benchmark grade point averages for eligibility. At Messiah College, those standards are:

- First Year Students: 1.80 cumulative grade point average
- Sophomores: 1.90 cumulative grade point average
- Juniors and Seniors: 2.00 cumulative grade point average

Academic eligibility is checked twice during the academic year: prior to the start of the fall semester and prior to the start of January Term. Student-athletes placed on academic probation may practice with their respective team while on campus, but may not compete, suit up, or travel with the team. In addition, student-athletes must meet all NCAA eligibility requirements, including being a full-time student. At Messiah College, the student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits to be considered full-time (Note: PHED 102 Intercollegiate Sports cannot be calculated for full-time status).

A fifth-year student-athlete who would like to complete their fourth year of eligibility has two options to be eligible:

- Do not complete all requirements for an undergraduate degree on time, thus eliminating the possibility of walking with their peers at Commencement; or
- Graduate on time and participate in Commencement ceremonies and enroll in a Master’s Degree program at Messiah College (six credits per semester at the graduate level signifies full-time status for athletics eligibility).

### **Role of Boosters**

As a community committed to following Christian principles in every aspect of College life, Messiah College pursues excellence in athletics within the framework of institutional control and operational integrity. According to NCAA rules that govern Messiah College athletics, compliance extends beyond students and faculty at Messiah College to include alumni, parents, friends and other boosters who have any stake in the institution as indicated by status as a former athlete, donor to the College's athletic program, arranger of employment for athletes or promoter of athletics. Once identified as institutional representatives of athletic interests, those individuals retain the status for life.

Members of the athletics staff and representatives of the athletics interest are prohibited from providing any extra benefit to a prospective or current athlete or acquaintance which is not available to the general student body of Messiah College. Ultimately, Messiah College is responsible for actions by those who are classified as institutional representatives.

## SECTION 6: NCAA/MAC/MESSIAH COLLEGE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT POLICIES

### **NCAA Banned-Drug Classes**

The institution and the student-athlete will be held accountable for all drugs within the banned drug class regardless of whether they have been specifically identified. It is your responsibility as a student-athlete to check with the appropriate athletics staff before using any substance.

1. The NCAA Bans the Following Classes of Drugs:
  - a. Stimulants;
  - b. Anabolic Agents;
  - c. Alcohol and Beta Blockers;
  - d. Diuretics and Other Masking Agents;
  - e. Street Drugs;
  - f. Peptide Hormones and Analogues;
  - g. Anti-estrogens; and
  - h. Beta-2 Agonists.
2. Drugs and Procedures Subject to Restrictions:
  - a. Blood Doping;
  - b. Local Anesthetics;
  - c. Manipulation of Urine Samples;
  - d. Beta-2 Agonists permitted only by prescription and inhalation; and
  - e. Caffeine if concentration in urine exceeds 1.5 micrograms/ml.
3. NCAA Nutritional/Dietary Supplements Warning:

**Note:** Before consuming any nutritional/dietary supplement product, review the product with your athletics department staff.

  - a. Dietary supplements are not well regulated and may cause a positive drug test result.
  - b. Student-athletes have tested positive and lost their eligibility using dietary supplements.
  - c. Many dietary supplements are contaminated with banned drugs not listed on the label.
  - d. Any product containing a dietary supplement ingredient is taken at your own risk.

To view a full disclosure of NCAA banned substances, go to [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org).

### **Gambling**

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. Sports wagering demeans the competition and competitors alike by a message that is contrary to the purposes and meaning of "sport." Sports competition should be appreciated for the inherent benefits related to participation of student-athletes, coaches and institutions in fair contests, not the amount of money wagered on the outcome of the competition.

**NCAA Bylaw 10.3 Sports Wagering Activities:** The following individuals shall not knowingly participate in sports wagering activities or provide information to individuals involved in or

associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletic competition:

- a) Staff members of an institution's athletics department;
- b) Nonathletics department staff members who have responsibilities within or over the athletics department (e.g., chancellor or president, faculty athletics representative, individual to whom athletics reports);
- c) Staff members of a conference office; and
- d) Student-athletes.

**NCAA Bylaw 10.3.1 Scope of Application:** The prohibition against sports wagering applies to any institutional practice or any competition (intercollegiate, amateur or professional) in a sport in which the Association conducts championship competition, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women.

**NCAA Bylaw 10.3.2 Sanctions:** The following sanctions for violations of Bylaw 10.3 shall apply:

- a) A student-athlete who engages in activities designed to influence the outcome of an intercollegiate contest or in an effort to affect win-loss margins ("point shaving") or who participates in any sports wagering activity involving the student-athlete's institution shall permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.
- b) A student-athlete who participates in any sports wagering activity, through the Internet, a bookmaker or a parlay card, shall be ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition for a minimum period of one year from the date of the institution's determination that a violation has occurred and shall be charged with a loss of a minimum of one season of eligibility. If the student-athlete is later determined to have been involved in a later violation of any portion of Bylaw 10.3, the student-athlete shall permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.

### **Hazing**

The Messiah College Athletics Department adheres to the NCAA principle of Health and Safety of student-athletes which states that "it is the responsibility of each member institution to protect the health of and provide a safe environment for each of its participating student-athletes." (NCAA Division III Manual 2.2.3). In addition, the department follows Messiah College's institutional policies regarding hazing:

Messiah College and Pennsylvania Law prohibit hazing in any form. Hazing is any activity expected of someone joining an athletic team (or to maintain full status in a group, etc.) that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. The term shall include, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, exposure to the elements, and forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual. It also includes any activity that subjects the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

All initiation activities are subject to the approval of the Director of Athletics. This regulation governs on and off-campus initiation activities including privately owned facilities and/or property. Athletic teams are responsible for any activity in violation of this policy by any individual or group affiliated with the organization, unless it is proven that the group or individual activity was independent of, and occurred without the knowledge or consent of, the recognized team. Such responsibility will apply equally to situations in which one or more members knew or should have known of the activity and failed to make every reasonable attempt to prevent or stop it. Consent of those hazed will not be accepted as a defense for hazing activities.

The Associate Dean of Students in accordance with Messiah College Student Disciplinary Procedures will conduct administrative hearings of alleged violations of this policy. Violations of this policy may result in sanctions for the student involved as well as the entire athletic team. The severity of the sanctions for a hazing offense will be determined in proportion to the hazing activity. In addition to Messiah College's Anti-Hazing Policy, athletic teams and/or individuals may be held responsible for criminal misconduct in violation of the Pennsylvania Anti-Hazing Law, a third-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to a year's imprisonment.

#### **Playing and Practice Season (NCAA Bylaw 17)**

1. The playing (i.e., practice and competition) season for a particular sport is the period of time between the date of an institution's first officially recognized practice session and the date of the institution's last practice session or date of competition, whichever occurs later. An institution is permitted to conduct athletically related activities in each academic year only during the playing season as regulated for each sport in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw.
2. Segment limitations are applicable to all team sports that are listed under Bylaw 17.02.12.1, except for basketball, football and rowing, and all individual sports listed under Bylaw 17.02.12.2, except golf and tennis. The segments shall be defined as follows:
  - (a) Traditional Segment – The portion of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship in the sport shall be known as the "traditional segment."
  - (b) Nontraditional Segment – The remaining portion of the playing season shall be known as the "nontraditional segment."
3. During the playing season, all athletically related activities shall be prohibited during one calendar day per week, except during the following:
  - (a) Participation during NCAA championships;
  - (b) Participation between academic terms when classes are not in session or during the institution's preseason practice that occurs before the first day of classes; or
  - (c) Participation during an institution's official vacation period when classes are not in session.

#### **Self-Release Form (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.2.1)**

Using a form made available by the NCAA national office, a student-athlete who attends a Division III institution may issue, on his or her own behalf, permission for another Division III institution to contact the student-athlete about a potential transfer. The student-athlete shall

forward this form to the director of athletics at the institution of interest. Contact between the student-athlete and institution may occur during the 30-day period beginning with the date the permission to contact form is signed by the student-athlete. An additional form must be issued for contact to occur or continue beyond the initial 30-day period.

#### **Privacy and Disclosure Requirements (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.2.1.1)**

During the initial 30-day period, the institution in receipt of the form shall not notify the student-athlete's current institution of the contact. At the completion of the 30-day period, if the student-athlete decides to transfer to the institution in receipt of the form, the institution in receipt of the form shall notify the student-athlete's current institution within a seven-day period of the form's expiration date that the self-release was issued. At the completion of the initial 30-day period, if the student-athlete decides not to pursue the transfer, the institution in receipt of the form shall not notify the student-athlete's current institution of the contact at any time. If the student-athlete is undecided at the end of the 30-day period, the initial contact must remain private unless and until the student-athlete issues a second permission to contact form. Upon receipt of the second permission to contact form, the institution in receipt of the form shall notify the student-athlete's current institution within seven days that a second release was issued.

#### **Social Networking Policy**

The Department of Athletics understands the popularity and usefulness of social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, message boards, etc.) and supports their use by student-athletes provided:

1. No offensive or inappropriate pictures are posted;
2. No offensive or inappropriate comments are posted; and
3. Photos and/or comments posted on these sites do not depict team-related or college-identifiable activities (including wearing/using team uniforms or gear inappropriately).

Student-athletes must remember that they are representatives of Messiah College and are in the public eye more so than other students. Please keep the following in mind as you participate on social networking websites:

1. Before participating in any online community, understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any text or photo placed online becomes the property of the site(s) and is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online-even if you limit access to your site.
2. You should not post any information, photos or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, the Department of Athletics or Messiah College. This includes information that may be posted by others on your page.

#### **Team Travel Policies**

The Athletics Department provides funding via operational budgets for travel to official athletics-related functions. The mode of transportation, length of stay, and size of party are administered consistently for all programs by Department guidelines and regulations.

Specific Athletics Department guidelines include the following:

1. Team travel must always take place in an officially-approved mode of travel. An officially contracted member of the coaching staff must accompany student-athletes to and from all athletics contests (including travel to airports). If College vehicles are the mode of travel, a student-athlete, trainer, or manager may not function as the vehicle operator unless he/she has met College requirements to do so, otherwise only a member of the coaching staff or other approved athletics staff member shall operate any College vehicle utilized for official athletics travel.
2. All members of the official traveling party must travel with the team to and from the athletics contest. The Department of Athletics member who is officially responsible for the team for a given athletics contest may grant an exception to this requirement under the following conditions:
  - **Parent Transportation Release and Waiver:** Parent/Guardian signature required to provide transportation for their son/daughter to and/or from an athletics event/contest and agree not to transport anyone other than the child.
  - **Transportation Release and Waiver:** The student-athlete is 18 years or older and the travel destination is within one hour (60 miles) from departure site. A valid reason (i.e., late exam, internship) must be submitted with the request. A Parent/Guardian signature is required. The student-athlete also agrees not to transport anyone other than themselves.

**Note:** The Department of Athletics' preference in this type of situation is that an assistant coach will drive the student-athlete to the destination in a college approved vehicle (a coach cannot drive a personal vehicle with a student in this situation).
  - **Transportation Release and Waiver for Intercollegiate Golf – Practice Sessions:** Due to the nature of intercollegiate golf and holding practice sessions off-campus, the student-athlete is responsible for his own transportation. The student-athlete must be 18 years or older and assumes all risks of accident and injury as a consequence of providing his own transportation to intercollegiate golf practices.
  - **Waiver of Liability – Special Circumstances:** During an extended team trip (i.e., holidays, spring recess) and a student-athlete would like to travel with parents of another student-athlete to a specific location (i.e., meals, amusement park), the student-athlete must complete the Waiver of Liability form prior to leaving the team location.
3. Official travel party size and distance will dictate the mode of transportation to be utilized. A travel party of 14 or less shall utilize a College van. Squad sizes of 15 or more may utilize a chartered coach if the round-trip distance exceeds 100 miles.
4. Teams traveling more than 1,000 miles round-trip may be considered for air travel. All air travel must be approved by the Director of Athletics. A minimum of one member of the coaching staff must be present on each flight with student-athletes.
5. In all cases, the time of departure from campus and the time of return to campus must be requested by the Department of Athletics member officially responsible for the group travel, and such departure and return times must be approved by the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and Associate Athletics Director for Operations.

6. Team trips during vacation periods (i.e., Christmas break, Spring break) for extended travel must be approved by the Director of Athletics prior to making any arrangements for such trips. The general guidelines include the following:
- Approval for the trip must be granted before any request for funding is submitted to any of the possible funding sources, including fund raising and regular operating budget.
  - Expenses (i.e., transportation, meals, lodging) may be paid for practice sessions only if they are associated with an away-from-home contest, conducted within the state, or are no more than 100 miles from campus.
  - Regular operational funds may be made available for extended trips during vacation periods to the extent of what it would cost if the group would normally remain on campus during the same time period.
  - It is not an expectation, nor is it considered normal, that all teams will schedule an extended trip each academic year.
  - Funding for extended trips may be requested through fund raising activities.
  - When institutional resources and fund raising efforts fail to meet projected expenses, the program director and the student-athletes are expected to make up the difference.
  - All funds for extended trips must be approved and accounted for prior to contractual commitments. This requirement must be satisfied a minimum of 45 days prior to the projected date of departure. In instances of insufficient funds, the trip may be canceled.
  - Any practice on an extended trip must take place either at the competition site or on a direct route between two competition sites. It is not permissible to schedule practice sessions at other locations to provide entertainment for team members.

**Bylaw 16.8.1.2 Competition While Representing Institution.** An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) to a student-athlete who is eligible for intercollegiate competition, provided the student-athlete departs for the competition not earlier than 48 hours before the start of the actual competition and remains not more than 36 hours following the conclusion of the actual competition even if the student-athlete does not return with the team.

7. All teams shall seek comparable quality hotel lodging. The length of stay for each team shall be comparable and contingent on the timing of the event. The College will not accept charges to individual student-athlete rooms for phone calls, room service, or movie rentals.
8. Head coaches dispersing money to student-athletes must keep a record of the dollar amount provided to each individual and obtain a signed receipt from each student-athlete receiving money. This practice is sometimes normal for athletics-related individual events when meal times may not be common to all participants.
9. When traveling to athletics events away from campus, it is expected that all athletics personnel shall be attired in a professional manner. The wearing of team warm-ups is acceptable. T-shirts, jeans, and any form of “cut-offs” are not appropriate attire for



members of the athletics travel party. The individual officially responsible for the traveling party is responsible to enforce travel attire expectations.

10. When operating a vehicle with college personnel and student-athletes as passengers, the driver is not allowed to use a cell phone, texting, or any other hand held device while operating a vehicle. If it is necessary for the driver to use a cell phone, he/she is required to pull safely off the road.
11. Messiah College, via its regular operational budget, does not pay for any non-College person(s) to travel with a team. Non-College personnel who may be considered a part of the group's travel party must pay their own expenses, unless approved by the Director of Athletics. In addition, non-College personnel who travel with the team will be required to sign an Assumption of Risk and Liability Release form prior to travel.

### **Rec Sports and Club Sport Activities**

Messiah College offers many extracurricular activities that enhance the collegiate experience, including rec sports and club sports. With the growth of Messiah College's rec sports and club sport program there has been an increase in intercollegiate athlete participation in these activities. Unfortunately, there has also been a rise in injuries sustained by intercollegiate athletes in rec sports and club sport activities. While the Department of Athletics imposes no restrictions on you participating in such activities, however, some caution is advised. The Department of Athletics will not pay excess medical costs as outlined in the intercollegiate athletic injury claim procedure for injuries incurred in rec sports and club sports. The insurance procedures mentioned in this handbook apply to bona-fide intercollegiate athletic injuries only, per NCAA rules.

**According to NCAA bylaws, if a student-athlete participates on either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution's club team and the institution sponsors the specific sport on the varsity intercollegiate level, the year(s) of participation on the club team counts toward the number of season of eligibility.**

## **SECTION 7: CONFLICT RESOLUTION (STUDENT-ATHLETE/COACH)**

Due to the nature of intercollegiate athletics, there will be situations where a conflict develops between a student-athlete and head coach. In cases when the Director of Athletics is approached by a student-athlete, h/she is immediately asked if a meeting has taken place with the head coach. If the answer is no, then there will be no meeting with the Athletics Director. If the student-athlete has met with the head coach with no satisfactory results, then a meeting will take place involving the student-athlete, head coach and Director of Athletics.

When a parent contacts the Athletics Director for a meeting regarding an issue with their son/daughter with a head coach, the following steps must be followed:

1. The student-athlete meets with the head coach to seek resolution.
2. If reconciliation is not reached, then the student-athlete will meet with the Director of Athletics and head coach to discuss the situation.
3. If the student-athlete and/or parents are not satisfied with the progress made, then a parent meeting with the student-athlete and head coach will be arranged.
4. If there is still not an amicable resolution to the situation, a parent meeting will be established with the student-athlete, head coach and Director of Athletics, if deemed necessary by the Director of Athletics, for approximately one hour. If the parents do not want their son/daughter in the meeting, there will be no meeting. If a meeting does take place and the parents/student-athlete are still not satisfied with the result, their next course of action is to contact the Vice Provost/Dean of Students to arrange a meeting.

## SECTION 8: ATHLETIC TRAINING INFORMATION

### General Guidelines

The goal of the Athletic Training Department is to provide health care through first aid, evaluation of athletic injuries, follow-up treatment, and rehabilitation, for the purpose of allowing athletes to participate in intercollegiate sports in a safe and healthy manner. The team physicians specialize in orthopedics, general medicine, podiatry and sports medicine and are readily accessible for diagnosis, referral and follow-up care.

The following are general guidelines of the Athletic Training Department:

1. Hours of operation:
  - Monday through Friday 1:30-6:30 p.m.
  - 2 hours prior to events
  - Others by appointment with a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC)
2. An ATC and student-trainer will be assigned to each sport during the traditional playing season. During the non-traditional segment, an ATC will only be provided during the contest date.
3. The Parent/Guardian of any athlete whose injuries require care in a medical treatment facility (i.e., hospital) will be notified immediately.
4. Prior to resuming athletic competition, a student-athlete who had an injury and/or sickness must be cleared by an ATC or doctor.
5. If a student-athlete is injured outside the normal athletic practice session or competition, the student-athlete is responsible to report the injury to the athletic training staff and head coach immediately.
6. When an athletic team is away from campus and a student-athlete requires attention by a doctor (i.e., hospital, rehabilitation), a member of the coaching staff must be present. The coaching staff member is required to understand the latest regulations of HIPPA when transporting a student-athlete to the visit.

### Insurance

The NCAA requires member institutions to verify that there is insurance coverage for medical expenses resulting from athletically related injuries sustained while participating in defined covered events. Messiah College has purchased an Accident Medical Expense Intercollegiate Sports Policy for the 2012-2013 policy year. This summary is intended to help the institution satisfy the NCAA insurance requirements.

**COVERED ACTIVITIES** – The policy covers injury resulting from accident which occurs during the Sports Coverage Period for the Insured Person's Team while he/she is:

- a) Participating as a Member of a Team in a scheduled game, an official tournament game, a practice session of the Team, or an Association endorsed event; or
- b) Traveling directly to or from a game or practice sessions as a Member of a Team.

## SECTION 9: SPORTS INFORMATION

As a Messiah College student-athlete, you are a visible representative of the College. The College actively seeks to enhance awareness of its intercollegiate athletics program, primarily through the Sports Information Office.

The Sports Information Office's primary responsibilities include:

- Website Content (game stories, weekly updates);
- Press Releases (weekly releases, special announcements);
- Statistics (game stats, season compilations, reporting to conference and national offices);
- Publications (game programs, special event programs);
- Record Books (updated game, season, and career for each sport);
- General Information (rosters, schedules, coaches' biographies);
- Photography (maintains archive of action and mug shots for all sports); and
- Award Nominations (MAC, NCAA, and other national organizations).

All student-athletes are asked to fill out a sports information questionnaire and to pose for photos. Additionally, some will be asked to cooperate with the Sports Information Office for interviews.

**Promotion of NCAA Championships, Events, Activities or Programs.** The NCAA requires student-athletes to authorize the NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] to use your name or picture in accordance with NCAA Bylaw 12.5, including to promote NCAA championships or other NCAA events, activities or programs.

## SECTION 10: STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)**

The membership is composed of two voting members from each of the varsity intercollegiate teams. Their purpose is to assist in the evaluation of the Messiah College Athletics program and make recommendations to the Director of Athletics for the improvement of the student-athlete's academic, athletic, and social experience. It also provides an avenue for the student-athlete population to more effectively communicate with the Messiah College athletic administration and provide suggestions on programs designed to serve their needs. Additional goals of the organization are to encourage unity, common purpose, and camaraderie between and among all athletes in the program. In addition, encourage involvement of the student-athletes in campus/community projects and design/implement programs, which will encourage academic achievement, health promotion, social responsibility, and general awareness.

**Mission Statement:** The SAAC at Messiah College desires to improve the quality of the intercollegiate athletics experience for all participants. The committee recognizes that, as students at a Christian college, participants in intercollegiate athletics at Messiah College strive to be representatives of Jesus Christ.

### **Messiah College SAAC Goals:**

1. Represent student-athletes to the athletics administration and other campus administrators:
  - a) Generate a student-athlete voice within the Athletics Department and Messiah College;
  - b) Receive feedback from student-athletes regarding policies, procedures, and structure;
  - c) Distribute information to student-athletes;
  - d) Serve as a liaison between the committee and his/her team; and
  - e) Encourage student-athletes to be named on campus-wide committees.
2. Encourage communication, support, and unity among and between varsity teams and student-athletes.
3. Increase awareness of athletic programs:
  - a) Get involved in, or develop, programs that allow for student-athlete outreach and support and nurture growth and development in area high schools and other parts of the community; and
  - b) Promote awareness of Messiah College athletics on campus and in the community.
4. Provide feedback on NCAA legislation and suggest potential NCAA legislation.
5. Organize fund raising activities for worthy community causes.
6. Involvement of SAAC subcommittee for women's athletics.

**A Revolution of Missional Athletes (A.R.O.M.A.)**

*“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.*

*For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.”*

2 Corinthians 2:14-15

AROMA is the sports ministry arm of our Athletic Department which seeks to have an impact on our teams, our campus, our community and our world for the glory of God. AROMA facilitates sports ministry training and opportunities for anyone who wants to get involved on campus. Our prime vehicles for ministry include international trips, national service trips, local outreach, and summer camps.

## **SECTION 11: STUDENT-ATHLETE EVALUATION FORMS**

### **Student-Athlete Coaching Evaluation**

At the conclusion of each season, student-athletes will have the opportunity to complete a Student-Athlete Coaching Evaluation. The evaluation is a critical component of personnel evaluations and a tool utilized for assessment purposes within the Department of Athletics at Messiah College. The following depicts specific areas of the Student-Athlete Evaluation:

- Character and Ethical Conduct
- Knowledge of Sport and Ability to Communicate Knowledge
- Rapport with Players
- Rapport with Assistant Coaches and Staff
- Organization and Administration of Program

### **Senior Exit Interview**

Graduating senior student-athletes will complete a Senior Exit Interview regarding their experiences within the Athletics Department. The Senior Exit Interview will be an online instrument to aid the Athletics Department in assessing the Student-Athlete Learning Objectives.

## SECTION 12: AWARDS PROGRAM

### **Final Four/National Champions**

If an individual or team wins a NCAA Division III national championship, a championship ring will be purchased by the Athletics Department. The head coach is responsible for the design and ordering of the rings. Those teams which qualify for the Final Four and do not win the national title, each member will receive a sixty dollar allowance to purchase respective athletic apparel commemorating the team's achievement. The Head Coach is responsible for ordering the appropriate item(s).

### **Senior Scholar Athlete Awards**

Head coaches are to submit senior student-athletes' names to the Senior Scholar Athlete Committee (Faculty Athletic Representative, Vice Provost/Dean of Students, Director of Athletics, Assistant Athletics Director for Public Relations/Marketing/Sports Information) by the end of the fall semester who have achieved a 3.50 minimum cumulative grade point average while proving to be outstanding performers in their sport. Six total student-athletes – one male and one female from each of the fall, winter, and spring athletic seasons – will be selected as finalists and be recognized at the Messiah College Athletics Hall of Honor Banquet. One male and one female recipient will be announced at the conclusion of the spring season

### **NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Program**

The NCAA awards up to 174 scholarships of \$7,500 each year to student-athletes who have excelled academically and athletically. Athletics participation is limited to those sports for which the NCAA conducts a championship or designates as emerging sports. Students must be nominated in the academic year in which they complete their final season of eligibility for intercollegiate athletics under NCAA legislation. Nominees must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.200 (based on a maximum 4.000) or its equivalent and must be nominated by the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) or Director of Athletics of a NCAA member institution. A candidate must have signified the intention to continue academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree as a graduate student. Each sports season (fall, winter, spring), there are 29 scholarships available for men and women. A proportionate number of awards in each category are allocated for Divisions I, II and III, with the remaining at-large scholarships selected without division restrictions. The scholarships are one-time, non-renewable grants. The following deadline dates of applications are approximate and may vary a few days each year: Fall-January 20<sup>th</sup>, Winter-March 15<sup>th</sup>, and Spring-May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **NCAA Ethnic Minority and Women's Enhancement Scholarships**

The goal of the enhancement program is to increase the pool of and opportunities for qualified minority and female candidates in intercollegiate athletics through postgraduate scholarships. Thirteen scholarships to ethnic minorities and thirteen scholarships to women are available annually to college graduates who will be entering into the first year of their initial postgraduate studies. The applicant must be seeking admission or have been accepted into a sports-administration or other program that will help the applicant obtain a career in intercollegiate athletics, such as athletics administrator, coach, athletic trainer or other career that provides a direct service to intercollegiate athletics. Each award is valued at \$6,000.



### **NCAA Internship Program**

The NCAA offers one-year internships at its national office in Indianapolis, Indiana, providing on-the-job learning experiences for college graduates from four-year NCAA member institutions who express an interest in pursuing a career in the administration of intercollegiate athletics. These are paid, twelve-month positions that include benefits. The NCAA offers the following internship positions: Academic and Membership Affairs/Student-Athlete Reinstatement; Administrative Services, Championships and Alliances; Communications (digital communications, image management and communication strategy, public and media relations); Enforcement; Governance; Student-Athlete Affairs and Inclusion; and the NCAA Eligibility Center. Internship applicants will select their top two areas of interest on the online application. Applications for internships are available at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). The deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship Program**

In 1988, the NCAA established the Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship Program as a means of recognizing the contributions of the former executive director through encouraging excellence in academic performance by student-athletes. Under this program, one male and one female student-athlete annually will be awarded a postgraduate scholarship in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and potential for success in postgraduate study. It is intended that an individual named a Byers Scholar will be recognized as one who has combined the best elements of mind and body to achieve national distinction for his or her achievements, and promises to be a future leader in his or her chosen field of career service.

The Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship Program is separate and distinct from the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Program, which provides numerous annual wards with smaller stipends. The basic stipend for each Byers Scholarship shall be \$24,000 for an academic year. The scholarship amount will be reviewed every two years so that the purchasing power of the award will remain reasonably close to the award as initially conceived in 1988. If the graduate school where the Byers Scholar is enrolled provides evidence of satisfactory performance and progress, the grant may be renewed for a second year. Therefore, in any single year, \$96,000 worth of scholarships are awarded (\$48,000 to the current year's recipients and \$48,000 to the previous year's awardees for their second year of graduate school).

If you satisfy the qualifications listed below please contact your Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) or chief academics officer about obtaining his or her nomination and the application packet.

- Have an overall cumulative grade-point average of 3.500 or better (based on a maximum 4.000), or the equivalent in other recognized grading systems;
- Have competed in intercollegiate athletics as a member of a varsity team at an NCAA member institution;
- Be a graduating senior or be enrolled in graduate study at an NCAA member institution;
- Have intentions of applying for admission into a graduate degree program at a properly accredited, nonprofit educational institution or into a post-baccalaureate professional degree program at a professionally, accredited law

school, medical school, or the equivalent, without restriction as to the national site of the institution;

- Be committed to work on a full-time basis toward a graduate degree or toward a post-baccalaureate professional degree;
- Have evidenced superior character and leadership;
- Have demonstrated that participation in athletics and community service has been a positive influence on the nominee's personal and intellectual development. Relative success in athletics is important but not of overriding significance; and
- Enroll into a graduate degree program within five years of being named a Byers Scholar.