

To: Academic Deans  
From: John L. Anderson, President  
Date: September 6, 2012  
Subject: Responsibilities of Faculty and Student Athletes

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In general, faculty members work very well with our athletics department to facilitate the ability of our student athletes to pursue their academic interests and to satisfy all academic requirements while still competing on a varsity team. Varsity athletics is important to the fabric of university life, important not just to the participating athletes but also to the entire student body. At IIT, participation in athletics is often a key element in preparing individuals for later life.

On occasion, a situation arises where an instructor requires a student athlete to choose between coursework and participation on a varsity team. Though rare, such situations can undermine student morale and blunt the development of a healthy classroom-extracurricular balance for students.

To avoid such situations and to provide uniform guidelines across the university, this memo outlines the responsibilities of varsity student athletes and faculty members with respect to such matters:

- The student athlete is responsible for providing the instructor with a schedule of all sanctioned contests during the first week of the semester or as soon thereafter as the dates are set.
- Except in extraordinary cases, a varsity student athlete is to be excused without penalty from a class when it directly conflicts with a formal sanctioned contest with another university/college.
- If an exam, quiz or other academic test/presentation is scheduled for the class period for which the student athlete is excused, the instructor is generally expected to work with the student to make reasonable arrangements to take the exam or quiz, or make the required presentation, either before or after the missed class. In cases where reasonable arrangements cannot be made, such as joint student presentations (e.g., IPRO presentations), then the student-athlete will be expected to attend the class.
- The instructor is responsible for informing the student athlete in a timely manner of any assignment that will be made during the missed class.

- The student athlete is responsible for obtaining class notes from the students who attend the class and for completing all assignments due at the missed class or assigned at the missed class.
- The athletic director is responsible for communicating this policy to the varsity coaches and student athletes, collecting first-hand information for claims of violation and transmitting those claims to the relevant deans with back-up information.
- The deans of our colleges are accountable for communicating this policy to their faculties, and for ensuring that their faculty members adhere to the policy.

cc      Enzley Mitchell, IV Director of Athletics  
         Alan W. Cramb, Provost and Senior Vice President  
         **University Leadership (11/8/12)**