2024-2025

BELMONT UNIVERSITY STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK



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Important Dates to Remember

Full Academic Calendar in link:
https://www.belmont.edu/academics/calendar/2024-2025.html

LETTER FROM SCOTT CORLEY, BELMONT'S DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Dear Belmont Student-Athlete,

I am excited to welcome all new and returning student-athletes to the upcoming year. As we enter our third year in the Missouri Valley Conference, I look forward to watching you compete on behalf of this great university. Each of you will get to experience the rewarding journey that a new season of competition provides and the memories that will be made.

However, like all the other student-athletes before you, there is a responsibility to be able to balance the athletic demands with your academic requirements. Additionally, we all have a responsibility to represent Belmont in a positive manner both on and off the court. It is our expectation that each of you will take these responsibilities seriously to maximize your time here.

This handbook has been prepared as a reference for you, to answer questions you may have and detail important rules and regulations you must follow. Its primary purpose is to give you an overview of the requirements you must fulfill to continue to attend the university and participate as a student-athlete. The handbook is designed to help you prioritize and recognize your responsibilities as a student and athlete. I trust that you will thoroughly familiarize yourself with the material covered here and keep it to refer to later.

Please understand the athletic department is interested in seeing each of you succeed and stands ready to support you so your college experience is enjoyable and rewarding. If we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Scott Corley

LETTER FROM THE SAAC PRESIDENTS

Hey Belmont Athletics! Blake Barton and Grace Litzinger here with the Belmont Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Whether you are an incoming freshman or rising senior, we want to welcome you to the Belmont family. We hope that you feel supported and known both on and off the field, court, and track. Here at Belmont, there are endless ways to get involved which we encourage you to pursue in order to maximize your experience as a student-athlete. Given the intense time demands of sport, it can be difficult prioritize community involvement and keep track of compliance related issues. The Belmont Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) exists to outline opportunities, needs, and demands for athletes as clearly as possible. From compliance to dodgeball, the committee manages a variety of events and issues to ensure that Belmont athletes are informed, heard, and engaged.

SAAC hosts bi-weekly meetings with 1-2 representatives from all 15 Belmont teams, as well as members of Belmont Athletics Staff and Academic Faculty to litigate student-athlete related issues—both general and sport-specific. These conversations ensure that the voices of Belmont athletes and teams are heard within the university, Missouri Valley conference, and the NCAA at large. Two of our Belmont representatives serve as members of the Missouri Valley SAAC, which consists of twenty members from various conference institutions and meets semi-annually to address issues from an institutional standpoint. From there, two MVC athletes represent the conference on the national level semi-annually NCAA SAAC meeting. This system is designed to make sure that Belmont remains in compliance with NCAA standards, especially as national legislation is ever-evolving to provide student-athletes with maximum opportunities for wholistic development and media exposure.

As SAAC's influence within university and community wide initiatives broadens, we have organized the committee's operations into several sub-committees which are championed and led by SAAC representatives according to their interests. This year, SAAC committees include Events & Engagement, Community Service, Mental Health, Media and Communication, Compliance, and Governance. In addition to our bi-weekly SAAC meetings, these committees meet separately to facilitate and plan special activities and events for student-athlete engagement and development. Committee leaders are in direct communication with members of Belmont and Nashville and report their plans and ideas to SAAC. The committees will flourish this year under the leadership of the following representatives:

- Events & Engagement: Ben Miller (M Track) & Anna Sweeney (W Soccer)
- Community Service: Tessa Miller (W Basketball) & Ethan Hammer (M Cross Country)
- Mental Health: Elizabeth Godfrey (W Volleyball) & Dylan Steely (M Soccer)
- Social Media & Communication: Hannah Ash (W Cheer) & Logan Grey (W Track)
- Compliance: Riley Casey (W Soccer) & Isaiah Walker (M Basketball)
- Governance: Blake Barton (M Baseball) & Grace Litzinger (W Cross Country)

While the SAAC team works with a variety of leaders from the community, the committee is directly advised by Dr. Ryan Neises, Director of Student-Athlete Formation, and Dr. Mary Vaughn, Chair and Professor of Communication Studies, who serves as the committee's Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). By having representatives from Belmont Athletic Staff and Faculty, SAAC will be able to address complex issues and promote a variety of events across sports, academic disciplines, and university departments. As this year's SAAC presidents, we are committed to ensuring that the committee is serving our community, teams, and university to the best of its ability. We are grateful and excited to participate in the continued growth of Belmont Athletics and we look forward to cheering you all on in this year's athletic competitions.

Go Bruins!

Blake Barton (M Baseball, Junior)

Grace Litzinger (W Cross Country, Senior)

SAAC Co-Presidents 2024-25

MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

Mission:
Belmont University's intercollegiate athletic program enhances campus life, promotes Belmont University while seeking to become the premier mid-major athletic department in the country as measured by continued successes on and off the field of play. Our department challenges student-athletes from diverse background physically, instinctually, and spiritually and enables them to engage and transform the world.

As a Christ-centered community:

- We believe every student-athlete is unique;
- We believe in nurturing the development of each student-athlete by providing support and establishing mutual accountability;
- We promote academic integrity, provide academic support and student development opportunities and effectively integrating student-athletes into the student body;
- We believe in nurturing character development, leadership qualities, sportsmanship and academic excellence in out student-athletes;
- We foster mutual respect between coaches, staff and student-athletes;
- We believe in producing the best athletic teams possible to compete in NCAA Division I.

By converting these beliefs into actions, we empower our student-athletes to engage and transform our city, the nation and the world.

Core Values:

As a community seeking to uphold Christian standards of morality and ethics, Belmont Athletics holds high ideals and expectations of each member of the athletic community. In upholding these ideals, Belmont Athletics proclaims these values:

- Mutual respect and collaboration
- The worth of the individual
- Personal integrity
- Critical, independent thinking
- Self-control
- Community responsibility and accountability

Belmont University Non-Discrimination Statement

Belmont University is a Christ-centered community. The University faculty, administration, and staff uphold Jesus as the Christ and as the measure for all things. As a community seeking to uphold Christian standards of morality, ethics, and conduct, Belmont University holds high expectations of each person who chooses to join the community. In compliance with federal law, including provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/the Americans with Disabilities Act, Belmont University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, military service, or sexual orientation in its administration of education policies, programs, or activities; its admissions policies; or employment. Consistent with applicable civil rights law, the University seeks employees of Christian faith who are committed to the mission of the University. The University has appointed the Chief Human Resources Officer/Deputy Title IX Coordinator to serve as coordinator of non-discrimination compliance for staff and faculty. The Director of Institutional Equity and Compliance and Title IX Coordinator serves as coordinator of compliance for Title IX (sex discrimination) issues and questions for students.

ATHLETIC STAFF DIRECTORY

Administrative Staff
(Telephone Area Code 615)

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Scott Corley	Director of Athletics	460-5547	scott.corley@belmont.edu
Renee Schultz	Sr. Associate AD/SWA	460-6015	renee.schultz@belmont.edu
Josh Ward	Sr. Associate AD/Marketing	460-6205	josh.ward@belmont.edu
James Woody	Sr. Associate AD/Administration	460-5647	james.woody@belmont.edu
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Steve Barrick	Associate AD/Operations	460-6857	steve.barrick@belmont.edu
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Heather Copeland	Associate AD/Compliance	460-5486	heather.copeland@belmont.edu
Greg Sage	Associate AD. Broadcasting/Media Rel.	460-6698	greg.sage@belmont.edu
Ryan Neises	Director of Student Formation	460-8381	ryan.neises@belmont.edu
Jennifer Johnson	Director of Athletic Marketing	460-6265	jennifer.johnson@belmont.edu
John Langdon	Dir. of Compliance/SA Development	460-5609	john.langdon@belmont.edu
Kim Cummings	Budget Assistant	460-5580	kim.cummings@belmont.edu
Luke Bolanos	Director of Athletic Communications	460-5990	luke.bolanos@belmont.edu
Christian Sadler	Dir. Of Athletic Video Operations	460-5618	christian.sadler@belmont.edu
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Collin Sonderman	Assistant Director of Athletic Development	460-5051	collin.sonderman@belmont.edu
JerMilton Woods	Asst. Dir Facilities and Event Ops.	460-6428	jermilton.woods@belmont.edu
Lee Scott	Director of Sports Performance	460-8044	matt.frederick@belmont.edu
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Kim Anderson	Head Sports Medicine	460-5585	kim.anderson@belmont.edu
Catherine Mitts	Assistant Athletic Trainer	460-8042	catherine.mitts@belmont.edu
Brie Ashauer	Assistant Athletic Trainer	460-8040	brie.ashauer@belmont.edu
Travis Zaborowski	Assistant Athletic Trainer	460-5747	travis.zaborowski@belmont.edu
Grace Kunesh	Assistant Athletic Trainer		grace.kunesh@belmont.edu

Head Coaches

Name	Sport	Phone	Email
Dave Jarvis	Baseball	460-6166	dave.jarvis@belmont.edu
Casey Alexander	Men's Basketball	460-6263	casey.alexander@belmont.edu
Bart Brooks	Women's Basketball	460-6264	bart.brooks@belmont.edu
Jeff Langdon	Cross Country/Track & Field	460-6046	jeff.langdon@belmont.ed
Daniel DeLuca	Men's Golf	460-8239	daniel.deluca@belmont,edu
Olivia Jordan	Women's Golf	460-6854	olivia.jordan@belmont.ed
David Costa	Men's Soccer	460-6134	david.costa@belmont.edu
Kelsey Cameron	Women's Soccer	460-6013	kelsey.cameron@belmont.edu
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Jeff Cero	Men's Tennis	460-6420	jeff.cero@belmont.edu
Ellie Burger	Women's Tennis	460-5769	ellie.burger@belmont.edu
Katelyn Harrison	Volleyball	460-5986	Katelyn.harrison@belmont.edu

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

The National Collegiate Athletic Association's purposes are: To initiate, stimulate and improve intercollegiate athletics programs for student-athletes and to promote and develop educational leadership, physical fitness, athletics excellence and athletics participation as a recreational pursuit.

- To initiate, stimulate and improve intercollegiate athletics programs for student-athletes and to promote and develop educational leadership, physical fitness, athletics excellence and athletics participation as a recreational pursuit;
- To uphold the principle of institutional control of, and responsibility for, all intercollegiate sports in conformity with the constitution and bylaws of the Association;
- To encourage its members to adopt eligibility rules to comply with satisfactory standards of scholarship, sportsmanship and amateurism;
- To formulate, copyright and publish rules of play governing intercollegiate athletics.
- To preserve intercollegiate athletics records;
- To supervise the conduct of, and to establish eligibility standards for, regional and national athletics events under the auspices of the Association;
- To cooperate with other amateur athletics organizations in promoting and conducting national and international athletics events;
- To legislate, through bylaws or by resolutions of a Convention, upon any subject of general concern to the members related to the administration of intercollegiate athletics;
- To study in general all phases of competitive intercollegiate athletics and establish standards whereby the colleges and universities of the United States can maintain their athletics programs on a high level.

2023-2024 NCAA Division I Manual
https://web3.ncaa.org/lsdbi/reports/getReport/90008

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE / HORIZON LEAGUE

The 2024-25 academic year will be Belmont's third year in its new home, the Missouri Valley Conference.

The Valley is the second-oldest NCAA Division 1 conference, and it continues to be a leader in college athletics and is one of the nation's most progressive conferences. The 2024-25 year will be the conference's 118th season.

In March 2021, the conference announced a change in leadership when Jeff Jackson was introduced as the 10th Commissioner in the history of the conference. Jackson has more than 30 years of coaching and athletics administration experience and will guide the MVC through an ever-changing collegiate landscape that has undergone significant changes in recent months.

The Valley brand remains very strong, both regionally and nationally, and the great athletic tradition of the Conference remains a compelling force in recruiting student-athletes and in marketing all the MVC programs. League members have worked together to focus on common goals and objectives, placing a high value on league harmony, while continuing to invest in athletic programs to compete at the highest level.

League members include Bradley, Drake, Evansville, Illinois Chicago, Illinois State, Indiana State, Missouri State, Murray State, Northern Iowa, Southern Illinois, and Valparaiso. Little Rock is an affiliate member in women's swimming and diving; Stony Brook competes as an affiliate member in women's tennis; and SIU Edwardsville begins its second stint as an affiliate member in men's soccer in 2021.

The Valley sponsors the following sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, track & field, softball, volleyball, women's tennis, and women's swimming and diving.

About The Horizon League

The Horizon League will be entering its 46th season of operation in the 2024-25 academic year and continues to aspire toward its goal of being one of the nation's leading athletics conferences while being recognized as a leader in integrity and the development of students. Horizon League's goals are to enhance the holistic university experience for the student-athlete, to create an affiliation of institutions with similar athletic goals, and to adhere to the principals of integrity, diversity, excellence and growth.

Comprised of 13 public and private institutions, the Horizon League sponsors competition in a total of 19 sports. Of these sports, Belmont's Men's Tennis team joined the League last year.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CONDUCT

Student-Athlete Conduct

All Belmont student-athletes involved in the intercollegiate athletics program are expected to represent the university in an honorable way at all times. The standards of ethical conduct are established and enforced by:

1. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) - Belmont student-athletes are subject to the rules and regulations of the NCAA and MVC governing unsportsmanlike behavior, non-therapeutic drug use, gambling and bribery and the acceptance of non-permissible awards, benefits and expenses, as well as other forms of misconduct.

2. Belmont University - Belmont student-athletes are subject to all university rules and regulations established to govern the general student populations, and to additional policies and procedures established by the university and the Athletic Committee of the Board of Trustees concerning academic eligibility, participation in intercollegiate athletics, and financial aid. University rules and regulations are outlined in *The Bruin Guide* online, Belmont University's Code of Conduct for students and in the Belmont University catalog. It is the responsibility of all student-athletes to understand these rules and regulations.

3. Department of Athletics - Student-athletes must abide by all rules and guidelines set forth in the Belmont University Student-Athlete Handbook. In addition, team rules may be established by each sport's head coach and his/her staff within parameters set forth by the Director of Athletics, the Athletic Committee of the Board of Trustees and the University. The head coach shall inform team members of the established team rules at the beginning of each academic year. The Department's student-athlete conduct policies are summarized below.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

GENERAL RULE

In agreeing to participate in Belmont University's intercollegiate athletics program, student-athletes must accept certain responsibilities and obligations for their personal conduct. They are as follows:

Academic Responsibilities:

- Attend all classes and complete all academic assignments.
- Consult with the Academic Support Staff and tutors as directed/needed.
- Maintain an academic course load of at least 12 hours per semester.
- Make satisfactory progress toward a degree while striving to graduate within four years.
- Accept responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility.
- Understand that summer school is not automatically instituted within an academic scholarship.

Athletic Responsibilities:

- Abide by all university, NCAA, MVC, Athletic Department and team rules and regulation
- Maintain top physical condition within accepted health standards
- Attend all organized practices, unless officially excused
- Take proper care of equipment and return it in good condition
- Treat officials and opponents with respect and avoid undue confrontation

Sportsmanlike Conduct

Belmont University is committed to excellence in athletic competition and the highest standards of sportsmanship. As a member of the Missouri Valley Conference, Belmont University subscribes fully to the Conference Sportsmanship Policy, an overview of which follows:

Statement of Purpose:
The Missouri Valley Conference is committed to establishing sportsmanship and developing healthy environments for competition. The Missouri Valley Conference sets forth this code to maintain intercollegiate athletics in harmony with the educational purposes of its member institutions.

Principles of Sportsmanship:
The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential for sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

Standards of Conduct:
Coaches and administrators shall conduct themselves in a professionally dignified manner. Student-athletes shall similarly conduct themselves as positive role models and represent their institutions in a manner which exhibits the principles of sportsmanship.

The standards for the conduct of administrators, coaches and student-athletes immediately preceding, during and following athletics events are:

(1) exhibiting respect and courtesy towards all participants including the coaches, student-athletes and officials;
(2) exercising restraint in their actions, both physical and verbal, toward other participants;
(3) commenting about other institutions, coaches and student-athletes only in a positive manner;
(4) refraining from making public comments critical of officials or the quality of their work.

Administrators: MVC administrators must develop the attitude that the treatment of a visiting team and its fans will be consistent with how they would want their teams to be treated. It is their responsibility to effectively communicate to all staff, coaches, student-athletes, spirit groups, cheerleaders, and bands the basic principles of sportsmanship and standards of conduct. As a member institution becomes aware of an incident in which the standards have been violated, it has the obligation to take appropriate disciplinary action.

The athletics director at the host institution, or a designated representative, must welcome the visiting coach at every MVC contest provide an opportunity for the coach to address any concerns, indicate the location of the game manager and identify security personnel present for the contest. The athletics director or designated representative should be available to assist in controlling the crowd and be responsible for educating security personnel to ensure that the visiting team is protected from abuse.

Specifically:

1. Public address announcers must announce the contest in an even-handed manner. Additionally, there shall be an announcement reminding spectators to adhere to good sportsmanship prior to each contest.
2. Institutions must take responsibility to ensure that fans, especially student sections, do not attack or abusively single-out student-athletes or coaches.
3. Each institution must arrange its seating at spectator events so as to emphasize sportsmanship and minimize the harassment of the visiting team and its fans.

Sports Information Directors: Sports information directors and other staff members who interact with the media have a unique opportunity to promote the educational values of intercollegiate athletics and to build positive relationships among the Conference, its member institutions, their fans and the general public. All information distributed should be accurate, objective, fair and contribute to stories and broadcasts that build a positive image of intercollegiate athletics. This positive influence must include those employed as talent for radio and television broadcasts.

Coaches: Coaches have great influence and must set the tone for responsible behavior for both their teams and fans. This includes disciplining student-athletes who have demonstrated disrespect for their opponents. This discipline measure educates that individual and his or her teammates about the importance of sportsmanship over participation and winning. Such education is needed to counteract the constant messages received by our young people from many professional athletes and others who demonstrate a lack of respect for opponents. This Conference and its coaches are committed to teach appropriate messages about sportsmanship.

In all dealings with the public and media, including social media, MVC coaches must take every opportunity to reinforce sportsmanship and stress that the participants are young people who deserve to be treated in accordance with this Code.

These same standards of sportsmanship must be applied by coaches in the recruiting process with adherence to the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all dealings with prospective student-athletes. Specifically, coaches shall advocate the positive advantages and attributes of their university and its intercollegiate athletic program and shall avoid making any derogatory statements concerning another member institution's athletic program, facilities or educational opportunities.

Student-Athletes: Respect for the game in which the student-athlete participates also demands respect for the opponent. Student-athletes at MVC institutions are expected to treat opponents with respect. There will be no tolerance for taunting and baiting of opponents.

MVC student-athletes must understand that they are often the most visible representatives of their institutions and their behavior is observed and emulated by many who are younger. MVC student-athletes must honor the responsibilities that accompany the privilege of representing our schools by behaving with dignity and class in all forums -- on and off the field and via social media.

Spirit Groups: Like our student-athletes, spirit groups are visible representatives of our institutions. As such, we place high expectations on them for decent behavior. Cheerleaders, bands, mascots and other spirit groups are admitted to the contests at the pleasure of our institutions to support their teams and assist in creating a fun atmosphere. They are not admitted in order to disrupt or confront the opponent and such behavior will not be tolerated. Their focus must be toward encouragement of their team and respect for the opposing team.

Officials: Officials assigned to Conference contests must enforce the rules regarding sportsmanship, without tolerance for abuse. The only warning to participants and coaches regarding sportsmanship should come at the beginning of the contest. Once the contest begins, penalties (consequences), not warnings, must be assessed for violations of unsportsmanlike conduct. The Conference will require that officials eject any coach who protests unsportsmanlike conduct calls, provided such ejection is permissible by the rules of that sport.

Officials who do not follow this policy will be subject to reprimand or suspension. Further, officials will be protected from any retaliatory action (e.g. negative impact on ratings, reduced assignments) for enforcing MVC sportsmanship standards. Conference policy prohibits any public criticism of officials by coaches or staff members including comments critical of any game official's performance, character, appearance, or abilities.

Commissioner: The commissioner is expected to enforce Code of Sportsmanship. He or she is authorized to assess penalties for improper behavior that is not detected or properly addressed during the contest. Institutions and their personnel are expected to fully cooperate with his or her effort to investigate possible improper behavior.

Fans: The Conference hopes and believes that the establishment of the principles outlined in this document will create a wholesome atmosphere that will attract more fans to our events. Fans should be encouraged to applaud the effort by both institutions. They should be reminded that the participants are young people who should be treated as if they were their own sons and daughters.

Fans are expected to act in a manner consistent with the Code of Sportsmanship. Individuals who fail to do so will be dismissed from athletics events.

This MVC Code of Sportsmanship is designed to promote sportsmanship throughout the league and ensure healthy environments for competition.

UNETHICAL CONDUCT

A student-athlete who is found to have engaged in unethical conduct shall be ineligible for intercollegiate competition in all sports. Such conduct consists of, but is not limited to:

1. Academic Offenses: The Office of Student Affairs will handle all cases of academic offenses involving Belmont University students, including student-athletes, in which a student knowingly engages in conduct that violates Belmont's institutional policies. Such cases of academic offense will be handled in accordance with its established academic policies applicable to all students. If a student-athlete commits an academic offense (e.g., cheating on a test, plagiarism) with no involvement of an institutional staff member, the NCAA states that an institution is not required to report a violation of Bylaw 10.1-(b), Unethical Conduct, unless the academic offense results in an erroneous declaration of eligibility and the student-athlete subsequently competes for the institution.
2. Engaging in athletics competition under an assumed name or with the intent to deceive.
3. Knowingly furnishing the NCAA or the university false or misleading information relevant to a possible violation of NCAA rules.
4. Receiving improper inducements or extra benefits.

SUBSTANCE-FREE COMMUNITY POLICY

Belmont Athletics fully endorses Belmont University's commitment to an environment free of the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, and misuse of legal and illegal drugs on campus or at any university sponsored activity on or off campus.

The Athletic Department's liaison to the Office of Student Affairs will be notified of any athlete in violation of the above stated policy as outlined in *The Bruin Guide* online. Additional disciplinary sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of appropriate athletic administration personnel and the head coach.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Belmont University is a Christian community of learning and service. Our community is committed to the dignity and worth of every individual, which is embodied in our Community Commitment to Individual Worth. Sexual misconduct is the antithesis of this Community Commitment. Because of our faith commitment, community values and obligations of federal law under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, members of the Belmont community, guests, and visitors have the right to be free from sexual misconduct and from retaliation for reporting incidents of sexual misconduct. Accordingly, the community rejects and responds assertively to sexual misconduct violations. When violations are found, Belmont will take action calculated to stop the behavior, ameliorate its effects, and/or prevent the behavior from reoccurring. Such action is likely to include, but is not limited to, suspension, expulsion, or dismissal of the person who violated this policy. This policy statement is aided and supported by the university's Substance Free Community Policy as well as by its practice of providing secure, single sex on campus residential living areas.

For detailed information about definitions, procedures for reporting, and available support, student-athletes should consult the *Sexual Misconduct Policy*.

Belmont University Department of Athletics

Procedure for NCAA Policy on Campus Sexual Violence

I. Purpose and Scope

1. The purpose of this procedure is to facilitate compliance with the April 27, 2021 revisions to the NCAA Board of Governor's ("BOG") Policy on Campus Sexual Violence ("the Policy").

2. The purpose of this procedure is not to re-discipline or punish student-athletes who previously engaged in sexual misconduct or criminal activity that has already been investigated, adjudicated, and resolved through either a Title IX proceeding, the criminal justice system, or both. Rather, the process's intent is to increase campus safety and to provide the education, support, and resources necessary to help all student-athletes not only succeed, but thrive, at Belmont University ("the University").

3. This procedure applies to all Belmont University athletic teams, coaches, assistant coaches, staff, and student-athletes.

II. Definitions

A. Interpersonal Violence: Violence that is predominantly caused due to the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, including dating and domestic violence.

B. Sexual Violence: A term used to include both forcible and nonforcible sex offenses, ranging from sexual battery to rape.

C. Other Acts of Violence: Crimes including murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault or any assault that employs the use of a deadly weapon or causes serious bodily injury.

III. Procedure

A. Relevant Background Information

In 2016, the BOG's Commission to Combat Campus Sexual Violence crafted a policy to help collegiate athletic departments create, "[a] positive and thriving athletics team culture that revolves around respect and empathy for all, fostering a climate in which all feel that they are respected, valued and contributing members of their teams, athletics programs and institutions; and creating an environment in which students feel safe and secure, both emotionally and physically, and are free of fears of retaliation and reprisal."[1]

[1] BOG POLICY, *supra* note 1.

The full Policy can be found here. On April 27, 2021, the BOG updated the Policy to include new required attestations. All NCAA member institutions, including Belmont University, must, beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year, attest to the following[2]:

- The athletics department is informed on, integrated in, and compliant with institutional policies and processes regarding sexual violence prevention and proper adjudication and resolution of acts of sexual and interpersonal violence.

- The institutional policies and processes regarding sexual violence prevention and adjudication, and the name and contact information for the campus Title IX coordinator, are readily available within the department of athletics, and are provided to student- athletes.

- All student-athletes, coaches and staff have been educated each year on sexual violence prevention, intervention and response, to the extent allowable by state law and collective bargaining agreements.

- All incoming, continuing and transfer student-athletes have completed an annual disclosure related to their conduct that resulted in discipline through a Title IX proceeding or in a criminal conviction for sexual, interpersonal, or other acts of violence. Transfer student-athletes also must disclose whether a Title IX proceeding was incomplete at the time of transfer. Failure to make a full and accurate disclosure could result in penalties, including loss of eligibility to participate in athletics as determined by the member institution.

- Institutions have taken reasonable steps to confirm whether incoming, continuing and transfer student-athletes have been disciplined through a Title IX proceeding or criminally convicted of sexual, interpersonal, or other acts of violence. In a manner consistent with federal and state law, all NCAA member institutions must share relevant discipline information and incomplete Title IX proceedings as a result of transfer with other member institutions when a student-athlete attempts to enroll in a new college or university.

- An institution choosing to recruit an incoming student-athlete or accept a transfer student-athlete must have a written procedure that directs its staff to gather information that reasonably yields information from the former institution(s) to put the recruiting institutional leadership on notice that the student left the institution with an incomplete Title IX proceeding, was disciplined through a Title IX proceeding or has a criminal conviction for sexual, interpersonal or other acts of violence. Failure to have it written and to gather information consistent with that procedure could result in penalties.

[2] *Id.* at 2–3.

B. Summary of Process

1. Before practicing or competing with any Belmont University Athletics team, all student-athletes will be required to complete an attestation form disclosing if they were previously disciplined through a Title IX proceeding, if they left their previous institution with an unfinished Title IX process, and if they have a prior criminal conviction for Sexual, Interpersonal, or Other Acts of Violence.

2. The Office of Athletics Compliance ("Compliance") will determine whether the student-athlete answered YES to any of the following attestation questions:

    a. During high school, were you ever the subject of a Title IX proceeding that resulted in a finding of responsibility and/or discipline?

    b. Have you ever been the subject of a Title IX proceeding at any collegiate institution (whether at the University or at a prior college or university) that resulted in a finding of responsibility and/or discipline?

    c. Are you currently the subject of a Title IX proceeding (whether at your high school or your college or university) that could result in a finding of responsibility and/or discipline?

    d. *For Transfer Student-Athletes Only*: At the time you left your previous college or university, were you the subject of a Title IX investigation that was not completed because you left the institution, or, if you have not yet left your college or university, do you anticipate that you will be the subject of such an incomplete investigation when you do?

    e. Have you ever been convicted of a crime involving Sexual Violence, Interpersonal Violence, or Other Acts of Violence?

3. If the Athletics Department becomes aware that a student-athlete who has not been admitted to the University has been disciplined through a Title IX proceeding, has a prior criminal conviction, or is departing another college or university with a pending Title IX matter in which they are a Respondent, Compliance will consult with Admissions, the Dean of Students Office and/or any other relevant campus partners to make a decision concerning admission of the student-athlete. It the student-athlete is denied admission as a result of this review, they may appeal the decision to Compliance within a reasonable time.

4. If a student-athlete who has already been admitted to the University answers YES to any of the attestation questions, the Athletics Director will make an emergency determination about whether the student-athlete will be allowed to practice or compete while a further review is pending.

a. When a student-athlete answers YES to an attestation question, the University will take "reasonable steps" to confirm the information attested to. Compliance will send a request for more information to any institution where the misconduct occurred. If a response is not received within a reasonable time, Compliance will send one follow-up request.

b. Any responses received will be reviewed by Athletics Department staff, including the Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator as well as any other campus partners in the discretion of Compliance.

c. In some cases, no additional action will be required, and the student-athlete will be provided education, support, and resources.

d. In other cases, such as when the student-athlete has engaged in additional misconduct at the University, additional action may be necessary.

e. If it is determined that additional action is necessary, the student-athlete may appeal that decision to Compliance within a reasonable time.

5. *Transfer Student-Athlete Procedures*:

a. When a student-athlete chooses to transfer to the University, they will be entered into the Transfer Portal and their previous institution's athletic department will complete a transfer tracer document that asks, among other things, questions about the student-athlete's eligibility to compete, including whether the student-athlete was disqualified from athletic participation or suspended from the institution for disciplinary reasons.

If the previous institution indicates that the student-athlete was disciplined, Compliance will take reasonable steps to confirm the veracity of that information. These reasonable steps will include having Compliance email the student-athlete's prior institutions' athletics department, Title IX Coordinator, or other personnel, to confirm whether the student-athlete has a prior relevant criminal conviction, has been disciplined for a violation of Title IX, or was the subject of an incomplete Title IX investigation when they transferred institutions.

b. When a student-athlete chooses to transfer from the University and requests to be entered into the Transfer Portal, the student-athlete will fill out a form that includes an acknowledgement that the University may share academic and other eligibility information with institutions that request it. Once a student athlete has been entered into the Transfer Portal, Compliance will complete a transfer tracer document that asks, among other things, questions about the student athlete's eligibility to compete, including whether the student-athlete was disqualified from athletic participation or suspended from the University for disciplinary reasons.

If a student-athlete's new institution requests more information about the student-athlete's disciplinary record from the University, Compliance will send an email request to the Title IX Office asking for information about any pending or complete Title IX proceedings in the student-athlete's record. The Title IX Office will share relevant information with the Compliance, who will then, in a manner consistent with federal and state law, send that information to the student-athlete's new institution.

6. *Additional Reasonable Steps*: In addition to requesting information about disclosed disciplinary action from a student-athlete's prior school(s), the Athletics Department may determine that additional reasonable steps are required to confirm the information attested to by the student-athlete. These steps may include, but are not limited to, the following:

    a. Criminal background checks of student-athletes who attest that they have relevant criminal convictions.

    b. Independent Investigations.

        i. The University may choose to conduct an inquiry designed to gather information needed to assess whether such conduct occurred.

7. All information gathered during the processes described herein will be kept private to the extent authorized by University policy and applicable law. "Private" means the information will only be shared with those who have a business need to know that information in order to comply with the Policy.

8. *Putting Student-Athletes on Notice of the new Policy and Procedure*:

    a. Belmont University coaching staff should consider disclosing information about the required attestation form to potential student-athletes during recruitment.

    b. The Department of Athletics will include language in athletic aid agreements and other resources that puts student-athletes on notice of the new required attestations.

9. The Athletics Department shall comply with all University investigations related to sexual and interpersonal violence involving student-athletes and athletics department staff in a manner compliant with University policies.

10. At all steps throughout this process, student-athletes will have access to support and resources. Student-athletes may reach out to the following personnel and offices for support at any time:

Student-Athlete-Specific Resources	
David Jaeger– Mental Health Counselor	(615) 460-6856 | david.jaeger@belmont.edu
Confidential Resources	
University Counseling Services	Gabhart Student Center, #209 (615) 460-6856
University Health Services	McWhorter Hall, 1st floor next to the Pharmacy (615) 460-5506
University Ministries	Gabhart Student Center, First Floor (615) 460-6419
Coordinator of Security Programs*	Gabhart Student Center, First Floor (615) 460-5661
Belmont University Victim Advocate	amy.hodgeshamilton@belmont.edu 615-460-6399
*Non -privileged confidential support	
Crisis Services	
Campus Security	Emergencies: (615) 460-6911 Non-emergencies: (615) 460-6617
Nashville Sexual Assault Center	(866) 811-7473
24-hour Local Crisis Hotline	(615) 244-7444
Mental Health Cooperative Mobile Crisis	(615) 726-0125
National Domestic Violence Hotline	(800) 799-7233
24-hour Suicide Prevention Lifeline	(800) 273-8255
24-hour Sexual Assault Hotline	(800) 879-1999
Weaver YMCA Domestic Violence Center	(615) 242-1199
Sexual Misconduct Reporting Resources	

Belmont University Office of Title IX, Freeman Hall, Third Floor

More information may be found here: https://www.belmont.edu/title-ix/sexual-misconduct-policy.html#:~:text=Because%20of%20our%20faith%20commitment,reporting%20incidents%20of%20sexual%20misconduct.

Any Sexual Misconduct can be reported to TitleIX@Belmont.edu

Carly Elliott – Title IX Coordinator 615-460-6894 | titleIX@belmont.edu

NCAA Board of Governors Sexual Misconduct Policy

The NCAA's Board of Governors recently made changes to its Policy on Campus Sexual Violence (found here). The policy requires that student-athletes disclose information about prior any prior instances of sexual misconduct. Consequently, all student-athletes at the University will be required to complete an attestation form each year in which they disclose if they have been disciplined through a Title IX process, are the subject of a pending Title IX complaint, or have a criminal conviction for sexual violence, interpersonal violence, or other acts of violence, as those terms are defined by the Board of Governors Policy. A student-athlete who answers YES to any of the attestation questions will not automatically be barred from competing at the University, but they will be required to engage in a review process. If a student-athlete who has not yet been admitted to the University answers YES to any of the questions, a hold will be placed on their application and the Office of the Dean of Students will convene a committee to make an admissions decision. If a student-athlete who has already been admitted to the University answers YES to any of the attestation questions, the Director of Athletics will make an emergency determination about the student-athlete's participation in athletics, and the Office of the Dean of Students will determine if any additional action is necessary.

UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT, CONFERENCE AND NCAA VIOLATIONS

Conduct violations of the university's rules of conduct are reported to Athletic Department's liaison to Student Affairs. Violations of Athletic Department, Missouri Valley Conference and NCAA conduct rules are reported to the student-athlete's head coach, the Director of Athletics and the NCAA, as appropriate. If a student-athlete is found to be in violation of a university, department, conference, or NCAA policy, the penalty imposed depends upon the severity of the offense and may include the following:

- Ineligibility
- Probation
- Dismissal from the squad
- Cancellation or change in the student-athlete's grant-in-aid
- Dismissal from the university (by authorities outside of Athletics)

LEGAL VIOLATIONS

When a student-athlete violates a local, state or federal law, and the misconduct involves a violent action, drugs and/or a felony charge, the student-athlete may be suspended from participating in intercollegiate athletics until the charges have been addressed by the legal system, as well as reported to Student Conduct within the Division of Student Life for appropriate university action.

If such action is taken, the student-athlete is given written notification of the suspension, signed by the respective head coach and the Director of Athletics. The student-athlete may thereafter request, in writing, a meeting with the Director of Athletics. This request must be submitted within 72 hours of the notice of suspension. Based on all available information, the Director of Athletics may lift or modify the suspension or leave it in place until the case has been decided by the legal system.

While on suspension, a student-athlete may not practice or compete; however, his/her financial aid will remain in place. Further, as determined by the Faculty Athletics Representative, Director of Athletics and head coach, the student-athlete's support services (such as access to weight and training rooms and academic services) may still be provided.

SOCIAL/NEW MEDIA GUIDELINES

Purpose Statement

1. Belmont University is dedicated to fostering a community of stakeholders who support the mission and purpose of the athletic department. In order to accomplish this, we realize the importance of communicating using social and new media channels. Because today's stakeholder base is diverse and is pulling information from a number of different sources, we realize that we need to be where our stakeholders are to deliver timely, accurate and engaging information and content.
2. In order to do this, we (will) foster conversations in communities that are built by Belmont Athletics, its employees, and our stakeholders. Because the lines between personal voice and institutional voice are often blurred, Belmont Athletics has crafted the following guidelines to help clarify how best to enhance and protect personal and professional reputations when participating in social and new media.
3. Student-athletes are expected to follow the same behavioral standards online as are mandated by Belmont University's Policies and Procedures, the Belmont Bruin Guide, the state of Tennessee, the Missouri Valley Conference, and the NCAA. The same guidelines for interacting online with stakeholders, fellow staff, student-athletes or other university constituents apply as in the workplace.

Definitions

1. **Social and New Media** are defined as media designed to communicate online through social interaction using highly accessible public publishing forums such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, TikTok, LinkedIn, MySpace, YouTube, Flickr, Vimeo, Instagram, Pinterest, iTunes, Reddit, blogs, vlogs, message boards and other social platforms.
2. **Personal Site** is defined as a social media site that is for the sole purpose of personal use. There are NO identifications of the person as a representative of Belmont Athletics and

content is restricted to personal and NOT athletic team-related material. The guidelines in this document are not intended to regulate personal sites. If you have an account with your name as the title, it is only classified as a personal site if it is NOT used for personal branding (see below).

3. **Public Site** is defined as a social media site where a person represents Belmont Athletics as a representative of an athletic team or program. This includes **personal branding sites** in which student-athletes maintain an account that promotes their own person, independent of being a student-athlete at Belmont University, but as a position facilitated by their association with Belmont Athletics. An example of this might be a student-athlete's blog or vlog, unless it is a personal site (see above).

Rules of Engagement – Specific Guidelines

A. Proprietary Information and Confidentiality
   1. All photos, podcasts, videos, blogs, vlogs, news stories, or other information not authored by an account manager should be used only in compliance with copyright laws. We always ask you to cite your sources and include a link to the main athletic website, if appropriate.
   2. Do NOT engage a poster who desires confidential information via a Facebook wall, Facebook inbox, public/unlocked tweet, Twitter direct message (DM), Instagram comment, Instagram direct message (DM), public forum posting, or the like. If in doubt, ask your SID (sports information director), Compliance Director or Director of Athletics.

B. Comments and Interviews
   1. As a face of your athletic team and Belmont Athletics, fans and members of the media will be interested in your opinion about things going on in your specific sport, with your team or issues affecting the university or society. You are entitled to your opinion! Be thoughtful in your answers because they could easily be misconstrued as a representation of your entire team, your coaches, the Belmont Athletics administration and/or Belmont University.
   2. Do not conduct any interviews via ANY social media site without prior consent from your sport's SID. Please allow Athletic Media Relations to schedule all interviews for you with ANY media outlet, including campus or hometown newspapers and radio stations, as well as local and/or national media. We will work around your class and practice schedules to make sure your time is respected.
   3. Athletic Media Relations will not release your personal phone number or personal email address without your consent to a member of the media. Even after establishing a professional rapport with members of the media through previous interviews on the phone or via email, please advise Athletic Media Relations of the contact with the media to facilitate an interview time that works with your class and practice schedule.

C. Accuracy and Clarity
   1. Don't link to an external site promoting a product or service that is not affiliated with Belmont Athletics.
   2. Be careful using jargon that only a handful of posters will understand. Try to use inclusive language in your posts that encourage discussion.
   3. Make sure your facts (times, dates, locations, names, etc.) are correct and are spelled correctly. Don't speculate.

D. Disclosure

1. Do not post information about specific student-athletes, including whereabouts (in or out of town, particularly when traveling with your respective team), personal family information (unless previously cleared with the student-athlete and his/her family) unless it is related to an award or honor. Please follow the guidelines of FERPA and good taste.
2. Do not post information about specific student-athlete injuries, including your own. Do not discuss specifics of an injury that may occur in an athletic contest, regardless if televised or not.
3. Do not post specific travel information, including commercial or charter airline flight numbers, and hotel property addresses/locations and room numbers, for any student-athlete, coaching staff member or administrator. Use precautions if you choose the geotag your own or the team's location.
4. Do not post addresses/locations of Bruin Club members, administrators, faculty or staff members, or families of a student-athlete who may be providing an NCAA sanctioned 'occasional team meal' *(NCAA **Bylaw 16.11.1.5**)*. Use precautions if you choose the geotag your own or the team's location.

E. Sportsmanship

1. Don't talk about internal matters for your team, in the Athletics department, the Belmont University campus, the Missouri Valley Conference, or the NCAA. Find something good to say, or don't say it. Don't bash teammates or fellow coaches/staff members. Don't bash the competition. Don't bash the officials. Specifics on politics and religion are off limits, with the exception of any holiday greetings. Don't gender or gender identity bash. Do not engage in or respond to hate speech in regards to sexuality or sexual orientation. Be careful of resharing, reposting, retweeting, or linking to memes, especially those with questionable topics and/or distasteful language. Common sense and courtesy should always prevail.

F. Disclaimers and Posting Guidelines

1. Avatars must be tasteful, especially if you are using an image of yourself with Belmont Athletics or Belmont University apparel on.
2. If you are posting as a team representative, the following posting guideline can be posted within the profile information on all social media accounts managed by Belmont Athletics:
   i. *"The official (insert specific social media account name) account of the Belmont (insert specific program name) team. Please visit* https://belmontbruins.com/landing/index *for additional information."*
3. In the event of the creation of and/or moderation of a wall, blog or forum, the following posting guideline can be posted:
   i. *"We invite you to become a part of the (insert specific Belmont program/entity name) here and post or comment on a regular basis. Belmont Athletics is dedicated to building a safe and secure online community. We ask that you not use graphic language, post offensive images, or use language that is derogatory to specific people, countries of origin, races, creeds, nationalities, religions, sexuality or gender. Any comments or posts that violate these posting guidelines will be removed without explanation by the account manager."*

G. Respect in the Social Media Space

1. Posting is the same as speaking in public. Do not post anything you wouldn't say at a public meeting representing your team, Belmont University, Belmont Athletics department or directly to the media.
2. Be careful not to engage with posters who are commenting on matters related to the department's reputation, including on how any issue was handled. Please alert the social media manager if this is a concern.
3. Do not pick fights and do not engage in them.
4. Answer legitimate questions.
   i. Do not use a question as a forum for your personal opinion.
5. Respect people's opinions. There may be circumstances in which it may be necessary to limit access of a poster or delete/hide a post - use the above posting guidelines as a guideline if you need to delete a post or ban a poster. If you are in doubt, contact your SID. Please take a screenshot and/or print a hard copy of the questionable post with the name of the poster and text before you delete it and give it to Athletic Media Relations to file.
6. If you maintain an Instagram, Twitter or Facebook account, please check your followers regularly for pornographic accounts, offensive bots or unsavory profile pictures. Unfriend, report them as spam and block them from your followers list, if possible. Their profiles and avatars are available to anyone who looks at your page.

H. Security

1. Do NOT give out phone numbers, addresses, personal email addresses, or other personal information about yourself, coaches, other staff members or student-athletes on any social media site. **Inquiries for information, including interview requests, MUST be directed to the program's SID.**

Disciplinary Procedures

Failure to follow these guidelines is a violation of the departmental policies and subject to discipline (per team or university) and/or removal of the account manager or closing or the site/account.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITION:

To be eligible to compete, a student-athlete must:

- Complete Compliance education session and all required forms
- Be enrolled as a full-time student (at least 12 hrs.)
- Meet all NCAA transfer regulations
- Meet all NCAA and BU academic eligibility requirements

NOTE: Student-Athlete enrollment and attendance at any class during any portion of a term triggers responsibility for NCAA rules governing that term.

Activity Restrictions for Student-Athletes Not Eligible for Competition:

- NOT permissible to travel with the team.

EXCEPTION: Student-Athletes not eligible to compete due to reasons unrelated to academic eligibility or NCAA violation (e.g. transfer residency 'sit-out year', medical noncounter) may be in the team contest area during competition at the coach's discretion.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PRACTICE

To be eligible to practice, a student-athlete must**:**

- Complete Compliance education session and all required forms
- Be enrolled as a full-time student
- First year student-athletes must meet NCAA initial eligibility standards and be certified as an academic qualifier and amateurism final certified
- Practice is limited to 45 days for recruited and non-recruited student-athletes awaiting final academic and/or amateurism certification by the NCAA

Activity Restrictions for Student-athletes not eligible for practice:

IN ADDITION to the RESTRICTIONS for Student-Athletes not eligible for competition (see ELIGIBILITY - COMPETITION), the following restrictions apply to Student-Athletes NOT Eligible for Practice.

- No participation in any countable athletically related activities with the team (e.g., team practice, team meeting regarding strategy, competition).

Student-athletes NOT eligible for practice MAY DO the following:

- Participate in voluntary athletically related activities (e.g., hitting balls off the tee without the assistance of coaches or teammates, workouts or weight lifting on her own and not in the presence of coaching staff or teammates);
- Participate in administrative activities (e.g., academic meetings, compliance meetings, study tables, tutoring sessions).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

Good Academic Standing

To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletic competition, a Division I student-athlete shall be in good academic standing as determined by the academic authorities who define the meaning of such phrases for all students of the institution. A student is placed on Academic Probation when a student's Belmont University grade point average (GPA) in any semester (fall, spring or summer term) or cumulative Belmont University GPA is less than 2.0.

Minimum GPA Requirements

As a prerequisite for eligibility for competition, a Division I student-athlete shall present the minimum grade point average pursuant to NCAA and institutional policies. Specifically, a Division I student-athlete entering his/her second year of collegiate enrollment must have a cumulative GPA equivalent to 90% of the GPA required by the institution for graduation; a student-athlete entering his/her third year of enrollment must have a cumulative GPA equivalent to 95% of the GPA required by the institution for graduation; a student-athlete entering his/her fourth or fifth years of enrollment must have a cumulative GPA equivalent to 100% of the GPA required by the institution for graduation.

Satisfactory Progress

As a prerequisite for eligibility for competition, a student-athlete shall have successfully completed the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. For example: A student-athlete entering his/her third year of collegiate enrollment must have completed at least 40 percent of the course requirements in a specific degree program; a student-athlete entering his/her fourth year of enrollment must have completed 60 percent of the course requirements in a specific degree program; a student-athlete entering his/her fifth year of enrollment must have completed 80 percent of a specific degree program.

Credit Hour Requirements

As a prerequisite for eligibility for competition, a Division I student-athlete shall pass the minimum credit hours required per term and for each year of collegiate enrollment. In order to be eligible for the subsequent semester, a Division I student-athlete must pass a minimum of 6.0 credit hours per term during the academic year. Additionally, he/she must pass a minimum of 18.0 credit hours during the regular academic year, defined as the fall and spring semesters. After his/her first year of collegiate enrollment only, a Division I student-athlete must pass a minimum of 24.0 credit hours, 6.0 of which may be completed during the summer term prior to the start of his/her second year of collegiate enrollment.

Designation of Degree Program

Prior to participating in competition that occurs during or immediately before the third year of collegiate enrollment, a Division I student-athlete must designate a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree, including a major program.

The following chart provides a summary of the NCAA Division I eligibility requirements student-athletes must meet as they progress through their college careers.

BELMONT UNIVERSITY STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Term	NCAA
Prior to Enrollment	• Certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center
End of 1st Semester	• Complete a minimum of 6 credits
End of 2nd Semester	• Complete a minimum of 6 credits • Complete 24 credits, with at least 18 credits completed during the fall and spring semesters • GPA of at least 1.80
End of 3rd Semester	• Complete a minimum of 6 credits
End of 4th Semester	• Complete a minimum of 6 credits • Complete at least 18 credits between the fall & spring semesters • GPA of at least 1.90 • Declare a major and have at least 40% (52 credits) of the degree completed.
End of 5th Semester	• Complete a minimum of 6 credits
End of 6th Semester	• Complete a minimum of 6 credits • Complete at least 18 credits between the fall & spring semesters • GPA of at least 2.00 • Have at least 60% (77 credits) of the degree completed.
End of 7th Semester	• Complete a minimum of 6 credits • Maintain 2.00 GPA
End of 8th Semester	• Complete a minimum of 6 credits • Maintain 2.00 GPA
5th Year	• Maintain standards of 7th and 8th semesters, plus have at least 80% (103 credits) of degree completed or • Enroll in a graduate degree program

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Academics is one of the cornerstones of Belmont University's Department of Athletics. Since the move to Division I in 1997, Belmont student-athletes have excelled in the classroom and in competition. In its tenth and final year in the Ohio Valley Conference, Belmont claimed the Institutional Academic Achievement Award every year! The award is presented annually to the member institution with the greatest percentage of its eligible student-athletes that earn a 3.25 grade point average or higher for that academic year.

Academic Policy Statement

Belmont University's Department of Athletics strives to offer a balanced academic and athletic program that encourages student-athletes to develop life-long skills. Specifically, the department seeks to:

- Recruit only student-athletes with the potential to succeed academically and athletically;
- Maintain the athletic eligibility of every student-athletes;
- Graduate student-athletes;
- Protect the academic integrity of the university; and
- Comply with all rules and regulations of the university, the Missouri Valley Conference and the NCAA.

As NCAA Division I competitors, Belmont student-athletes face the challenge of juggling multiple responsibilities and obligations, including practice and competition, road travel, strength & conditioning workouts and, most importantly, academic demands (both in and out of the classroom). To help our student-athletes balance this taxing load and achieve the most rewarding college experience possible, Belmont University Athletics has developed extensive academic support programming and services. Some of these programs are mandatory for first-year athletes while others are optional services available to all student-athletes, including fifth year/post-eligibility athletes.

Mandatory Academic Support Programs

All new freshmen and transfer student-athletes are required to participate in the following academic support programs:

Weekly Academic Meetings - All new freshmen and transfers must attend one-on-one counseling meetings with an Academic Support Staff person during their initial semester. During these meetings, the student-athlete and academic counselor discuss class assignments, strategies for communicating with professors, personal challenges and other issues related to academic progress.

Study Hall - All new freshmen must log six hours of study hall time per week during their initial semester while transfers must log three hours. Study hall hours are monitored by Student Support Services staff and reported to head coaches on a weekly report. Student-athletes may complete their weekly study hall requirements at their own pace but must log their hours within designated locations on campus (i.e., the library, the student-athlete academic center or other approved areas). These designated study locations will be determined by the Student Support Services staff at the beginning of each semester and will be communicated to the new student-athletes at that time. NOTE: Head coaches have the

authority to require additional study hall hours for their student-athletes, including upper-level student-athletes. Coaches will work directly with the Student Support Services staff regarding additional study hall requirements.

Towering Traditions/Summer Orientation - All new freshmen and transfer student-athletes entering Belmont University in the fall semester should plan to attend Summer Orientation the summer prior to their enrollment. Summer Orientation is a required experience packed with information, community connections, and check-the-task-off the list opportunities! During Summer Orientation, students will register for their fall academic courses and complete other key steps to prepare for their Belmont journey. Summer Orientation also offers a parent/guest track designed specifically for Belmont parents and guardians. Student-athletes are strongly urged to also attend Towering Traditions Part II: Welcome Week, which takes places just prior to the beginning of the fall semester when students move into campus housing. Welcome Week is designed to connect you to the Belmont community and help you feel at ease as you enter into this next chapter of life.

Towering Traditions - All new freshmen and transfer student-athletes entering Belmont University in the fall semester should plan to attend Towering Traditions: Foundations during the summer prior to their enrollment. *Foundations* is Belmont's new student orientation program designed to assist students in their transition to college life. Part I is a series of two-day programs for freshmen and one-day programs for transfers during which students meet with an academic adviser, plan and register for fall classes and become more comfortable with the campus and student services. Student-athletes are strongly urged to also attend Towering Traditions Part II: Welcome Week, which takes places just prior to the beginning of the fall semester when students move into campus housing.

Additional Academic Support Programs

The following academic support programs and services are available to all Belmont student-athletes:

Tutorial Assistance

Individual tutoring services are available to Belmont student-athletes at no charge. Tutors are hired by the Department of Athletics and are typically upper-level and graduate level students who are selected on the basis of their educational training, classroom performance, and ability to teach. Tutors must be recommended by a faculty member or qualified administrative personnel within a particular academic area (e.g. an office manager who coordinates tutors within an academic department). A recommendation must be submitted directly to the Student Support Services staff before a tutor can begin tutoring sessions with a student-athlete. When possible, the athletic department will refrain from hiring student-athletes to serve as tutors to avoid possible NCAA violations and/or investigations. Athletic department policy prohibits the hiring of student-athletes to tutor other student-athletes within the same sport.

Tutors will be paid with funds from the Academic Enhancement Fund or the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund, both of which are grants provided by the NCAA with the intent to offer direct benefits to student-athletes on campus. Therefore, for the purposes of this policy, the term, “student-athlete,” shall be defined as a student who is a current member of one of Belmont University’s NCAA

Division I sponsored sports and whose name appears on the official team eligibility list for that sport. This definition of “student-athlete” shall also include students whose eligibility has expired but who remain enrolled at Belmont University for the purposes of completing their degrees. Tutorial assistance will be limited to those students who meet the definition outlined above.

Academic support staff will recommend tutors for student-athletes they feel are academically “at-risk” in a particular subject area; however, all student-athletes are strongly encouraged to inform academic support staff of their need for tutoring. Student-athletes do not have to be failing a class in order to qualify for tutorial assistance. In fact, many Belmont student-athletes utilize tutors to help achieve a personal goal in a particular class or to “catch up” on lectures and assignments they have missed due to team travel. In all cases, student-athletes are encouraged to request tutors early in the semester BEFORE difficulties arise within a particular class.

A student-athlete must submit his or her request for a tutor to a Student Support Services staff member. The request will be reviewed by the Academic Support Staff and will follow up with the student-athlete to fulfill the request. The student-athlete and tutor will schedule their own session times and locations, and the tutor will report his or her hours to the academic coordinator at the end of each month. Tutorial sessions are not a substitute for class time or class lectures. All student-athletes are expected to arrive for their tutoring sessions on time and well prepared. Student-athletes who are repeatedly tardy, unprepared, or who fail to show up for tutoring sessions will lose their free tutoring privileges.

Tutors submit an online summary to the Student Support Services staff after each session detailing the progress of the student-athlete.

NOTE: The athletic department will NOT hire tutors to assist student-athletes in writing papers. Belmont University’s Writing Center provides free, one-on-one tutorial assistance to the entire Belmont community. The tutors who staff the center are all experienced professors of writing. Student-athletes are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the expertise available to them in the Writing Center. The Academic Support Staff will consider exceptions to this policy only if a professor strongly recommends or requires a writing tutor for a student-athlete. In these extreme cases, the writing tutor will be assigned and strictly monitored by the faculty member who recommended the assistance or by a faculty member in Belmont’s English Department.

Academic Counseling

In addition to the counseling sessions mandated for new freshmen and transfers, one-on-one academic counseling sessions are also available to any student-athletes who request the service and feel they will benefit from the continued structure of the weekly meetings. Also, weekly counseling sessions may be required for student-athletes who are considered "at-risk" for academic problems (as determined by the Student Support Services staff and head coaches).

Academic Advising

The Academic Support Staff members will serve as the primary academic adviser for all student-athletes with "undeclared" majors. These individuals will work closely with the student-athletes to not only design class schedules that primarily focus on completing General Education requirements, but also explore vocational and career interests that will hopefully lead to the selection of a fulfilling major. Once an "undeclared" student-athlete officially declares a major, he or she will be assigned to an academic adviser within his or her selected field of study.

In addition to advising "undeclared" student-athletes, the Academic Support Staff will work closely with all student-athletes to assist them in designing class schedules that complement their practice and competition demands. Prior to registration each semester, the head coaches devise specific guidelines for their student-athletes to follow when scheduling classes for the following semester. The Academic Support Staff approves these guidelines and provides them to each student-athlete prior to registration. The goal of this system is to help student-athletes devise course schedules that will result in the fewest possible class absences and allow for maximum participation in class, practice and competition.

NOTE: Each student-athlete is personally responsible for completing all requirements established by the university and department for his or her degree. Academic advisers help student-athletes with their schedules, but the primary obligation for knowing and meeting all graduation requirements rests with the student-athlete. For an up-to-date outline of degree requirements, student-athletes should refer to the Belmont University catalog online at: http://www.belmont.edu/catalog/.

Career-Related Testing Services

Through Belmont University's Office of Career Services, the athletic department offers various testing services and personality assessments to help student-athletes explore their interests and possible career options. These tests include the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), Strength Finder, The Strong Interest Inventory, Career Leader, and Focus. Focus is an online self-assessment tool that helps students assess their work-related values, interests and skills and explore educational and career paths that match these values, interests and skills. The instrument is free and available on the Belmont Web site at http://www.belmont.edu/careerdevelopment/. Select Focus from the menu on the left.

Academic Center

The athletic department's academic center offers a quiet, monitored, study environment exclusively for student-athletes. Located within the athletic office inside the Curb Event Center, the academic center offers study tables and computers to use for class assignments.

The following rules apply to the Academic Center:

- NO FOOD OR DRINK (Water is Okay).
- No talking on cell phones
- **THE ACADEMIC CENTER IS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES ONLY!** Group study sessions that include classmates who are not student-athletes should be scheduled in one of the library's study rooms (to ensure the center's availability to as many student-athletes as possible).

Assistance with Graduate Applications and Scholarships

Members of the Academic Support Staff are available to assist student-athletes in applying for graduate school and postgraduate scholarships. The NCAA and the Missouri Valley Conference award a number of postgraduate scholarships and internship opportunities each year to graduating student-athletes whose eligibility has expired. Academic support staff will assist qualified student-athletes in researching and applying for these various opportunities.

Academic Monitoring

Academic support staff will formally monitor student-athletes' classroom performance twice per semester. At the midpoint of each semester, the Student Support Services staff will prepare midterm grade reports for each head coach and will follow up with any student-athletes who receive a midterm grade of "D" or below in any class. After discussing the grade deficiency with a student-athlete, the Student Support Services staff and head coach will develop an individualized plan of improvement for the athlete. This plan could include any or all of the following measures:

- Tutorial sessions
- Weekly counseling sessions with academic support staff
- Weekly study hall requirements (or additional hours if already required to log study hall hours)
- Meetings with professors
- Regular follow up with professors to monitor grade improvement

At the end of each semester, the Associate Athletic Director of Student Services will prepare final semester grade reports for head coaches reflecting their student-athletes' earned hours, GPA and notations regarding academic probation or suspension. Before the start of the next semester, the Associate Athletic Director of Student Services and head coaches will determine which student-athletes are academically "at-risk" and will develop individualized programs for each athlete (to include any combination of the measures listed above).

Academic Probation/Suspension

Academic standing is based upon the cumulative grade point average of all work attempted at Belmont University. To continue enrollment in good standing, a student must maintain a cumulative Belmont University GPA of 2.00 or higher. A student is placed on probation whenever his/her term GPA falls below 2.00. While on probation, students may take no more than 13 hours and are required, when offered, to repeat courses in which they received a "D" or "F."

A student must earn the following minimum Belmont University grade point average or he/she will be placed on academic suspension:

- 1.50 after 32 hours attempted at Belmont
- 1.75 after 64 hours attempted at Belmont
- 2.00 after 96 hours attempted at Belmont

A student placed on academic suspension is ineligible to register for classes at Belmont University and, therefore, ineligible for athletic competition. A student who receives a first academic suspension from Belmont may petition for readmission to the university after six months. A student who receives a second suspension may appeal for readmission after one year from the date of the last suspension. A third suspension results in expulsion from the university with no opportunity for readmission.

In addition to these Belmont University academic policies, student-athletes are also subject to GPA requirements mandated by the NCAA. Refer to "Student-Athlete Eligibility" for a complete outline of these academic requirements.

Calculating a GPA

Grade Point Averages (GPA) are calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned in a given semester by the total credit hours attempted. Quality points reflect the grade earned in a class. At Belmont University, quality points are distributed as follows:

A+	=	4.0
A	=	4.0
A-	=	3.7
B+	=	3.3
B	=	3.0
B-	=	2.7
C+	=	2.3
C	=	2.0
C-	=	1.7
D+	=	1.3
D	=	1.0
D-	=	0.7
F	=	0.0

The following example demonstrates how to calculate a term GPA:

Course	Grade	GPA Hrs.		Quality Pts.	Total
English	B+	4.0	x	3.3	= 13.2
Algebra	C	3.0	x	2.0	= 6.0
History	A	3.0	x	4.0	= 12.0
Biology	A-	3.0	x	3.7	= 11.1
		13.0			42.3

42.3 term quality points/13.0 term GPA hours = 3.25 GPA

To calculate a cumulative GPA, divide the total number of quality points earned by the total number of GPA hours earned at Belmont University. Transfer student-athletes should include all quality points and GPA hours earned at other universities.

Dropping or Withdrawing from Classes

All student-athletes' class schedules are reviewed and approved by coaches and Academic Support Staff prior to the start of classes each semester. Once registration closes, a “Student Athlete Hold" is placed on all student-athletes' accounts, prohibiting them from dropping or withdrawing from courses (or altering their class schedules in any way). In order to drop or withdraw from a course, a student-athlete must obtain permission from the Associate Athletic Director of Student Services. If permission is granted, the "hold" will be temporarily lifted while the student-athlete makes the requested change to his or her class schedule.

The “Student Athlete Hold" was designed as a safety device to keep student-athletes from dropping a course, falling below 12.0 hours of credit and becoming ineligible for athletic competition. Additionally, the "hold" prevents students from negatively affecting their eligibility by dropping courses that are necessary to meet degree progress requirements as established by the NCAA.

Class Attendance Policies

Belmont student-athletes are expected to attend every class and laboratory session for all courses in which they are enrolled. Belmont University Athletics is committed to the idea that consistent class attendance and participation are essential to academic success, especially for student-athletes who will occasionally miss class due to athletic competition. Additionally, student-athletes should realize that professors are much more likely to assist struggling students who have demonstrated an interest in the class through regular class attendance and participation.

Class Absences Due to Athletic Participation

At the beginning of each semester, the Academic Support Staff will prepare official travel letters for each team outlining the dates that the athletes will miss class due to scheduled athletic competition. Student-athletes must hand-deliver these letters to all of their professors at the start of the semester and are solely responsible for their successful delivery. Letters will not be reissued to student-athletes after they have already missed class due to athletic competition. **Student-athletes have the responsibility to make up all class work missed due to athletic participation and must communicate directly with their professors to agree upon a due date for makeup work and exams. NOTE:** Belmont student-athletes are NOT allowed to miss class to attend practice and are subject to the university's policies regarding class absences. **NOTE:** The competition dates on each travel letter are "excused absence," per the University Attendance Policy. Student-athletes are still subject to the University Attendance Policy and are not afforded additional absences from classes outside of their athletic travel.

Class Absences Due to Extended Illness, Injury or Emergencies

A student-athlete should notify a member of the Academic Support Staff if he or she must leave campus for any extended period of time due to hospitalization, injury, or personal problems (i.e. death in the family, etc.). The Academic Support Staff will notify his or her professors of these circumstances and the likelihood of class absences; however, the student-athlete is responsible for following up with each professor to arrange for completing make-up work. In the case of hospitalization, injury, or extended illness, the student-athlete is also responsible for presenting to each professor a written statement from his or her physician documenting the illness or Injury.

Academic support staff will NOT contact professors for non-extended personal illness that results in class absences. Student-athletes experiencing short-term personal illness are encouraged to seek medical attention at Student Health Services on Belmont's campus. The nursing staff will issue a medical slip that can be presented to professors to verify the illness and related class absences.

Honor Code & Student Honor Pledge

"In affirmation of the Belmont University Statement of Values, I pledge that I will not give or receive aid during examinations; I will not give or receive false or impermissible aid in course work, in the preparation of reports, or in any other type of work that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of my grade; I will not engage in any form of academic fraud. Furthermore, I will uphold my responsibility to see to it that others abide by the spirit and letter of this Honor Pledge."

Standards for Academic Integrity

Generally, academic fraud and dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following categories: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions, obtaining unfair advantage, aiding and abetting, and unauthorized access to academic or administrative systems.

Cheating: Using unauthorized notes, aids, or information on an examination; altering a graded work prior to its return to a faculty member, allowing another person to do one's own work and submitting it for grading.

Plagiarism: Submitting material that in part or whole is not one's own work; submitting one's own work without properly attributing the correct sources of its content.

Fabrication: Inventing or falsifying information, data or citation; presenting data gathered outside of acceptable professorial guidelines; failing to provide an accurate account of how information, data or citations were gathered; altering documents affecting academic records; forging signatures or authorizing false information on an official academic document, grade, letter, form, ID card, or any other university document.

Multiple Submissions: Submitting identical papers or course work for credit in more than one course without prior permission of the instructor.

Obtaining Unfair Advantage: a) gaining or providing access to examination materials prior to the time authorized by an instructor; b) stealing, defacing, or destroying library or research materials which can deprive others of their use; c) unauthorized collaboration on an academic assignment; d) retaining, possessing, or circulating previously used examination materials without the instructor's permission; e) obstructing or interfering with another student's academic work; or f) engaging in any activity designed to obtain an unfair advantage over another student in the same course.

Unauthorized Access: Viewing or altering in any way computer records, modifying computer programs or systems, releasing or distributing information gathered via unauthorized access, or in any way interfering with the use or availability of computer systems/ information.

Aiding and Abetting: Providing material, information, or other assistance that violates the above Standards for Academic Integrity; providing false information in connection with any inquiry regarding academic integrity.

STUDENT-ATHLETE WELFARE

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is composed of a representative from each athletic team and the cheer team. The committee meets twice monthly with two advisers: the SAAC Adviser and Faculty Athletic Representative.

The purpose of SAAC is to:

- Streamline and promote efficient and effective communication between the Athletic Department and the student-athlete population.
- Encourage sound academic practices for student-athletes.
- Actively encourage more involvement of the student-athlete in campus and community service.
- Provide an open line of communication for student-athletes to voice issues and concerns.

2023-2024 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Members

Baseball ……Blake Barton
Basketball (Women)……Tessa Miller
Basketball (Men) ……Isaiah Walker and Jake Dykstra
Cheerleading…… Hannah Ash
Cross Country (Women)……Grace Litzinger
Cross Country (Men)…….. Ethan Hammer
Track & Field (Women)…….. Logan Gray
Track & Field (Men)……Ben Miller
Golf (Women)……Josie Arant
Golf (Men)……Jack Bergstrom
Soccer (Women)……Riley Casey and Anna Sweeney
Soccer (Men)…….. Dylan Steely and AJ Chastonay
Softball …….. Baie Ensio and Brenna Blume
Tennis (Women)……Viktoria Kliimand
Tennis (Men)……Tomas Luis
Volleyball……Elizabeth Godfrey

ADVISORS:
Dr. Ryan Neises -- Coordinator of Academic Services & Sport Ministry
Dr. Mary Vaughn -- Faculty Athletics Representative

OFFICERS
Presidents: Blake Barton and Grace Litzinger
MVC SAAC Reps: Riley Casey and Isaiah Walker
VP of Mental Health Awareness: Elizabeth Godfrey and Dylan Steely
VP of Events and Engagement: Ben Miller and Anna Sweeney
VP of Community Service: Ethan Hammer and Tessa Miller
VP of Social Media and Communication: Hannah Ash and Logan Gray

SAAC representatives shall have the responsibility to report to their respective teammates regarding policy and procedures discussed at the bi-monthly SAAC meetings. The Athletics Administration will ensure coaches provide adequate time for their representatives to report back to their team.

Student-Athlete Development Program

Belmont Athletics' Student-Athlete Development Program is designed to enhance the quality of the student-athlete experience within the university setting. During the academic year, Belmont Athletics designs and sponsors multiple workshops for both student-athletes and the general student body based on the five commitment statements listed below.

Student-Athlete Development Program Commitment Statements

- *Commitment to Academic Excellence* – To support the academic progress of the student-athlete toward intellectual development and graduation.

- *Commitment to Athletic Excellence* – To build philosophical foundations for the development of athletics programs that are broad-based, equitable and dedicated to the well-being of the student-athlete.

- *Commitment to Personal Development* – To support the development of a well-balanced lifestyle for student-athletes, encouraging emotional well-being, personal growth and decision-making skills.

- *Commitment to Career Development* – To encourage the student-athlete to develop and pursue career and life goals.

- *Commitment to Service* – To engage the student-athlete in service to his/her campus and surrounding communities.

The following commitment statements are reflected in the diverse opportunities all Belmont students have through core requirements, campus life special programs, academic fairs, career development, athletic events, community service and the required convocation program.

The convocation program is a shared experience that encourages the development of well-rounded individuals. Specific requirements for this program are in the following categories:

Christian Faith & Tradition
Global Citizenship, Leadership, Diversity & the Professions
Creative & Performing Arts
Society & the Arts & Sciences
Wellness, Safety & College Life
Community Service & Reflection

Athlete Mentoring Program (AMP)

Each year, Belmont student-athletes in their junior and senior years will have an opportunity to participate in the Athlete Mentoring Program (AMP).

The mission of the Athlete Mentorship Program is to initiate and develop relationships between Belmont student-athletes and professionals from a wide array of industries in the Nashville area. These connections will provide the student-athlete with guidance and direction in areas such as personal goals, career development, networking, and future employment opportunities as well as offer advice in areas of personal development that will assist the student-athletes as they transition to life after Belmont.

The program also provides the participating mentors a chance to enhance their leadership and professional skills, while expanding their professional network. Our hope that the connection between the mentor and mentee will grow and develop into a long-term professional relationship.

SPORTS PERFORMANCE

The Sports Performance Staff, in collaboration with Sports Medicine and the sport coaches, are responsible for the development and implementation of proper strength, power, speed, agility, conditioning and recovery protocols. No student-athlete should be involved in any weight training program without permission or supervision from a member of the Sports Performance Staff or their respective sport coach. The Belmont University athletic weight rooms are located on the 1st floor of the Curb Event Center, and on the 1st floor of the Crockett Center. All team related weight training sessions will be completed in these facilities.

A. Mission Statement

Our purpose is to love, serve, and challenge student-athletes as we prepare them to live and compete at their personal best.

We will train these student-athletes in a manner that builds resiliency towards injury, increases athletic ability and enhances self-confidence.

B. Training Principles

The Sports Performance department will accomplish its mission under the following training principles:

1. Balanced Development – holistic approach to total body development both muscularly and metabolically
2. Transferability – training in a manner which transfers to demands of specific sport
3. Technique – each repetition performed properly to obtain desired stimulation and adaptation
4. Periodization – long term planning of training cycles and seasons
5. Progression – steady and systematic increase in work volume and intensity over time
6. Overload – system must be stressed at appropriate levels beyond its present capacity
7. Variation – differing modalities and stimuli over time to control for monotony and plateaus
8. Consistency – an untrained system reverses back to previous muscular and metabolic levels
9. Coaching – creating structure, safety and energy in each training session
10. Evaluation – testing and monitoring to quantify rate of improvement in specific adaptations (Muscular Strength, Muscular Power, Agility, Speed, Anaerobic & Aerobic Power, Body composition)

C. General Department Expectations

Our ultimate target is to pursue excellence in what we do. The expectations below will aim our efforts appropriately.

1. Be on time.
2. Be your best.
3. Be a great teammate.

If there are issues with any of these 3 expectations the Sports Performance staff will follow the chain of command (strength coach, sport coach, administration) to ensure future problems are minimized.

D. Student-Athlete Guidelines

The following guidelines set an environment conducive for training hard & eliminating potential distractions.

1. Proper lifting attire is required:
   - Team issued/mandated training clothes
   - No sleeveless shirts (not issued by team), spandex apparel, or any other revealing clothing
   - Belmont colors only, we are proud of who we are!
   - No hats or jewelry (including doo-rags, bandanas, watches, earrings, necklaces, bracelets or rings) are to be worn by student-athletes in the weight room.
2. There is a proper place for all equipment. Leave it better than you found it.
3. Only team Athletic Trainer or Head Coach can excuse a player from a training session.
4. Cell phones, books, bags, and other personal gear are not allowed in the weight room.
5. Explicit language or content of any kind is not allowed.

DRUG EDUCATION, TESTING AND TREATMENT PROGRAM

The Belmont University Athletic Department acknowledges that drug and alcohol abuse is a major problem in today's society. The performance of student-athletes, on and off the field, is directly inhibited by the misuse or abuse of prescription drugs, non-medically indicated drugs, street drugs and alcohol. Belmont University does not and will not accept the misuse and abuse of these items. The Athletic Department has a drug and alcohol abuse prevention and screening program, consistent with NCAA and Missouri Valley Conference guidelines, designed to allow student-athletes to participate in intercollegiate athletics in a drug-free environment.

The Athletic Department has three major objectives in its substance abuse program:

- To educate student-athletes about the physical, psychological and social effects of drug and alcohol use and abuse.
- To identify, via random testing, those student-athletes who may be involved in drug or alcohol use and abuse.
- To provide access to a comprehensive counseling and rehabilitation program.

Drug and Alcohol Education

All student-athletes will receive education regarding NCAA banned drugs, NCAA year round drug testing, and Belmont University Athletics drug testing at the beginning of each academic year. The education will include information on drug testing and consequences of testing positive.

The Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Head Athletic Trainer have been designated as the resource contacts to answer questions from student-athletes and athletic staff members related to nutritional supplements and NCAA banned drugs.

Student-Athlete Drug Testing Consent Form

Each year, student-athletes will sign a consent form demonstrating their understanding of the NCAA drug-testing program and their willingness to participate. This consent statement is required of all student-athletes before participation in intercollegiate competition during the year in question. Failure to complete and sign the statement annually shall result in the student-athlete's ineligibility for participation in all intercollegiate competition.

Drug Testing Policies/Procedures

Drug testing is required of all Belmont University student-athletes on a random per team basis. Testing may also be performed "for cause" at the discretion of appropriate personnel, in consultation with the Director of Athletics and individual coach. Student-athletes may be selected for testing during each semester or academic year using a random system from the rosters of all athletic teams, in or out of season.

The randomly selected student-athletes will be required to provide a urine sample, approximately 30-60 mL, under the strict supervision of personnel selected by the Director of Athletics. The student-athlete may have a witness accompany him/her to the testing to certify identification and to monitor the proceedings. Each specimen will be sealed under the observation of the student-athlete and witness.

The student-athlete will be assigned a personal code number which will be recorded on the student-athlete's signature form and on the test bottles.

One portion of the sample will be analyzed for the presence of drugs banned by NCAA regulations and may include:

- Psychomotor and central nervous system stimulants
- Anabolic steroids, anabolic agents and pre-cursors
- Diuretics
- Street drugs
- Other drugs at the discretion of the Department of Athletics

All positive tests will be immediately reported to the Athletic Department's liaison to Student Affairs, who is the designated staff member to oversee all disciplinary matters related to student-athletes. The liaison will, in turn, contact the student-athlete for a confidential meeting. The liaison will follow guidelines established by the Department of Athletics as follow-up to a positive drug test and will then communicate with the Director of Athletics, who will confer with the coach.
REFUSAL to participate in the drug testing procedures will be treated as a positive test.

Process for Administering Drug Test

Belmont Athletics is contracted with Aegis Sciences Corporation for the purpose of testing for drug use of our student-athletes. Aegis will randomly select student-athletes from a list of Belmont University Identification Numbers, BU ID#'s, supplied by the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance. All subsequent paperwork is handled by Aegis. Once the numbers have been randomly selected, the following process is in place:

- The Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance will match the BU ID# with a student-athlete's name.
- The Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance will contact the student-athlete 36 hours or less prior to the testing.
- The student-athlete will report to the office of the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance to complete the student-athlete drug testing notification form. The form will specify the collection site, time, and date of testing.
- Drug testing may occur immediately following the presentation of the drug notification form to the student-athlete.
- Upon receipt of the form, the student-athlete will sign the form and will be offered a Reminder for Athlete form.
- If the student-athlete cannot be located, the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance will inform the head coach of the inability to locate the student-athlete.
- The student-athlete is responsible for reporting to the test site designated at the specific time and date on the form or submitting immediately to the drug test, if so instructed.
- Aegis Sports Testing Services will conduct the collection of the samples and test for drug use and report all results to the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance.
- A positive test result will be reported immediately to the liaison to Student Affairs, who will contact the student-athlete and work confidentially regarding consequences.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of each student-athlete to check campus e-mail, TeamWorks messages, and phone messages daily. Failure to respond to a call and report for testing will be considered failure to participate.

Consequences of Failure to Participate

- Without a verified excuse acceptable to the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, the student-athlete who could not be located for notification of drug testing will be suspended from participation in his or her respective sport until the test can be rescheduled and completed. The cost completion of the rescheduled test will be the responsibility of the student-athlete, and not the University.
- If the student-athlete refuses to sign the drug testing notification form, said student-athlete will be suspended from participation in his or her respective sport for the remainder of the academic year, and the event will be treated as a confirmed positive test.
- If the student-athlete fails to appear at the designated site and time for drug testing without a verified excuse acceptable to the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, the event will be treated as a confirmed positive test.
- The student-athlete is required to produce the minimum volume for the urine specimen. The student-athlete must remain in the testing area until an adequate sample is obtained. Failure to produce an adequate sample will result in a confirmed positive test.
- The sample must meet the required levels for specific gravity and pH. The student-athlete will be suspended from all practice and competition until the student-athlete is able to provide another sample once Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance is notified that the sample did not meet the required levels for specific gravity and pH.

Consequences of Testing Positive

The Athletic Department firmly believes that the primary purpose of drug testing is to identify problems and seek rehabilitation of the student-athlete. It is not related to discipline or punishment.

Self-Reporting

If the student-athlete admits that he or she has a drug use problem and is willing to seek counseling or treatment prior to being selected for a random test, then he or she will not face the game suspension or disciplinary meeting sanctions applicable to a positive test. The student-athlete will, however, be in the mandatory testing pool for a period of one year. The student-athlete will also need to submit to the liaison to Student Affairs an addiction evaluation and report of visits. The student-athlete will be responsible for all costs incurred for the treatment for the addiction.

First Offense:

- The liaison to Student Affairs may request the student-athlete's consent to notify his or her parents(s) or guardian(s). However, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Belmont University reserves the right to disclose the results of a positive drug test and the consequent disciplinary action to the student-athlete's parents if the student-athlete is under the age of 21.

- Under the supervision of the liaison to Student Affairs, the student-athlete must attend an alcohol and drug assessment/ evaluation. Off campus counseling sessions may be required if deemed necessary. The student-athlete will be responsible for all expenses.
- The student-athlete may be tested weekly and randomly thereafter for the academic year.
- The Head Coach will be notified of the positive test by the Athletics Director or designee.
- The Student Athlete will be on a probationary period through the remainder of the academic semester.

Second Offense:

- The liaison to Student Affairs may request the student-athlete's consent to notify his or her parents(s) or guardian(s). However, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Belmont University reserves the right to disclose the results of a positive drug test and the consequent disciplinary action to the student-athlete's parents if the student-athlete is under the age of 21.
- The student-athlete will be required to complete an out-patient drug rehabilitation program at his/her own expense.
    - Belmont University will not be responsible for the cost of this treatment program.
    - The independent provider must be reputable and approved by the liaison to Student Affairs.
    - The student-athlete will grant authorization to the independent rehabilitation provider to submit periodic progress evaluations to the liaison to Student Affairs.
- Follow-up drug testing will be done on a case-by-case basis as recommended by substance abuse experts.
- The student-athlete may be suspended from participation in intercollegiate competition and may lose all athletic financial aid for a minimum of one calendar year. Reinstatement to full athletics participation will be contingent upon completion of the recommended rehabilitation program.
- If a student-athlete is participating in redshirt status, suspensions from participating in sanctioned NCAA competitions will carry over to the following season.
- The Athletic Department will review the student-athlete's athletic financial aid at the completion of that academic semester.

Third Offense:

- The liaison to Student Affairs may request the student-athlete's consent to notify his or her parent(s) or guardian(s). However in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Belmont University reserves the right to disclose the results of a positive drug test and the consequent disciplinary action to the student-athlete's parents if the student-athlete is under the age of 21.
- The student-athlete will be permanently suspended from all athletic participation and may lose all athletic financial aid at the completion of the academic semester.

If the student-athlete tests positive and he/she believes it is a false positive test, he/she may request a re-test.

NCAA Year Round Drug-Testing Program

The National Center for Drug Free Sport (Drug Free Sport) is the official third-party administrator for the NCAA's drug-testing programs.

- Every Division I institution will be drug tested at least once each academic year. Any institution may be selected for testing more than once each academic year.
- Every Division I sport is now subject to out-of-competition (year-round) drug testing.
- All student-athletes are subject to drug testing before, during or after their competitive season.
- A student-athlete who tests positive for a banned substance, as set forth in Bylaw 31.2.3, shall be declared ineligible for further participation in championship season and non-championship season competition.

The Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance will facilitate any testing of these athletes through an NCAA representative.

SPORTS MEDICINE SERVICES / MEDICAL EXPENSE RESPONSIBILITY

The following information pertains to Belmont University's Sports Medicine health care program, specifically its medical treatment policies and health insurance requirements. Each student-athlete and the individual responsible for his/her medical costs (if different from the student-athlete) must adhere to these policies and requirements in order for the student-athlete to receive the best possible medical care and avoid any delays in clearance for athletic participation, and to ensure the timely processing and payment of all medical expenses related to athletic injuries.

Belmont University is committed to providing the best and most comprehensive sports medicine services available to its student-athletes. The Department of Athletics grants its Sports Medicine staff the unchallengeable autonomous authority to make medical decisions in conjunction with physicians regarding student-athletes and their ability to participate in athletic-related activities. In addition, Belmont University has designated an athletics health care administrator who is charged with oversight of the administration and delivery of all health care services to Belmont's student-athletes.

Belmont University Athletics contracts its athletic training/sports medicine services through Elite Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center. The full-time athletic trainers, team physicians, and other medical providers assigned to Belmont University through this contractual agreement are employed by Elite Sports Medicine and form the foundation of the Belmont Sports Medicine program. Belmont Sports Medicine also works through Be Well and Flourish, who deals with general medical concerns and other instances that may impact athletic activity for student athletes, even though Belmont Sports Medicine may not be responsible for the payment of those issues. The use of the term "Belmont Sports Medicine" is a direct reference to these medical professionals, as well as the part-time certified athletic trainers enrolled as graduate students at Belmont University and assigned to the Sports Medicine program.

Injury Management/Treatment

All athletic-related injuries must be managed through Belmont's Sports Medicine Department. Additionally, student-athletes must report to the Sports Medicine staff all general medical conditions and illnesses that could affect their participation in intercollegiate athletics. No Belmont coach is authorized to recommend or personally secure an appointment for medical services for any student-athlete without prior authorization from Belmont's Sports Medicine Department.

Belmont's team physicians, contracted through Elite Sports Medicine, must authorize all medications prescribed to student-athletes for athletic-related injuries. Prescriptions must be managed through Belmont's Sports Medicine Department in order for appropriate billing and payment to occur.

Pre-participation Physicals and Medical History Information

In accordance with NCAA bylaws and medical best practices, all student-athletes are required to complete a pre-participation physical examination to include EKG screening and provide proof of sickle cell trait status prior to participation in athletically-related activities at Belmont University. The pre-participation physical exam must be conducted by a Belmont Sports Medicine team physician, who has the exclusive authority and responsibility to clear student-athletes for participation in intercollegiate athletics at Belmont University. These physicians consist of an orthopedic clearance from an Elite Sports Medicine team physician, and general medical clearance from Be Well and Flourish along with Belmont University Student Health.

Belmont's Sports Medicine staff will schedule the pre-participation physicals for the student-athletes when they arrive on campus. Each Belmont student-athlete must also complete a medical history questionnaire and provide updated information regarding his/her primary health insurance coverage a to Belmont's Sports Medicine Department prior to the student-athlete's participation in athletic-related activities for each academic year.

The pre-participation physicals and medical history questionnaire are independent and separate of any Belmont University Student Health Requirements.

Student-Athlete Primary Health Insurance

Belmont University requires all students to carry primary health insurance coverage. Student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics through Belmont's Department of Athletics must provide proof of a current primary health insurance policy that meets the following criteria:

1. Includes coverage of intercollegiate athletic injuries;
2. Is recognized by medical providers in the United States (has US mailing address and phone number); and
3. Provides primary explanation of benefits (EOB) statements required for consideration of secondary insurance payment.

If a student-athlete's policy fails to meet all three (3) criteria, he/she will not be cleared for participation in athletic activity at Belmont University. Student-athletes must keep insurance information current and up to date, and must notify the Sports Medicine Department of any changes to their primary health insurance coverage.

International Student-Athletes: Belmont University requires all international students to carry U.S. health insurance with an identified provider. All international student-athletes must purchase the pre-approved –policy in order to be cleared for participation in intercollegiate athletics at Belmont University. Belmont University's Office of International Student & Scholar Services will provide information regarding the plans to each international student via email. The student's accounts will be billed for the cost of coverage at the beginning of each term.

Secondary Insurance Coverage

Belmont University shall be responsible for maintaining secondary insurance coverage for documented athletic injuries resulting from participation in athletically-related activities within an intercollegiate athletics program through the Department of Athletics. Belmont University's athletic insurance plan serves as a secondary policy to the student-athlete's primary health insurance plan. This means that medical expenses associated with athletic-related injuries will be billed to the student-athlete's primary health insurance first, after which the university's secondary insurance provider will consider payment based on the primary insurance explanation of benefits.

All athletic-related injuries must be managed through Belmont's Sports Medicine Department. This is an injury that occurs at a Belmont Athletics sport specific event. If a student-athlete chooses to pursue medical opinion and care outside of Belmont's Sports Medicine Department and Elite Sports Medicine, Belmont's secondary insurance coverage will not recognize or be responsible for those medical expenses unless prior approval is obtained from Belmont's Sports Medicine Department.

If a medical bill for an intercollegiate athletic injury is sent directly to the student-athlete and/or his/her home, **it is the responsibility of the receiving person to forward the bill to Belmont's Sports Medicine Department to ensure timely payment and avoid penalties and late fees.**
The student-athlete shall be responsible for medical expenses related to all athletic injuries incurred outside a Belmont intercollegiate athletics program, illnesses, and pre-existing medical conditions.

Term Limit for Secondary Insurance Coverage

Belmont's secondary insurance plan will consider coverage of medical costs incurred within 104 weeks immediately following the date(s) of any athletic-related injuries sustained while participating in intercollegiate athletics at Belmont University and documented with the Sports Medicine staff. Should a student-athlete neglect to contact the Sports Medicine Department or fail to adhere to the medical recommendations prescribed by the Sports Medicine staff regarding such injury for a period longer than one (1) consecutive month, Belmont University Athletics will terminate its secondary insurance coverage at that time.

On-Campus Counseling Services

Feeling stressed or lonely? In need of support? Belmont University Counseling Services (BUCS) is here to help. BUCS' team of counselors provide free and confidential services to all students, collaborating across campus and with the greater Nashville mental health community to connect students to the resources and care that they need.

We strive to make our service offerings as accessible as possible. Check out some of our services below:

- **Online Self-Help (TAO)**
  Activate your free TAO account by scanning the code and using your Belmont email address. There you will have access to a suite of evidence-based self-help tools including a mindfulness library.
- **Wellness Programming & Drop-In Workshops**
  Keep an eye out for our mental health related programming throughout the year. You can find information about our events by going to our website or following us on Instagram.

- **Let's Talk**
  Not sure if therapy is right for you, have a quick question, or want some advice? Jump into a Let's Talk session for a 10-15 conversation with a counselor. No appointment; no commitment! Links available on our website (under *Our Services* in left menu) and on mybelmont announcements.

- **Consultation and Referral Services**
  Interested in Counseling, but not sure what you need? Schedule a consult through the Belmont Health Portal at a time that works for you! A clinician will meet with you and collaborate to make a plan of care that meets your needs.

- **Timely Care**
  BU students have 24/7/365 access to no-cost virtual medical, mental health, and health coaching services offered through mobile app and web platforms.

- **Group Therapy**
  Join your peers in a confidential setting to explore issues like self-compassion, anxiety management, grief, and more!
- **Short-Term Individual Therapy**
  To schedule your first session, make a consultation appointment through the health portal or contact our front office for assistance. Scan the code to learn more about scheduling an appointment.

Looking to schedule an appointment? Students can self-schedule a counseling appointment using the Belmont Health Portal or by contacting our office by phone or email. **If you are in need of immediate assistance outside of our office hours, please contact Campus Security at (615) 460-6911*

Office Location: Gabhart 209 | **Office Hours:** 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday
@belmontcounseling | www.belmont.edu/counseling | 615-460-6856 | counseling@belmont.edu

HOUSING GUIDELINES

All full-time, undergraduate, degree-seeking, unmarried students (without children residing with them) are eligible to live in campus housing. Belmont University requires all full-time, undergraduate students and incoming full-time, undergraduate transfer students with fewer than 60 credit hours to live in campus housing, if available. This rule applies unless the student is:

1) 21 years of age or over by the first day of classes of the fall term;

2) married and/or has children residing with him/her; OR

3) lives with parents, legal guardians, grandparents or siblings over the age of 25 while attending Belmont

All exception requests must be submitted to and approved by the Office of Residence Life.

MINORITY STUDENT-ATHLETE GROUPS

Student-athletes who wish to form minority student-athlete groups should submit their requests to their team's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representative. The team representative will present the request at the next available SAAC meeting for consideration by the committee. Examples of minority student-athlete groups include but are not limited to African American Student-Athletes, Female Student-Athletes, International Student-Athletes, Hispanic Student-Athletes, etc.

STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS

The Department of Athletics selects deserving student-athletes to receive athletic and academic awards in all intercollegiate sports. In order to receive an award, a student-athlete must be of amateur standing and eligible for athletic participation. Additionally, other factors that are taken into consideration are academic standing, observance of training rules, sportsmanship and overall conduct.

Award items are restricted by NCAA regulations to merchandise that can be personalized with the Belmont University logo or even specifications. Awards presented must be uniform for all team members receiving the award. Awards of cash or its equivalent, gift certificates, appliances, television sets and other merchandise that cannot be personalized are prohibited. The NCAA Manual outlines specific regulations regarding awards.

Letter Awards

The following Letter Awards are given to student-athletes who have earned the award through their participation on a team and by recommendation from their coach.

First Year Award - Bruin Blanket
Fourth Year Award - Bruin Ring

To receive a Bruin Ring an athlete must letter two or more years, exhaust eligibility, and graduate. **(Exception:** an athlete comes in as a freshman, competes three years, has a redshirt season, and graduates in his/her fourth year)

Academic and Athletic Awards

Student-athletes may receive awards for outstanding academic and athletic achievement from the University, the Missouri Valley Conference, and the NCAA. In addition to university academic awards, Belmont's Athletic Department sponsors several awards/recognition programs for its student-athletes.

Student-Athlete of the Month: Student-Athlete of the Month honorees are nominated by Belmont faculty, staff, coaches and athletic administrators based on the following criteria: Leadership, integrity, dedication to team, community service, campus involvement, effort and excellence in academics and athletics, and the ability to serve as a role model for current and future Belmont students and student-athletes. Honorees are featured on the athletic department web site.

Bruins Choice Awards: At the end of each spring semester, the athletic department sponsors an Award Show style Banquet to honor the academic and athletic achievements of Belmont student-athletes. Several specific honors are awarded at the annual reception.

Independent Travel Policy

Overview

Student-athletes are required to travel to and from away athletic events with their respective teams when travel accommodations have been arranged by the university. Exceptions may be granted if circumstances warrant. A student-athlete who wishes to request an exception to this policy must provide to his/her head coach details of the circumstances warranting the independent travel. If the head coach approves the request, the student-athlete must sign a Waiver of Liability agreement in advance of the independent travel date and submit it to his/her head coach. If a student-athlete is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also sign the Waiver of Liability.

Upon approval of the request and receipt of the signed waiver, the head coach will notify the Associate Athletic Director for Facilities of the student-athlete's independent travel plans and provide a copy of the signed Waiver of Liability.

Coaches cannot *require* student-athletes to travel independently of team-arranged transportation, nor can they facilitate any voluntary independent travel arrangements. If granted permission to travel independently of team-arranged transportation, student-athletes are responsible for organizing and coordinating their own travel arrangements, except in cases of involuntary independent travel (See *Voluntary vs. Involuntary Independent Travel* below.).

Traveling with Parents

Student-athletes who request permission to travel independently from team-arranged travel in order to travel with his/her parents are *not* required to sign a Waiver of Liability (per Belmont University's Vice President of Administration and General Counsel). The head coach must still approve the request and report it to the Associate Athletic Director. Coaches may choose to have their student-athletes sign the waiver as a way of documenting the independent travel; however, they are not required to do so in these cases.

Traveling to Local Competitions

When a Belmont athletic team competes in an event hosted by another institution at a local venue and the university does not arrange transportation for the team, student-athletes are permitted to travel to the competition site without signing a Waiver of Liability agreement. *The Waiver of Liability is only required when student-athletes requests permission to travel independently of team-arranged transportation.*

Voluntary vs. Involuntary Independent Travel

Voluntary independent travel occurs when a student-athlete is able to travel with his/her team but *chooses* to travel independently of team-arranged transportation. *Involuntary* independent travel occurs when a student-athlete is unable to travel with his/her team as a result of a University or NCAA policy that prohibits him/her from missing class in order to participate in an athletic activity. Examples of such policies include Belmont University's rules governing university representation for students on

academic probation, as well as NCAA Bylaw 17.1.7.9.1, which states that for specified sports, student-athletes cannot miss class time in conjunction with non-championship segment competition, including travel and other pre-/post-game activities associated with the competition.

In cases of voluntary independent travel, student-athletes are responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of the independent travel. Conversely, when circumstances warrant involuntary independent travel, Belmont University will be responsible for the student-athlete's incurred travel expenses. In scenarios involving involuntary independent travel, the head coach may either: 1) make arrangements for an assistant coach or administrative staff member to transport the student-athlete to the competition site; or 2) reimburse the student-athlete for mileage. In order for a student-athlete to receive reimbursement for mileage, he/she must undergo the driver approval process outlined in the Belmont University Driver Safety Policy and must obtain approval to drive *prior to* the involuntary independent travel dates.

All independent travel – whether voluntary or involuntary – must be approved by the head coach. Student-athletes who travel independently of his/her team without seeking head coach approval will not be permitted to participate in the competition for which the travel was intended, nor will they receive reimbursement for mileage.

Independent Travel – Frequently Asked Questions

Scenario #1: The Women's Soccer team competes in a match in Valparaiso, Indiana, for which the head coach arranged transportation for the team via Gray Line Tours. At the conclusion of the match, one of the student-athletes on the team requests permission to ride back to campus with her parents, who traveled to Valparaiso to watch the competition.

Question A:	Can the student-athlete ride home with her parents?
Answer:	Yes, if the head coach grants the student-athlete permission to do so.
Question B:	Is the student-athlete required to sign a Waiver of Liability?
Answer:	No. Although the student-athlete has requested permission to travel independently of team-arranged transportation, she does not need to sign a Waiver of Liability since the head coach is releasing her directly to her parents. The head coach may choose to have the student-athlete sign the Waiver of Liability anyway for purposes of documentation; however, the waiver is not *required* in this instance.
Question C:	What if the same student-athlete invites a fellow teammate to ride back to campus with her and her parents. Is that permissible?
Answer:	Yes, if the fellow teammate requests permission and the head coach grants her permission to do so.
Question D:	Is the teammate required to sign a Waiver of Liability?

Answer: Yes, the student-athlete riding home with her teammate's parents has requested permission to travel independently of team-arranged transportation but is not being released to her parents; as such, she must sign the Waiver of Liability.

Scenario #2: The Men's Basketball team is competing in a multi-day tournament in another state. After one of the games, a student-athlete asks the head coach if he can have dinner with his parents, who have traveled to the tournament site. He also asks if one of his fellow teammates can join him and his parents for dinner. They plan to dine at a restaurant about 10 miles from the hotel where the team is staying.

Question A: Can the student-athlete have dinner with his parents at a location other than the hotel?
Answer: Yes, if the head coach grants the student-athlete permission to do so.
Question B: Is the student-athlete required to sign a Waiver of Liability?
Answer: No. The student-athlete is not required to sign a Waiver of Liability because the head coach is releasing the student-athlete directly to his parents.
Question C: Can the student-athlete's teammate join him and his family for dinner?
Answer: Yes, if the head coach grants him permission to do so.
Question D: Is the teammate required to sign a Waiver of Liability?
Answer: No. Per Belmont University's VP of Administration and General Counsel, this scenario is similar to a university trip in which one or two faculty members travel with a group of students to an event in another city. The faculty members do not supervise the students 100% of the time; they often allow them to venture out into the city to dine, go sightseeing, etc., and simply ask them to return to the hotel or meet at a certain location by a set time. In a similar fashion, the men's basketball head coach can grant the teammate permission to leave the hotel with the other athlete and his parents, so long as they return by a time/curfew established by the head coach.

Scenario #3: The Track & Field team is competing at the OVC Outdoor Championship at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. The head coach has arranged transportation for the team via Grey Line Tours. One of the athletes on the team is from Michigan and would like to depart from Charleston at the conclusion of the meet and head home for the summer break, versus riding the team bus back to Nashville. The athlete requests permission to drive her own vehicle to the meet in order to drive home after the meet concludes.

Question A: Can the student-athlete drive her own vehicle to the meet and then drive home to Michigan afterwards?
Answer: Yes, if the head coach grants the student-athlete permission to do so.

Question B: Is the student-athlete required to sign a Waiver of Liability?

Answer: Yes, the student-athlete must sign the Waiver of Liability in advance of driving independently to the meet. If under 18, a parent or guardian must also sign the Waiver of Liability.

Question C: Can one of the athlete's teammates ride with her to the meet, versus riding on the team bus?

Answer: Yes, if the head coach believes the circumstances warrant independent travel. The teammate would have to present a rationale for the request that the head coach approves.

Question D: Would the teammate be required to sign a Waiver of Liability?

Answer: Yes. Since the teammate riding with the athlete in her personal car has requested permission to travel independently of team-arranged transportation, she must sign the waiver.

Scenario #4: The Softball team is departing at 1:00 pm on Friday for an away competition in Morehead, Kentucky. The head coach has arranged transportation for the team via Gray Line Tours. One of the Softball student-athletes is on academic probation and, therefore, cannot miss class for any university-related functions. Her final class for the day meets from 2:00-2:50 p.m., so she is unable to depart with the team at 1:00 pm. The student-athlete requests permission to drive to Morehead, Kentucky to meet the team after her class ends.

Question A: Can this student-athlete travel independently from the team-arranged travel?

Answer: Yes, if the head coach grants the student-athlete permission to do so. **However, because the student-athlete's inability to travel with the team results from a university policy to attend class, the independent travel request would be considered *involuntary*.** Therefore, the head coach must either make arrangements for one of his staff members or an athletic administrator to transport the student-athlete to the competition site or ask the student-athlete to drive her own vehicle and get reimbursed for her mileage expense. If the head coach chooses to reimburse mileage versus arranging alternative transportation, the student-athlete would be subject to the driver approval process outlined in the Belmont University Driver Safety Policy and could not drive independently until approved by the University. Additionally, she would be required to sign the Waiver of Liability.

Question B: Can the student-athlete's parents or boyfriend transport her to the competition site?

Answer: Yes, if the head coach approves and the student-athlete signs a Wavier of Liability.

Question C: Would the head coach be required to reimburse her parents' or boyfriend's mileage expense?

Answer: No. Belmont University will only reimburse mileage for a student-athlete who undergoes the University's driver approval process.

Question D: Can the head coach deny the student-athlete's request to travel independently, even if involuntary?

Answer: Yes. The head coach can deny the student-athlete's request to travel independently to the away competition. If the student-athlete ignores the coach's ruling and travels on her own anyway, the student-athlete cannot participate in the competition.

Scenario #6: The Baseball team is scheduled to compete at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on a Friday evening during the fall semester. The head coach has arranged transportation for the team via Grey Line Tours. Because the game will occur during the team's non-championship segment of its season, the athletes on the team are not permitted to miss classes in order to compete (per NCAA Bylaw 17.1.7.9.1. The team bus is scheduled to depart campus at 1:00 pm. Five (5) of the team members have afternoon classes that do not end until 3:00 pm and, therefore, will be unable to ride on the team bus to Tuscaloosa. The five (5) student-athletes request permission to travel separately from the team in order to attend their afternoon classes and still be able to compete in the game later that evening in Tuscaloosa.

Question A: Can the five (5) student-athletes travel independently of the team to Tuscaloosa?

Answer: Yes, if the head coach grants the student-athletes permission to do so. **However, because the student-athletes' inability to travel with the team results from a NCAA bylaw prohibiting missed class time for non-championship segment competition, the independent travel would be considered *involuntary*.** Therefore, the head coach must either make arrangements for one of his staff members or an athletic administrator to transport the student-athletes to the competition site or ask the student-athletes to drive their own vehicles and get reimbursed for their mileage expenses. If the head coach chooses to reimburse mileage versus arranging alternative transportation, the student-athletes would be subject to the driver approval process outlined in the Belmont University Driver Safety Policy and could not drive independently until approved by the University. Additionally, they would be required to sign a Waiver of Liability.

Question B: Can the student-athletes carpool, or do they have to drive their own vehicles? Could one of them ride with his girlfriend in her vehicle?

Answer: Yes, the student-athletes may choose to carpool, if they wish. They could also drive individually or ride with a friend who is not a member of the Baseball team. *However, Belmont will only reimburse those student-athletes who undergo the driver approval process and actually drive their own vehicles.*

Scenario #7: The Volleyball team is departing at 12:00 pm on Tuesday for an away competition. The head coach has arranged transportation for the team via Grey Line Tours. A member of the team has an exam scheduled in her Tuesday class that meets at 2:00 pm; as such, she will miss the exam due to the team's departure team. The professor's policy does not allow make-up exams; instead, he allows students who miss an exam to count their final exam score twice. Rather than traveling with the team and missing the exam, the student-athlete chooses to stay on campus to take the exam. Her head coach supports the decision and excuses her from the competition. However, the student-athlete is adamant about competing in the away match and requests permission to drive to the competition site after she completes her exam.

Question A: Can the student-athlete travel independently of the team to the away competition?

Answer: Yes, if the head coach approves the request and the student-athlete signs a Waiver of Liability in advance of the independent travel. If under 18, a parent or guardian must also sign the Waiver of Liability.

Question B: Must the head coach make arrangements for one of his staff members or an administrator to transport the student-athlete to the away competition or, if she drives her own vehicle, reimburse the student-athlete's mileage?

Answer: No. Since the student-athlete *chose* to remain on campus and attend class (even though she was not *required* to do so), and the head coach excused her from the competition, the independent travel is considered *voluntary.* Therefore, the coach is *not* required to provide travel arrangements or reimburse the student-athlete for her travel expenses.

Scenario #8: The Women's Tennis team is scheduled to compete in a tennis match versus the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on a Friday evening in September. The head coach has arranged transportation for the team via team vans. Two (2) of the student-athletes tell the head coach they would like to stay with friends in Knoxville for the weekend in order to attend the U.T. football game on Saturday. They request permission to drive to the match independently of the team-arranged travel.

Question A: Can the two (2) student-athletes drive independently of the team to Knoxville.

Answer: Yes, if the coach grants the student-athletes permission to do so. Both would be required to sign a Waiver of Liability.

Question B: Can the student-athletes remain in Knoxville for the weekend?

Answer: Yes, if the coach agrees to it and does not have required practice activities scheduled the rest of the weekend. Remaining in Knoxville for the weekend would be no different than a scenario in which a student-athlete had the weekend off from team commitments and decided to drive to another city to spend the weekend with friends.

EXIT INTERVIEWS

Exit Interviews are conducted with all student-athletes prior to their graduation date from Belmont University. The purpose of the exit questionnaire is to gather valuable feedback regarding each student-athlete's experiences with the program in which he/she participated and the various support services within Belmont University's athletic department. This feedback enables Belmont University Athletics to evaluate its performance against established goals and continuously improve the student-athlete experience at Belmont. The interview is conducted in questionnaire form with the option to conduct an in-person interview with the Senior Woman Administrator. The Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator, and Faculty Athletics Representative review the exit interview responses, which are compiled and presented in aggregate form to ensure confidentiality.

Compliance Guide

BELMONT COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES

As the university's chief executive officer, the President has final authority for the school's intercollegiate athletics program. This responsibility includes certifying that all Athletic Department policies, programs and activities are in compliance with the NCAA.

Delegated responsibility for the control of the Athletic Department and enforcement of all applicable rules and regulations rests with the Director of Athletics.

Belmont sponsors the following varsity athletics programs:

BASEBALL
BASKETBALL, Men's and Women's
CROSS COUNTRY, Men's and Women's
GOLF, Men's and Women's
SOCCER, Men's and Women's
SOFTBALL
TENNIS, Men's and Women's
INDOOR TRACK, Men's and Women's
OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD, Men's and Women's
VOLLEYBALL, Women's

BELMONT UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMPLIANCE OFFICE

Heather Copeland
Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance
615/460-5486
heather.copeland@belmont.edu

John Langdon
Assistant Director of Compliance and Student-Athlete Development
615/460-5609
john.langdon@belmont.edu

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

This Compliance guide has been prepared to serve as a resource and reinforce the principle that all student-athletes shall have an uncompromising commitment to honesty, honor and dignity of fair play. In providing you with all the support necessary to succeed at Belmont University, it is important that you take advantage of the information in this handbook. Included in this guide is information relating to ethical conduct, awards, benefits, recruitment, amateurism, agents, employment, eligibility, practice and playing seasons and promotional activities. You must make every effort to comply with eligibility rules and regulations. You are asked to be especially careful about accepting any favors, invitations or financial assistance from unauthorized sources. If you have any doubts at all, contact your coach, Athletic Director or Director of Compliance before accepting anything which might be considered an "extra benefit."

Knowing the Regulations

Every student-athlete participating in intercollegiate competition at Belmont University has an obligation to know and abide by NCAA and University regulations. To avoid intentional and inadvertent rules violations, you need to be aware of the rules that govern intercollegiate athletics. All infractions are contrary to our commitment to integrity, impede progress toward competing for conference championships and may jeopardize your eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Intent of the Regulations

The NCAA regulates intercollegiate athletics to maintain integrity, amateur status and sportsmanship. Maintaining, enhancing and improving integrity within intercollegiate athletics helps to protect the physical and educational welfare of the student-athlete. Every regulation is developed with the intent to establish a high standard of honor and dignity within the intercollegiate athletic setting.

GAMBLING & BRIBERY

The NCAA has established specific guidelines concerning involvement in gambling and bribery at the intercollegiate sports level. Student-athletes must be aware of the threat that gambling and bribery pose to the integrity of intercollegiate sports and are also responsible for the following:

- Reporting any offers of gifts, money or favors in exchange for supplying team information or for attempting to alter the outcome of any contest;

- Maintaining a clear understanding of what constitutes gambling and bribery activities and reporting any suspected infractions;

- Contacting a coach or the Media Relations staff member when questions arise concerning the release of team information; and

- Increasing one's awareness that participating in gambling or bribery activities can result in disciplinary actions by the University and the NCAA, as well as local, state and/or federal authorities.

The gambling issue is a serious problem and can have tragic consequences for the student-athlete who may be tempted to engage in such activities. According to NCAA Bylaw 10, student-athletes and staff members of the athletics department shall not knowingly:

1. Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition
2. Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team
3. Accept a bet on any team representing the institution
4. Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value
5. Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card, or any other method employed by organized gambling

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Student-athletes that violate the gambling rules may be subject to the following sanctions:

1. Permanently lose all remaining athletic eligibility in all sports; and/or
2. Loss of athletic scholarship.

In simple terms the above means:

- You may not place a bet of any sort on any college or professional sports event.
- You may not give information to anyone who does place bets on any college or professional sports.

Some examples of non-permissible activities:

- Sports pools run by friends in the dorms.
- Wagers (i.e. cash, shirt, dinner) on ANY professional or college event.
- Fantasy leagues that require an entry fee and award a prize.
- Internet gambling on sports events.
- Sports wagering using “800” numbers.
- Sharing information about injuries on your team, new plays, team morale, or discipline problems to anyone who gambles.

USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS DURING PRACTICE/COMPETITION

The use of tobacco products by a student-athlete is prohibited during practice and competition. A student-athlete who uses tobacco products during a practice or competition shall be disqualified for the remainder of that practice or competition.

AMATEURISM

YOU ARE NO LONGER AN AMATEUR AND ARE INELIGIBLE IN A SPORT IF YOU EVER:

- Use your athletic skill for pay;
- Compete/agree to compete for a professional athletics team;
- Receive pay for endorsing a commercial product/service; or
- Allow a coach, agent, your parents, or anyone to market your athletic ability to a professional team.

AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION

- First year student-athletes must receive final amateurism certification as well as academic certification by the NCAA Eligibility Center to be eligible for competition and athletics grant-in-aid.
- All transfer student-athletes enrolling at an NCAA Division I institution for the first time must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and have their amateur status certified.
- Practice is limited to 45 days for recruited and non-recruited student-athletes awaiting final academic and/or amateurism certification by the NCAA.
- All student-athletes will affirm annually that to the best of their knowledge, they have not violated any amateurism rules since final certification from the Eligibility Center or since the last time they signed the DI student-athlete statement

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY PRIZE

A student-athlete from a member institution selected through a random drawing open to the general public or the student body may receive a prize as part of a promotional activity conducted by the member institution as long as the utilization of his or her athletic ability does not occur (i.e., hitting a half-court shot).

AGENTS AND PROFESSIONAL SPORTS EDUCATION

Agents (who market your athletic ability for professional sports)

Basic Rules

You, your relatives or friends may not:

- Accept money, transportation or other benefits from an agent or "runner".
- Agree orally or in writing to be represented by an agent.
- Agree orally or in writing to have an agent or "runner" market your athletics ability or reputation in that sport.

If you, your relatives or friends violate these rules, you will be ineligible!

Which agents can write to you?

- According to the Department of Athletics' policies all agents are required to register with the Department of Athletics.
- Tennessee Law requires that all agents must register with the State of Tennessee. It is not permissible for agents who are not registered with the Athletics Department and with the State of Tennessee, to contact you. If you have any concerns about an agent who has contacted you, please call the Athletic Compliance Office.

NCAA rules concerning agents:

- PROHIBIT you from agreeing, either orally or in writing, to be represented by an agent or organization in the marketing of your athletic abilities or reputation until after the completion of your last intercollegiate contest, including post season games. This NCAA prohibition includes any agreement that is not effective until after the last game.
- PROHIBIT you or anyone representing you from negotiating or signing a contract to compete in any sport or to market your name or image.
- PROHIBIT you and your relatives or friends from accepting expenses or gifts of any kind (including meals and transportation) from an agent (or anyone else) who wishes to provide you with services.
- PROHIBIT you from receiving benefits or preferential treatment (e.g., loans with deferred pay-back basis) because of your reputation, skill or potential as a professional athlete.
- PROHIBIT you from retaining professional services for personal reasons at less than the normal charge.

Professional Drafts & Inquiry

The following are excerpts from the NCAA Manual concerning any professional drafts.
Inquiry. An individual may inquire of a professional sports organization about eligibility for a professional-league draft or request information about the individual's market value without affecting his or her amateur status.

Draft List. Subsequent to initial full-time enrollment, a student-athlete loses amateur status in a particular sport when the student-athlete asks to be placed on a draft list or supplemental draft list of a professional league in that sport, even though:

(a) The student-athlete asks that their name be withdrawn from the draft list prior to the actual draft;
(b) The student-athlete's name remains on the list but they are not drafted; or
(c) The student-athlete is drafted but does not sign an agreement with any professional athletics team.

Exception – Professional Basketball Draft-Four Year College Student-Athlete. An enrolled student-athlete in basketball may enter a professional league's draft one time during his or her collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league and the student-athlete declares his or her intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 30 days after the draft. The student-athlete's declaration of intent shall be in writing to the institution's Director of Athletics.

RECRUITMENT

Permissible Recruiters General Rule

All in-person, on and off campus recruiting contacts (i.e. written correspondence or phone calls) with a prospect or prospect's relatives shall be made only by authorized institution staff members (coaches, faculty, athletic department, staff members, and administrators). However, a faculty member may contact prospects for recruiting purposes in all sports, but only on campus. Any recruiting contacts made by persons other than authorized personnel are prohibited.

YOUR ROLE IN THE RECRUITING PROCESS

Bruin Expectations

- As a current Belmont University student-athlete, you are a reflection of your team and the entire Department of Athletics. Being part of intercollegiate athletics at Belmont University puts you in a different position then most of your colleagues. As a student-athlete, your actions are scrutinized. Student-athletes in all sports attract special attention because of their status as a Belmont University student-athlete. It is important that you are aware of your unique situation and take appropriate measures to show yourself, your team and Belmont University in a positive light.
- During an official visit, you are a source of information about our campus, the athletic experience and, by example, the type of student-athlete that Bruins are expected to be. If you are asked by your coach or any member of the athletic department staff to host a prospective student-athlete, it is expected that you carefully adhere to the NCAA rules. It is also expected that you treat yourself and others with respect.

Official Visits By Prospects

Student Host Instructions

- If you have been chosen to host a prospect, you may be provided with up to $35 for each day that he/she is on campus. This is entertainment money but it cannot be used to buy souvenirs or memorabilia (e.g. T-shirts, hats).
- You may also be given complimentary admission to accompany your prospect to a campus athletic event.
- If you and your teammates work together in hosting a prospect, only one of you may be given money to entertain; the others must pay their own way.
- Any unused host money must be returned to the Department of Athletics.
- Student-hosts are expected to provide their own transportation. Hosts cannot be provided with university vehicle or coaches car to host a prospect.
- Have fun with the prospect, but remember to be responsible and safe.

Entertainment

- A prospect and up to four family members may be entertained on a scale comparable to that of a normal student and only on campus or within a 30-mile radius of campus on an official visit.

Other Contact With Prospects

- An unofficial visit is made at the prospect's expense. While on campus for an unofficial visit you can talk to the prospect and spend time with them. Any expenses beyond complimentary admissions to a campus athletic event would require the visit to become an official visit.
- Aside from official visits, off-campus, in person contacts between you and a prospect are permissible only if such contacts are incidental and do not occur at the direction of a coaching staff member for recruiting purposes.
- You may contact (email and/or social media) a prospect at any time provided that it is not done at the direction of a coaching staff member or expense of Belmont University. You cannot make telephone calls to prospects if the calls are made at the direction of a coaching staff member or financed by Belmont University or its boosters. You may receive calls from a prospect at any time.

CAMPUS VISIT RECRUITING POLICY

Expectations of Conduct

All student hosts must receive and sign a copy of the "Student Host Receipt/Instructions" prior to the student host assuming any hosting duties. It is the responsibility of the compliance office to review host responsibilities and assure that the host has read, clearly understand and have signed the Host Instructions form. If there are multiple student hosts during a prospect's visit, each host must sign separate Host Receipt/Instructions forms. At the conclusion of the visit, the head coach (or designated coach), student host and PSA must sign the Student Host Receipt/Instructions form.

During the review with the student host and PSA, the head coach will also reemphasize entertainment policies:

- At no time will the host use or permit the PSA to use alcohol and/or drugs during the visit.
- At no time will the host engage in or permit the PSA to engage in gambling activities during the visit.
- All entertainment of the PSA, on- and off-campus, must be reasonable in nature and must occur within a 30 mile radius of campus.

BOOSTERS

A Booster Is Anyone Who:

- Is or ever has been a member of a booster organization that supports Belmont University athletics.
- Made any financial contributions to any arm of Belmont University
- Is or was a season ticket holder
- Has provided or arranged employment for student-athletes
- Has made any annual or lifetime membership commitment to a booster organization
- Has been involved in the recruitment of a prospect
- Has provided benefits to an enrolled student-athletes or their friends or relatives
- Has been involved in promoting Belmont University athletics programs.

Remember…once a booster, always a booster!

Even if someone does not meet the definition of a booster, it does not mean that you can accept extra benefits from them. Receiving benefits from boosters or any person fitting any of the following descriptions would render you ineligible.

Many of the people who are around your team are boosters (e.g. people who hang around the locker room area before or after games, regularly attend practices, travels with the team). Boosters think they

are helping you, but anyone who offers to help you or your family and friends by providing impermissible benefits is going to hurt you by jeopardizing your eligibility.
As a Belmont University student-athlete, you will meet boosters, or supporters of Belmont University's Department of Athletics. As a current student-athlete (unlike when you were being recruited), you can talk to boosters; however, there are rules that govern the interaction between student-athletes and boosters. Breaking those rules may jeopardize your eligibility.

AWARDS and BENEFITS

DEFINITIONS

Award
An award is anything given to a student-athlete based on athletic participation or performance.

Excessive Expense
An excessive expense is an expense not authorized by NCAA Regulations regarding awards and benefits.

Extra Benefit
An extra benefit is an act of charity not authorized by the NCAA that has been provided to a student-athlete, his or her family or friends, by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution's athletic interest (i.e. a booster).

Pay
Pay means receiving funds, awards or benefits. Pay is not permitted for participating in amateur athletics.

EXTRA BENEFITS
As a Belmont University student-athlete, you and your family and friends cannot accept extra benefits. However, you may receive benefits or allowances without violating NCAA regulations as long as the gift or allowance is available to the general student body, their relatives or friends and the gift is not based on athletic ability.

Some examples of extra benefits that you, your family or friends cannot accept are:

- Cash or loans of money
- Signing or cosigning a loan
- Assistance paying bills (e.g., utility bills, rent payments, telephone or cell phone bills)
- Transportation or the use of an automobile
- Hospitality from booster, except for an occasional home meal for you and your team in a booster's home. Your family and friends cannot attend an occasional meal. Such meals must be pre-approved by the Compliance Office. If you have any questions about whether a meal fits the NCAA definition of an occasional home meal please contact the Athletics Compliance Office, 615.460.5486.

What happens if you, your relatives or friends accept an extra benefit?

- You are ineligible to compete.
- We may request reinstatement of your eligibility, but you may be withheld from competition.
- Potential negative publicity for you, your family, your team and Belmont University.

COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS AND TICKET BENEFITS

NCAA RULE

You may receive up to four complimentary admissions to each home and away contest in the sport in which you are eligible to participate, regardless of whether you actually compete in the contest.

Who Can Receive Your Complimentary Admissions?

You decide who receives your complimentary admissions.

Who Can't Receive Your Complimentary Admissions?

You may not give your complimentary admissions to any of the following groups of people:

- Agents or Agents' runners
- Athletics Representatives (i.e., Boosters, Student-Athlete Employers, Donors)
- Prospects or Recruits
- Media
- Public Officials

Those people included on your admissions list must present proper identification and must enter at the designated site. If a name is not on your list, that person will not be admitted.

No Selling Tickets

The complimentary admissions are free to you. They are not "hard tickets" and may not be sold or exchanged for anything of value, whether by you or by a person designated on your list. Such a sale is an extra benefit and will jeopardize your eligibility.

Additional Tickets

If you wish to purchase additional tickets, you must follow the same procedure as the general student body. You may not sell these tickets.

HOUSING AND MEALS

The university is allowed to provide a student-athlete with the following housing and meal related benefits:

- The cost of preseason room and board if the preseason of an athlete's sport begins before the start of an institution's academic year.
- Room and board during vacation periods occurring during the academic year (i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break) when the athlete is required to stay at school to practice or participate in intercollegiate competition.

The university may not provide a student-athlete with the following:

- Either on- or off-campus housing benefits (i.e. stereos, cable, TV, etc.) that are not available to the general student body on the same basis.
- No athletic dormitories or blocks in institutional or privately owned dormitories or apartment buildings may be used to house only student-athletes during days when other institutional dormitories are open to the general student body.

EXPENSES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES' FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

An institution may provide student-athletes' friends and relatives with the following expenses:

- Transportation costs for the student-athlete's parents or legal guardians, spouse and teammates while the student-athlete is suffering from a life threatening injury or illness. If the student-athlete dies, the school may provide the same expenses associated with funeral arrangements.
- The costs and necessary expenses incurred by a student-athlete and his/her spouse, parents and/or other relatives to travel to a recognition event sponsored by an outside organization where the student-athlete is receiving an award permissible by the NCAA regulations for accomplishments in athletics.

The institution or a representative of the institution's athletic interests is not allowed to provide a student-athlete's family and friends with the following expenses:

- Any expenses related to visits made by a student-athlete's family or friends to the school at which he/she is enrolled.
- Friends and family may not receive free admission or meals related to the school's or a booster club's recognition banquet.
- Friends and family of a student-athlete may not receive any other expenses unless permitted explicitly by NCAA regulations.

TEAM ENTERTAINMENT

Permissible Team Entertainment:

Entertainment in Conjunction with Practice or Competition. An institution, conference or the NCAA may provide reasonable entertainment (but may not provide cash for such entertainment) to student-athletes in conjunction with practice or competition.

EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION FOR PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

An institution may provide actual and necessary expenses to a student-athlete to represent the institution in practice and competition (including expenses for activities/travel that are incidental to practice or competition). In order to receive competition-related expenses, the student-athlete must be eligible for competition.

MEAL ALLOWANCE

An institution must provide all student-athletes on the same team with the same meal allowances on team trips. Such an allowance may not exceed the per diem allowed for staff members on similar trips.

OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES PROVIDED BY INSTITUTION

- An institution may pay the actual and necessary expense for a student-athlete to participate in a preseason goodwill tour to promote it athletic program, as long as the tour does not involve more than two student-athletes in the same sports with eligibility remaining and the tour takes place with 100 miles of the institution's main campus if outside the state.
- An institution may provide actual and necessary expenses for local media appearances within a 30-mile radius of the campus.
- An institution may pay actual and necessary expenses for its student-athletes to attend conference-sponsored media days and regularly established local or regional media functions.
- An institution may pay transportation and housing expenses for the spouse, a student-athlete's parents and teammates to be present in situations in which a student-athlete suffers life threatening injury or illness, or, in event of a student-athlete's death, to provide these expenses in conjunction with funeral arrangements.

EXPENSES BY INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THE INSTITUTION

A student may receive transportation expenses to and from a high school where he/she is student-teaching (even if he/she is teaching or coaching a sport) if the high school is in a different city from the one in which the university is located. The following conditions must exist: (a) Receipt of expenses must be permitted by the established guidelines of the institution for other student-teacher trainees, (b) The assigned coaching responsibilities must be part of a supervised, evaluated teacher-training program in which the student-athlete is enrolled, (c) The high school must provide such expenses for all of its student-teacher trainees.

OCCASIONAL MEALS

Student-Athletes may be provided occasional meals by institutional staff members or boosters within the restrictions and provisions of NCAA Bylaw 16. Below is a summary of applicable occasional meal information.

Staff- A student-athlete or the entire team in a sport may receive an occasional meal in the locale of the institution on infrequent and special occasions from an institutional staff member. An institutional staff member may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend such meals.

Boosters- A student-athlete may receive an occasional meal from a representative of athletics interests ("booster") on infrequent and special occasions under the following conditions:
1) The meal may be provided in an individual's home, restaurant, on campus or at a facility that is regularly used for home competition and may be catered; and
2) A representative of the institution's athletics interests may provide reasonable local transportation to student-athletes to attend the meal.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STAFF OCCASIONAL MEALS

- When providing an occasional meal to student-athletes institutional staff members may provide transportation to the meal for those student-athletes participating in the meal.
- Institutional staff member occasional meals must occur in the locale of the institution.

ALL OCCASIONAL MEALS, REGARDLESS OF WHO HOSTS THE MEAL, MUST RECEIVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE ATHLETIC COMPLIANCE OFFICE.

Occasional Meal Approval Forms are available in the Compliance Office.

RETAINING ATHLETIC APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT

At the coaches' discretion, athletic apparel items and used equipment may be kept or purchased by the student athlete.

SUMMER USE OF ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

A student-athlete may retain and use institutional athletic equipment (per the institutions normal equipment policy) during the summer vacation period and during an academic year vacation period.

ATHLETICS GRANT-IN-AID

WHAT IS AN ATHLETIC GRANT-IN-AID (ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIP)

An athletic grant-in-aid (AGIA) is awarded on an academic year basis and may cover up to the full cost of tuition/fees, room, board, and use of books. You are not eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics if you receive financial aid that is greater than the cost of attendance.

AGIA Covers:

- Tuition and fees.
- Room and board.
- Required course-related books.

AGIA DOES NOT Cover:

- Enrollment Fee
- Graduation Fee
- Student Health Insurance
- Extra amounts Bruin Bucks you have requested
- Other fees, including transportation and parking fines, ID replacement and room damages
- Required Belmont University Immunizations

SUMMER SCHOOL GRANT-IN-AID

The NCAA permits summer school grant-in-aid and can only be awarded to those who received athletics aid during the previous or subsequent academic year. This aid is not guaranteed by the Department of Athletics.

FIFTH YEAR EXHAUSTED ELIGIBILITY GRANT-IN-AID

The Department of Athletics makes every effort to financially assist you if you have not graduated by the time you have completed your eligibility. Such assistance is generally recommended by the Head Coach to the Director of Athletics. This is not an automatic benefit. We encourage all athletes to complete their degree in four years.

ATHLETICS GRANT-IN-AID RENEWAL AND REDUCTION

All student-athletes are notified by the Office of Financial Aid of their Athletics Grant-in-Aid renewal status by July 1:

The renewal of Athletics Grant-in-Aid is made on or before July 1 prior to the academic year in which it is to be effective. The institution notifies in writing financial aid was awarded the previous academic year whether the grant has been renewed or not renewed for the ensuing academic year. Notification of financial aid renewals and nonrenewals must come from the institution's regular financial aid authority and not from the institution's athletics department.

Athletics Grant-in-Aid allocations are awarded on a yearly basis. Athletics grant-in-aid may not be reduced or canceled during the period of its award: (a) On the basis of a student-athlete's athletics ability, performance or contribution to a team's success; (b) Because of an injury, illness, physical, mental, or medical condition; (c) For any other athletics reason.

An institution may not set forth an athletically related condition (e.g., financial aid contingent upon specified performance or playing a specific position) that would permit the institution to reduce or cancel the student-athlete's Athletics Grant-in-Aid during the period of the award if the conditions are not satisfied.

Renewal of Athletics Grant-in-Aid is not guaranteed: Student-athlete's fulfillment of responsibilities and expectations in the classroom and/or as a member of the athletics program may affect decisions surrounding renewal of grant-in-aid.

Reconsideration of Nonrenewal: It is permissible for an institution that has notified a student-athlete that he or she will not be provided Athletics Grant-in-Aid for the next academic year subsequently to award Athletics Grant-in-Aid to that student-athlete.

The following procedures govern in cases of athletics grant-in-aid reductions, nonrenewals or cancellations:
The Office of Student Financial Aid will formally notify the student-athlete in writing of its decision to accept the Department of Athletics recommendation regarding the reduction or cancellation of the student-athlete's athletically related grant-in-aid. The letter will provide information on the University's appeal procedures, should the student-athlete wish to appeal the decision of the Department of Athletics.

Scholarship Reduction or Cancellation
Student -athletes who are not fulfilling their academic and/or athletic obligations must be properly warned and provided an opportunity to correct their situation. Student-athletes who do not fulfill the obligations of any applicable rules and regulations may be removed from the team and be recommended for a reduction or non-renewal of their athletics-related aid. The Director of Financial Aid shall notify the student-athlete in writing of the opportunity for a hearing when institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability is reduced or cancelled during the period of the award, or is reduced or not renewed for the following academic year. The appeal shall be made to the Director of Financial Aid.

Athletics aid cannot be reduced or canceled during the period of the award for any of the following reasons:

1. On the basis of athletic ability,
2. Injury preventing participation, or
3. Any other athletically-related reason.

However, institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability may be reduced or canceled during the period of the award if the recipient:

1. Renders himself or herself ineligible for intercollegiate competition;
2. Fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement;
3. Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty
4. Voluntarily withdraws from a sport at any time
5. Receives other institutional or outside countable aid; or
6. Provides written notification of transfer (see Bylaw 13.1.1.3) to the institution; however, the student-athlete's financial aid may not be reduced or canceled until the end of the regular academic term in which written notification of transfer is received. If a student-athlete provides written notification of transfer to the institution between regular academic terms (winter break, summer break) the institution may reduce or cancel the financial aid immediately.

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID

All financial assistance received by a student-athlete must be reported annually and be in compliance with NCAA and Belmont University rules and regulations. Therefore, if you are on an athletics scholarship, it is important that you check with the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and your head coach before accepting additional aid. Your combined athletically- related aid cannot exceed a full grant-in aid. NCAA rules now allow you to receive up to the cost of attendance in other aid. You may be eligible to receive additional assistance from Pell Grant funds. A student-athlete who receives a Pell Grant may receive financial aid, unrelated to athletics ability up to the **cost** of attendance or up to the value of a full grant-in-aid, plus the Pell Grant, whichever is greater.

OUTSIDE PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Outside private scholarships are scholarships you may receive from your high school or booster club before you enroll at Belmont University. Outside private scholarships can also come from other foundations, church or civic organizations. The criteria for these awards can include athletics ability as a major or minor criteria for the awarding you the aid. Regardless of when you receive the aid, all outside private scholarship checks need to be submitted to the financial aid office. Depending on any direct connection to Belmont University of the scholarship agency or donor, the financial aid office will determine if the aid can be credited to your account. The financial aid office will also determine if the aid will affect the team limit. The NCAA has set team and individual limits depending upon the type of aid you have received.

Please be sure to contact the compliance office regarding any outside private scholarships you receive.

Textbook Distribution

Textbooks are distributed to student-athletes in accordance with grant-in-aid stipulations. After registering for the upcoming semester, Academic Support Staff members will pull the schedules of those student-athletes on book scholarships and give to the Office Manager in the Athletic Department. Near the beginning of each semester, those student-athletes on book scholarships will receive an email that their nooks are ready to be picked up. Student-athletes will pick their books up from Bruin Books, located in the FMS building on Delmar Ave (the building behind the Crockett Center). If the student-athlete needs additional books requested by the professor or make a late schedule change, they will come see the Office Manager in the Athletic Department. The Office Manager will notify the Bruins Book rep to place the order for the books. They will receive an email that their nooks are ready to be picked up from the Bruin Books location.

All textbooks issued to student-athletes in accordance with grant-in-aid stipulations are considered property of the Department of Athletics. When a student-athlete finishes with finals and books, they will complete the book buy back with MBS. If certain books are not applicable for the MBS book buy back, then student-athletes must turn in those books to the Office Manager. The instructions for the buyback will be sent to them from the Office Manager in the Athletic Department near the end of each semester and summer if applicable. Textbooks may not be sold to the campus bookstore or any third-party entity. Student-athletes who fail to complete the book buyback will be charged for the cost of their books. Failure to comply could create a hold on your student account and a loss of book scholarship until the process is complete.

International Student Tax

All international student-athletes are subject to pay an International Student Tax to the Internal Revenue Service bi-annually. The Department of Athletics will inform each international student-athlete during each semester of the academic year the amount of tax that will be due.

EMPLOYMENT

NCAA RULE:

NCAA rules do not prohibit legitimate employment for student-athletes.

REQUIRED EMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION

- Before beginning employment, you are required to register your employment by submitting a Student-Athlete Employment Form to the Assistant Director of Compliance.
- You are responsible for letting the Compliance Office know of any changes in your employment status (e.g., quitting your job, getting another job).
- You must register all employment during the academic year and summer.

COMPENSATION

Employment must meet the following requirements in order for compensation to be legitimate

- You are paid for work actually performed
- You are paid at the going rate for the locality
- You register all fee-for-lesson instruction as employment
- You submit a completed Student-Athlete Employment Form.

FEE FOR LESSONS

It is permissible for you to get paid for teaching or coaching on a fee-for-lesson basis, provided:

- You register the job with the Compliance Office
- You do not provide a playing lesson
- You receive payment for the lesson from no one other than the recipient or the recipient's family
- You record the fee for lesson information and submit the form to the Compliance Office

SELF EMPLOYMENT

It is permissible for a student-athlete to establish his or her own business, provided the student-athlete's submits the employment form to the Compliance Office.

Name, Image, and Likeness Policy

1. Belmont University's Name, Image, and Likeness Policy adopts the following provisions of the Tennessee Name, Image, and Likeness Act (Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 49-7-2901-02) as of July 1, 2021.
2. Student-athletes may earn compensation for their name, image, and likeness. Such compensation must be within fair market value. Any compensation or benefit received for their name, image, and likeness must be reported to the University on annual basis.
3. Employees of Belmont University may not compensate a current or prospective intercollegiate athlete for her or his name, image, likeness.
4. Compensation may not be provided in exchange for athletic performance or attendance at Belmont University.
5. NIL compensation opportunities shall not conflict with academic or team related activities (no missed classes, no missed practices, no missed competitions).
6. Any use of University or athletic department related marks and logos in NIL activities, including all aspects of the uniform are subject to Belmont's Brandbook. Belmont Student-Athletes may use official Belmont University or Athletic marks within an NIL agreement. However, Belmont University and the department of athletics reserve the right to deny access to official marks in any and all NIL agreements if deemed necessary. If a student-athlete enters into an NIL agreement with a product that uses official Belmont University or Belmont Athletic marks, the product's company must be officially licensed through Belmont University's licensing partner, Affinity. For more information on Affinity or on how to become officially licensed, please click here.
7. Student-athletes will not be allowed to sell their clothing, shoes, or any other equipment provided to them as the result of being a Belmont student-athlete until they have exhausted their eligibility.
8. Student-athletes will not be permitted to enter into NIL agreements with entities that promote gambling, tobacco, alcohol, and adult entertainment or any activities that are reasonably considered to be in conflict with the values of Belmont University as outlined in the Bruin Guide.
9. A student-athlete cannot enter into a NIL agreement if the agreement conflicts or unreasonably competes with the terms of an existing agreement entered into by Belmont University. If Belmont objects to an agreement, the University must disclose the relevant terms of the agreement that conflicts with the student-athlete's NIL agreement.
10. The duration of a contract for representation of student-athlete or compensation for the use of Name, Image and Likeness may not extend beyond participation in athletic program at institution.
11. Any use of Belmont University facilities in NIL activities must receive the prior written permission of Belmont University Director of Athletics and must comply with current Belmont Event Services' policies related to location agreements, including waiver of liability forms and applicable rental fees.
12. Student-athletes may secure representation (agent or lawyer), ONLY for Name, Image and Likeness and NOT for future professional athletic contract negotiations.
13. An athlete agent representing a student-athlete for purposes of securing compensation for her or his name, image, likeness, or persona must be licensed in the state of Tennessee.
14. An attorney representing a student-athlete for purposes of securing compensation for her or his name, image, likeness, or persona must be a member in good standing of The Tennessee Bar or the state in which they practice.

15. International student-athletes should not enter into any NIL agreements without the guidance from the Belmont University's International Student and Scholars Office to guard against any potential immigrant work restrictions.

NIL Agreement Process

- If a student-athlete wants to enter into a NIL contractual agreement, he or she must fill out and turn in a Belmont University Student-Athlete Employment Form, a NIL Disclosure Form along with the endorsement contract into the Compliance Office **PRIOR** to signing any NIL contractual agreement.
- Once these forms are turned in to the Compliance Office, the Compliance Office has five business days to vet the form and contract to see if there any conflicts with University contracts and policy.
- Once the form and contract has been approved, the student-athlete can sign the endorsement contract.

PRACTICE (ATHLETICALLY RELATED ACTIVITY)

Practice is any required activity with an athletics purpose involving student-athletes and at the direction of, or supervised by, one or more coaches, including strength and conditioning coaches.

Examples include:

- Required setting up of offensive or defensive alignments
- Required activities using equipment related to your sport
- Required lectures on or discussions of strategy related to your sport
- Required discussions or review of game films or videos related to your sport
- Required participation in camps, clinics, or workshops
- Required weight training

Practice is NOT:

- Training table or competition related meals
- Physical rehabilitation
- Medical examinations or treatments
- Dressing, showering, or taping
- Academic study hall or tutoring sessions
- Travel to and from competition
- Voluntary workouts

PRACTICE HOUR RESTRICTIONS

In-Season

During your playing and practice season, practice activities are limited to:

- Not more than 4 hours each day
- Not more than 20 hours each week
- There must be at least 1 day off each week when no practice activities are required. During preseason (before your first competition) and during academic year vacation periods (e.g., Spring Break), these limitations do not apply.

Out-of-Season

Practice activities are limited to:

- Not more than 8 hours each week
- There must be at least 2 days off each week when no practice activities are required
- Up to 4 of the 8 hours may be used for required skill-related instruction

Belmont University Time Management Policy

Belmont University will adhere to the following policy regarding student-athlete time demands along with the proscribed penalties set forth for any violations of the policy. Standards within this policy are a combination of institutional and conference requirements and standards.

In General

A time management plan will be developed and reviewed annually. The plan development and review process will involve, at a minimum, the compliance staff, head coach, at least two student-athletes and the faculty athletics representatives. The student-athlete representatives will be responsible for explaining the plan to their teammates, in detail, at the start of each year.

Definitions

"COUNTABLE ATHLETICS RELATED ACTIVITIES" shall be defined as under NCAA legislation – i.e., any required activity with an athletics purpose that are countable against daily and hourly limitations. Examples include practice, required strength/conditioning activities, film study, walk-throughs, etc.
"REQUIRED ATHLETICS RELATED ACTIVITIES" include any activities (countable or non-countable) that are required of a student-athlete. Examples include compliance meetings, organized team promotional activities, recruiting activities (including student host duties), media activities, fundraising, community service, team-building activities, and team travel.
"DAY OFF" is a day free from all required athletically-related activities with the following exceptions: voluntary activities, health/medical activities, academic activities, and required athletic department life skills programming involving multiple sports. Additional exceptions are defined later in this policy.

Week Schedule

Each week, a two-week schedule that outlines all activities required of the student-athletes for the upcoming week will be distributed to student-athletes via Teamworks.
The weekly schedule must include any and all activities where the student-athlete is required to attend based on their participation in athletics. Such activities include, but are not limited to: practice, conditioning, weight training, competition, travel times, promotional events (including activities conducted by Belmont University Athletics marketing), community service, academic/compliance meetings, recruiting duties (i.e. student host, meals), etc. The schedule does not have to include study hall or athletic training requirements.

The schedule should be formatted from the sport specific declared week to all student-athletes via Teamworks.

Coaches are permitted to schedule out more than two weeks via Teamworks, if they desire.
Any changes to the weekly schedule after it is distributed, require at least 24 hours' notice and should be documented accordingly.

Changes due to emergencies, facility issues, staff illness, or weather issues are exceptions to the 24-hour notice requirement, but must be documented with the compliance office.

Cancellation of activities does not constitute a change requiring 24-hours notice.
Designated Time Off

POSTSEASON BREAK: After the last contest of the championship season, a minimum of seven days off from all athletically related activities will be provided.
Team meetings, unrelated to skill instruction/film/sport performance, are permitted.
Recruiting host duties are permitted as long as they are voluntary on the part of the host.
This designated time off does not include academic obligations, compliance meetings, rehabilitation or other sports medicine requirements.
ADDITIONAL DAYS OFF: An additional seven days off during the academic year must be provided, as determined by the coach.
These additional seven flex days must be provided when classes are in session and are above and beyond the regular weekly day off requirements.
This does not apply to: voluntary activities, required life-skills activities, health/medical activities, academic activities.
Under no circumstances may countable athletics activities (e.g., practice, required strength/conditioning, required film review, walk-throughs) occur on the additional days off, even with prior approval.
OVERNIGHT BREAK: No athletics obligations can be required for an 8-hour period overnight, which includes a late return from away competition.
This does not apply to between days of a multi-day tournament/event, promotional practice activities (e.g., Midnight Madness), voluntary activities, required student hosting duties, required life-skills activities, health/medical activities, academic activities, facility issues, weather issues, and coach illness.
TRAVEL DAY: Generally, a travel day cannot be a day off, with the following two exceptions:
A travel day following away-from-home competition may be considered a day off if the 24 hours immediately following return to campus are free from athletically-related activities.

A travel day prior to away-from-home competition may be considered a day off if the 24 hours immediately preceding departure from campus or immediately following arrival in the locale of the competition are free from athletically-related activities.
PRESEASON DAY OFF: Student-athletes will be provided with one day off per week from all countable athletically related activities during a preseason practice period or during a vacation period when classes are not in session.
Required athletics related activities shall be permitted during these periods. (i.e., team building) Under no circumstances may countable athletics activities (e.g., practice, required strength/conditioning, required film review, walk-throughs) occur on these days off, even with prior approval.

Reporting

Each year, the compliance office will report to the Missouri Valley Conference the additional days off and preseason days off.

Plan and Policy Interpretations

Student-athletes, coaches and support staff should direct all questions regarding implementation and interpretation of this policy to the compliance staff.

Violation of Policy

Strict adherence to the time management policy is expected of all coaches. Monitoring of policy compliance will be the responsibility of all parties, including the compliance staff, coaches/staff, administrators and student-athletes. Violations should be reported to the compliance staff as soon as possible. Individuals reporting violations will be held confidential.

Violations of the policy may result in loss of practice days.

VOLUNTARY WORKOUTS

In order for any athletically related activity to be considered "voluntary," all of the following conditions must be met:

- Request must be made by the student-athlete
- No reporting of information back to Department of Athletics staff members
- No penalty for choosing not to participate in the activity
- No reward for choosing to participate in the activity

Contest

A contest is any game, match, exhibition, scrimmage or joint practice session with another institution's team, regardless of its formality, in which competition in a sport occurs between an intercollegiate athletics team or individual representing a member institution and any other team or individual not representing the intercollegiate athletics program of the same member institution.

Intercollegiate Competition

Intercollegiate competition is considered to have occurred when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution does any of the following:

(a) Represents the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies;

(b) Competes in the uniform of the institution, or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) received from the institution that includes institutional identification; or

(c) Competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, room or entry fees) from the institution for the competition.

Preseason Exhibitions/Preseason Practice Scrimmages

A student-athlete (beyond his or her initial year of enrollment) may participate in preseason exhibition contests and preseason practice scrimmages (as permitted in the particular sport per Bylaw 17) without counting such competition as a season of competition.

FIVE- YEAR RULE

You have five calendar years in which to complete four athletic seasons in a sport. The five-year clock begins when you first enroll as a full time student or first compete at any two- or four- year collegiate institution. These years are continuous. You **do not** regain the time during which you are not enrolled in school. You may be granted an extra year of competition within that five year period if you are ill or injured and meet the criteria of the NCAA for a medical hardship.

A waiver of the five-year rule may be approved in a situation in which a student-athlete did not participate in his or her initial season of intercollegiate competition due to an institutional decision to redshirt a student-athlete when he or she was listed on the institution's squad list and eligible for competition, and the student-athlete was deprived of the opportunity to participate in one other season for reasons beyond the control of the student-athlete or institution.

Hardship Waiver

A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition by the conference or the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for reasons of "hardship." Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from an injury or illness that has occurred under all of the following conditions:

(a) The incapacitating injury or illness occurs in one of the four seasons of intercollegiate competition at any two-year or four-year collegiate institutions or occurs after the first day of classes in the student-athlete's senior year in high school;

(b) The injury or illness occurs prior to the first competition of the second half of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship in that sport **(see Bylaw 12.8.4)** and results in incapacity to compete for the remainder of that playing season;

(c) In team sports, the injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than three contests or dates of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) or 30 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in his or her sport. Only scheduled or completed competition against outside participants during the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship, or, if so designated, during the official NCAA championship playing season in that sport (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number of contests or dates of competition in which the student-athlete has participated and the number of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition in the season, except for scrimmages and exhibition contests that are specifically identified as such in the sport's Bylaw 17 playing and practice season regulations. Scrimmages and exhibition contests that are not exempted from the maximum permissible number of contests or dates of competition may be

excluded from the calculation only if they are identified as such by in the sport's Bylaw 17 playing and practice season regulations; and

(d) In individual sports, the injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than three dates of competition or 30 percent (whichever number is greater) of the maximum permissible number of dates of competition as set forth in Bylaw 17 plus one date for a conference championship (e.g., gymnastics: 13+1=14, wrestling: 16+1=17), regardless of whether the team participates in the conference championship, provided the institution is a member of a conference and the conference holds a championship event in the applicable sport. Dates of competition that are exempted per Bylaw 17 (e.g., alumni contests, foreign team in U.S.) from the maximum permissible number of dates of competition do not count toward the number of dates in which the student-athletes has participated.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Department of Athletics encourages student-athlete participation in community service and promotional activities which benefit worthy causes. Community service is an element of life which fosters positive growth and development and as an avenue for the student-athlete to 'giveback' to a supportive community. Per NCAA Bylaw 12, the Department of Athletics is required to submit written approval for all student-athletes participating in any charitable or non-profit activities considered incidental to participation in intercollegiate athletics.

According to NCAA Legislation, Belmont University student-athletes can participate in charitable/ non-profit activities only under the following conditions:

1. The student-athlete does not miss class;
2. The student-athlete receives written approval from the Director of Athletics (or designee);
3. All monies derived from the activity will go directly to the charitable/non-profit agency;
4. The specific activity in which the student-athlete participates does not involve co-sponsorship, advertisement, or promotion by a commercial agency;
5. The student-athlete may only accept legitimate and normal expenses such as meals and travel from the institution or charitable/non-profit agency;
6. The student-athlete signs the Student-Athlete Appearance Form prior to the activity;
7. The student-athlete's name, picture, or appearance is not utilized to promote the commercial ventures of the agency.

Please note: Student-athletes must submit the Student-Athlete Appearance Form for review and approval prior to participation in such activity.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES (COMPETITION, PRACTICE, TRYOUTS)

Individual & Team Competition Requests: You must complete the Outside Competition Form and receive approval from your head coach and the Compliance Office prior to participation in outside competition during the academic year per NCAA rules.
Missed Class Time: You should not miss class time to engage in outside activities.
Exceptions: Contact your coach or the Compliance Office regarding exceptions to NCAA rules governing outside activities (e.g., outside competition with a team, unattached competition, tryouts for national or Olympic team, etc.).

A student-athlete in any sport other than men's basketball may not participate on an outside team during the academic year without losing their eligibility. The only time a student-athlete can participate on an outside team is during an official vacation period as listed on the academic calendar in the university catalog/bulletin. Student-athletes who choose to participate on an outside team during a published holiday cannot exceed the institutional limits set forth in bylaw 17.32.
Baseball…….4; Basketball*…..2; Cross Country……2; Golf……..2; Soccer……5; Softball……..…..4; Tennis……..2; Track……..7; Volleyball……2

Please note that soccer, field hockey and volleyball may participate on outside teams after May 1st as long as the competition is approved by the Director of Athletics, the institutional limits are followed and no class time is missed. (Volleyball is confined to outdoor, sand or grass doubles tournaments)

***Basketball** student-athletes are not allowed to participate on any outside teams except during the summer on teams in NCAA certified leagues. Please check with the Compliance Office prior to participating on an outside team in basketball to assure that the league you will be participating in is NCAA certified.

TRANSFER PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

STUDENT-ATHLETES LEAVING BELMONT UNIVERSITY
Notification of Transfer

The student-athlete will notify the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance their intention to transfer in writing using the Roster Status Change and Notification of Transfer Form. This must be received via email or in person. The Compliance Office will enter his or her information into the national transfer database within two business days of receipt of the Roster Status Change and Notification of Transfer Form.

The Head Coach will complete the Head Coach Only section on the Roster Status Change and Notification form. The student-athlete will receive a copy of this form once the Head Coach and Compliance Office have completed their respective section. This form will serve as notification of the status of athletic aid and other athletic resources. Also, as notification of the appeal process in regards of non-renewal of athletic aid.