

Francis Marion University



STUDENT-ATHLETE D2 HANDBOOK 2024-2025



Patriot Athletics
#SwampEm

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS (843-661-xxxx)

Athletic Director	Murray Hartzler	1237
Assoc. AD for Communication Services	Michael G. Hawkins	1222
Assistant AD for Compliance/Student Welfare	Andy Slocum	1503
Assistant SID/Internal Operations Director	Jesse Soles	4649
Cheerleader Advisor	Lanell Timmons	1240
Chaplain	Donald Jackson	1128
Director of Facilities and Event Operations	Hunter McGee	4627
Faculty Athletic Representative	Dr. Allen Clabo	1457
Head Athletic Trainer	Kinsey Dunst Nelson	1358
Sports Medicine/Asst. Athletic Trainer	Morgan Krug, Michelle Reeves, Emma Longley	1358
Director of Sports Performance	Deon Edwards	1243
Senior Woman Administrator, D&I designee	Stacey Vallee	1238
Sports Information Intern	TBA	1834
COACHES		
Acro & Tumbling Head Coach	Brittany Rueb	1247
Baseball Head Coach	Jeff Jefferson	1242
Baseball Asst. Coaches	Matt McCarty, Tyler Bender	4624
Basketball Head Coach (Men's)	Jacob Zehnder	4626
Basketball Asst. Coaches (Men's)	Alex Birge, Patrick Paul	1811
Basketball Head Coach (Women's)	Jeri Porter	1249
Basketball Asst. Coaches (Women's)	Sharee' Boyd, Ryan McGee, Ahlea Myers	1803
Cross Country & Track (Men's & Women's)	Mark Bluman	1239
Golf Head Coach	Mark Gaynor	1352
Soccer Head Coach (Men's)	Luis Rincon	1241
Soccer Asst. Coaches (Men's)	Kevin Martin, Pablo Terminiello, Fredy Hernandez	1245
Soccer Head Coach (Women's)	Sam Holmes	1244
Soccer Asst. (Women's)	Toni Worley	1248
Softball Head Coach	Stacey Vallee	1238
Softball Asst. Coach	Jessica Scroggins	4623
Tennis Head Coach (Men's & Women's)	TBA	1185
Volleyball Head Coach	Lauren Baufield-Edwards	1246
Volleyball Asst. Coaches	Courtney Abdur-Rahim	1246
OTHER DEPARTMENTS		
Admissions Office		1231
Campus Police		1109
Campus Recreation	Derrick Young	1186
Campus Technology		1335
Cashiers Office		1596
Center for Academic Success and Advisement	Dr. Deon Evans	1678
Career Development (1676), Tutoring Center (1715), Writing Center (1528)		
Computer Center Help Desk		1111
Counseling & Testing Center	Dr. Will Hunter	1840
VP of Student Affairs	Latasha Brand	1229
Dining Services		1260
Financial Aid		1190
Housing Office		1330
Health Services (UC 217)		1844
Mailroom		1337
Registrar's Office		1175
Rogers Library		1300
VP for Administration (Title IX Coordinator)	Dr. Charlene Wages	1146

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Philosophy and Purpose of the Intercollegiate Athletics Program

In accordance with the mission of Francis Marion University, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is an integral part of the institution providing high quality, comprehensive athletic programs accessible to all university students, personnel, and the outside community. The department provides a comprehensive program of personalized learning and development to each of its student-athletes in keeping with the NCAA Life in the Balance initiative, thus complementing the University's academic and global citizenship mission and ensuring that each student athlete progresses to graduation. Student-athletes at FMU choose to engage in the high-level of competition provided by its affiliations with both the Conference Carolinas and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II. Student-athletes are personally responsible to achieve outcome goals associated with Division II philosophies. These goals include balance, learning, passion, resourcefulness, community service, and sportsmanship. Upon graduation from FMU, each student-athlete will leave the University with broader experiences, skills, and knowledge as resources for the future.

The Department of Athletics at Francis Marion University further strives to develop and maintain strong levels of mutually-beneficial support with FMU students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, friends, corporate partners, and the general public. To do so, each team designs and implements community engagement projects each year, encourages an environment of academic success, and provides a high-level, passionate sports competition in an intimate and friendly setting.

The department offers coaching and supervision which encourage sportsmanship and emphasize amateurism, while enhancing the physical and emotional well-being and social development of student-athletes. The department strives for competitive excellence while stressing academic success, reflecting a clear understanding of the educational support role of athletics in the broader mission of the institution. The policies and actions of the Athletic Department personnel continually strive to ensure that the best interests of the university, its administration, financial assistance, faculty, staff, students and student-athletes, are well served.

Mediating Circumstances

All sanctions within the student-athlete handbook can be amended due to mediating circumstances. A student-athletes' previous conduct, circumstances, surrounding a violation of athletic department policy, willingness to accept responsibility, and student-athletes willingness to be educated to become a positive role model all will be taken into consideration.

Disclaimer

The provisions of this student-athlete handbook are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and Francis Marion University. Francis Marion University reserves the right to change any provision or requirements anytime within the student-athletes' term of residence.

NOTE: For purposes of brevity in this entire document, the word conference will refer to Conference Carolinas.

CALENDAR

FALL SEMESTER

2024

Housing opens for new students and continuing students	Aug. 16-18
Open Registration	Aug. 19
Drop/Add & Late Registration	Aug. 20-23
Classes Begin	Aug. 19 (4:30 PM)
Labor Day University Closed-NO CLASSES	Sept. 2
Last day to apply for graduation for Fall Semester	Oct. 1
Advising & Pre-Registration	Oct. 23-Nov. 1
Fall Break, NO CLASSES	Nov. 4-5
Last day to withdraw from a course	Nov. 10__
Thanksgiving –NO CLASSES (campus open Nov. 27)	Nov. 27-29
Classes End	Dec. 2
Reading Day	Dec. 3
Final Exams	Dec. 4-10
Final day to pay fees for pre-registered students for spring	Dec. 12
Commencement	Dec. 13 & 14

SPRING SEMESTER

2025

Housing opens for students	Jan. 5-6
Open registration	Jan. 6
Classes Begin	Jan. 7
Drop Add/Late Registration Ends	Jan. 7-10
MLK, Jr. Day- NO CLASSES	Jan. 20
Last day to apply for graduation for Spring Semester	TBA_
Priority deadline for housing applications and deposit for Fall	Mar. 5
Spring Break- NO CLASSES	Mar. 10-14
Advising & Pre-registration (summer & fall)	Mar. 19-28
Last day to withdraw from a course	Apr. 10
Classes End	Apr. 21
Reading Day	Apr. 22
Final Exams	Apr. 23-29
Commencement	May 2 & 3

LATE SPRING TERM

2025

Last Day to Register	May 5
Classes Begin	May 6
Classes End / Exams	May 22

SUMMER I TERM

2025

Last Day to Register	May 26
Classes Begin	May 27
Classes end/ Exams	June 30

SUMMER II TERM

2025

Independence Day University Closed	July 4
Last Day to Register	July 7
Classes Begin	July 8
Classes end/ Exams	Aug. 11

(subject to change)

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

DECLARING A MAJOR

All student-athletes must officially declare their major by the 3rd year (5th semester) of full-time enrollment (including semesters spent at any other college), except Division I. student-athletes, who must declare his/her major by their 2nd year (3rd semester) of full-time enrollment. A student-athlete must declare his or her major with the department that he or she wishes to major in and notify the Compliance Director in writing when changing majors. Failure to do so can result in; becoming ineligible, future scholarship reductions, or even removal from intercollegiate participation at FMU.

DROPPING CLASSES

All student-athletes must complete a university withdrawal form and have the Compliance Director sign off on it before dropping a class. Failure to do so can result in immediate removal from athletic participation and cancellation of a student-athlete's athletic grant-in-aid. Student-athletes cannot drop below 12 hours enrolled if they wish to remain eligible for practice and competition.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Satisfactory completion prior to each fall term of a cumulative total of academic semester hours equivalent to an average of at least 12 hours during each of the previous terms in the academic years in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full-time in a term or terms; or
2. Satisfactory completion of 24 semester hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or proceeding regular two semesters. Classes repeated do not Count.
3. A minimum of 18 hours of academic credit must be earned since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the preceding regular two semesters.
4. Fulfillment of Minimum GPA Requirements for Division II
 - A. Must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA after completion of 24 hours, 48 hours, and 72 hours.
5. After student-athlete's fourth semester of full-time attendance at any college, a minimum of 24 credit hours must go to his/her designated degree program to be eligible for the next academic year.
6. Fulfillment of Minimum GPA Requirements for Division I
 - A. A student-athlete who is entering his or her second year of collegiate competition shall present a cumulative minimum grade point average that equals at least 90% of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation.
 - B. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate competition shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average that equals at least 95% of the institution's overall minimum cumulative grade-point average required for graduation.
 - C. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth or fifth year of collegiate competition shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average that equals

at least 100% of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation.

7. Satisfactory completion of nine semester hours each academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full-time at any collegiate institution.
8. Repeated courses (meaning classes that were previously passed and not failed) may only be used once in satisfying progress towards degree legislation.
9. Incomplete grades must be removed and have a letter grade in order for that grade to be used for progress toward degree legislation.
10. Carryover grades cannot be used for progress towards degree legislation. A student-athlete would need to register for that course again and complete it in the following semester.
11. Fulfillment of Percentage of Degree Requirements for Division I
 - A. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed at least 40% of the course requirements in the student-athlete's specific degree program.
 - B. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed at least 60% of the course requirements in the student-athlete's specific degree program.
 - C. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fifth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed at least 80% of the course requirements in the student-athlete's specific degree program.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Any student-athlete who graduates and enters into graduate school with eligibility remaining will be required to pass 6 credits each semester and be in good academic standing with their respective program to be eligible to practice and compete.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION

Student-athletes receive priority registration which is the first day of advising/pre-registration (**Oct. 23, 2024 for Spring 2025 and March 19, 2025 for Fall 2025**). Each student-athlete **must bring a signed note/schedule** from his/her advisor showing his/her class schedule to the athletic office in order to register.

AWARDS

Swamp Fox Academic Award

This award is given to the student-athlete with the highest academic average after having completed a minimum of five semesters at FMU. In addition, must have lettered twice in their respective sport prior to the nominating year, before being eligible for this award.

Frankie Awards

Nominated by coaches and voted on by a committee from the Athletic Department.

CHI ALPHA SIGMA

National College Athletic Honor Society. Must be a junior or senior academically and have a 3.4 cumulative GPA or higher. Must be of high moral character and be nominated by your head coach.

Conference Carolinas Awards

These are awarded for athletic, academic, sportsmanship, and community service achievements. All awards and their criteria may be viewed at <https://conferencecarolinas.com/sports/2020/5/14/AwardWinners-home.aspx>

Swamp Fox Athletic-Academic Honor Roll

Must have achieved a 3.0 GPA in the preceding Fall or Spring semesters.

Team Awards

Each team chooses a MVP.

Senior Plaque

A senior plaque will be presented to a student-athlete who is classified as a senior and/or has exhausted their college eligibility.

Division II Athletic Director's Association Academic Achievement Awards

For students who have completed at least two years of college-level work at a 2 or a 4 year college, who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and have been an active member of a intercollegiate team during the last academic year.

Coaching Academic All-District/All-America Programs

Each sport coaching association has its own post-season awards program. Student-athletes will be nominated upon achieving certain qualifications.

CSC Academic All-District/All-America Program

Nominations made by the SID, and voting by SIDs. Must be a starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.50, and have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings.

Ray E. Thames Memorial Raise the Roof Award

To a letterwinning student-athlete in at least their third semester at FMU that supports his/her own squad and the entire FMU athletic program, has an above average grade point average, is active in community service, and supports FMU events outside the realm of athletics.

Mark Haselden Sportsmanship Award

CONDUCT OF STUDENT ATHLETES

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ATHLETES

The purpose of intercollegiate athletics is to provide an opportunity for student-athletes to develop their potential as a skilled athlete in an educational setting. Francis Marion University is a highly visible and successful NCAA, Conference Carolinas, and Southland Conference intercollegiate athletic program.

Particularly young children will look upon student-athletes as role models, and it is important that personal conduct be above reproach at all times.

Public exposure in the competitive arena and the media make student-athletes one of the most visible groups in the community. Student-athletes are often highlighted, placing one in a public position, which requires exemplary behavior. By joining an intercollegiate team, you become a representative of not only your team, but of Francis Marion University as well. As such, conduct detrimental to the team (and to FMU) can occur through various means of communication media (e.g., inappropriate postings on social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter).

Francis Marion University student-athletes are totally responsible for their own behavior and are expected to obey the law, rules, and regulations of state, federal and the university authorities. Student-athletes should be prepared for the sanctions and penalties that result from violations.

Behavior has a definite impact on the reputation of the athletic department and on the attitude the community has toward the athletic program.

HAZING

The Francis Marion University Department of Athletics will not tolerate any acts of hazing. Hazing is any act committed against someone joining or becoming a member or maintaining membership in any organization that is humiliating, intimidating or demeaning, or endangers the health and safety of the person. Hazing includes active or passive participation in such acts and occurs regardless of the willingness to participate in the activities. Hazing creates an environment/climate in which dignity and respect are absent. Refer to the FMU Student Handbook for further guidelines. Hazing can be reported to the Director of Athletics, head coach, Senior Women's Administrator, Faculty Athletics Representative, or the Dean of Students.

HONESTY

Honesty is a fundamental concept that should be of primary importance to everyone who has the privilege of being a part of the university. Be honest with your coaches, teammates, professors, etc. Cheating and plagiarism in the classroom are serious offenses not to be taken lightly and have serious consequences.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Developing good sportsmanship requires an effort on your part. Compete hard, but play fair. Unsportsmanlike conduct in others never justifies retaliation with unsportsmanlike conduct on your part. In addition, always be courteous to and cooperative with fans, officials, and community members.

UNETHICAL CONDUCT

Unethical conduct may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Furnishing false or misleading information to the NCAA or FMU officials
- Refusal to furnish information relevant to an investigation of a possible violation of an NCAA regulation when requested to do so
- Knowing involvement in arranging for fraudulent academic credit or false transcripts for a

- prospective or enrolled student-athlete
- Receiving illegal benefits from FMU employees or boosters
- Using banned drugs or providing to other student-athletes banned substances/supplements
- Cheating on academic work
- Failure to provide complete and accurate information to the NCAA, NCAA eligibility Center or FMU regarding an individual's academic record or amateur status
- Engaging in any athletics competition under an assumed name or with intent to deceive
- Fraudulence or misconduct in connection with your entrance or placement exam

Francis Marion University Policies and Procedures

Student-athletes are subject to the same academic, financial, and non-academic rules and regulations as the regular student body. Student-athletes are encouraged to refer to the **2021-22 Francis Marion University Student Handbook** for specific rights, policies, and procedures.

Key rules and regulations as they relate to the routine operations of the Department of Athletics including athletic facilities.

1. Confidentiality of Student Records: All records of students and former students of the university are protected under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1232g), and Rules of Education. Basically, this means that:

Non-directory information will be shared only with the faculty and staff who have a legitimate need to know. Should you be a dependent, your parent(s) or guardian has access to the university's official records.

Directory information can be released without an student-athlete's prior written consent:

- Name of Student
- Major field of study
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Dates of attendance
- Degrees and awards received
- Previous educational agency or institution attended (most recent)
- Heights and weights of athletic teams
- Names of parent or guardian
- Home addresses
- Telephone numbers
- Occupation

2. Change of Address: Student-athletes are expected to notify the following of any change of home (permanent) and local mailing addresses and phone numbers within 24 hours.

- Department of Athletics-Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Welfare;
- Team coach; and
- Office of the Registrar.
- Also please inform Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Welfare on any summer addresses that you reside at. Consequences resulting from misdirected or official university communications not received are the responsibility of the student-athlete.

3. Vehicle Registration: All passenger cars, motorcycles, and trucks operated on

Francis Marion University property must be registered with Campus Police. Any student driving a vehicle while attending FMU is required to communicate the make, model, and license plate number with the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Welfare.

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE PLEDGE

As a student at Francis Marion University, I pledge to obey the FMU Honor Code and civil and criminal laws. I pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal. I will encourage others to respect the Honor Code and will exhibit reasonable judgment in reporting students who violate it.

Link to FMU Honor Code:

<https://www.fmarion.edu/student-services/#1568919918098-608b5ad7-ebe3>

DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION

Francis Marion University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, or veteran status in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliatory complaints regarding harassment.

Dr. Charlene Wages
Vice President for Administration (Title IX Coordinator)
P. O. Box 100547
Florence, S.C. 29502-0547
105 Stokes Administration Building
Tel. No. 843-661-1146

Harassment is unwelcome offensive conduct, written, verbal, or physical, that occurs when a reasonable person would find that such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational, work, or living environment. A hostile environment is created when speech and/or actions are so severe, persistent, or pervasive as to limit or deny one's ability to participate in or benefit from an activity or educational program.

The University procedures are intended to protect the rights of both the complainant and the accused, protect privacy, and prevent retaliation. Unwelcome behavior that may be construed as discrimination or harassment should be reported. However, intentionally false allegations will not be tolerated and may result in sanctions. The University is obligated to investigate any reports of discrimination or harassment and will consider action as warranted.

No one may be subject to restraint, interference, coercion, reprisal, or retaliation for seeking information about discrimination or harassment, bringing a good faith complaint, or serving as a witness.

This policy is not intended to infringe on the rights of members of the Faculty to exercise academic freedom within the framework of the teaching and learning environment of the University.

The full FMU Sexual Misconduct (Title IX) Policies & Procedures document may be found here: <http://www.fmarion.edu/about/sexualmisconduct>

SEXUAL VIOLENCE / HARASSMENT

It is the policy of FMU, in keeping with efforts of the Dean of Students Office, to maintain an environment in which the dignity and worth of all employees and students of the University are respected, that sexual violence/harassment of students, employees, and visitors to the University is unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated. Sexual violence/harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either sex against a person of the opposite or same sex. As a place of work and learning for students, faculty, and staff, FMU must be free of all forms of sexual intimidation, exploitation, violence, and harassment. All community members should be aware that the University does not condone such behavior and is prepared to take action to prevent and correct such behavior. Individuals who engage in sexual violence/harassment are subject to disciplinary actions which may include, but are not limited to, oral or written warnings, demotions, transfers, suspension without pay, or dismissal for cause or sanction under the student Code of Conduct.

Sexual violence/harassment is a form of sex discrimination that is prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for employees and under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 for students. The South Carolina State Human Affairs Law also prohibits sex discrimination. Students should immediately contact the Vice President for Student Affairs or the Vice President for Administration (Dr. Charlene Wages). Any faculty or staff member receiving a complaint of sexual violence/harassment should seek the advice of the Vice President for Administration.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

FMU must adhere to all NCAA Policies and best practices. The athletic department wants to build 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. We also want to create an environment in which students (athletes and non-athletes alike) feel safe and secure, both emotionally and physically, and are free of fears of retaliation or reprisal. The positive culture exuded by a member institution's NCAA teams is the catalyst for a positive culture across an entire campus. FMU must attest annually that:

1. All incoming, continuing and transfer student-athletes will complete 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 and/or ability to participate in athletics as determined by Francis Marion University Athletics.
2. FMU will take 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, Francis Marion University will share relevant discipline information regarding any Title IX proceedings with other member institutions when a student-athlete attempts to enroll in a new college or university as a result of transfer from FMU

3. FMU choosing to recruit an incoming student-athlete or a transfer student-athlete will gather information from the former institution(s) to put the FMU 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.

Further, the athletics department will cooperate with university investigations into reports and matters related to sexual and interpersonal violence involving student-athletes and athletics department staff in a manner compliant with Francis Marion University policies for all students.

Failure on the part of the student-athlete to adhere to these guidelines, and dependent on findings, FMU may cancel the scholarship or dismiss a student-athlete from all FMU intercollegiate programs.

Conference Carolinas Sportsmanship Statement

The Presidents, Faculty Athletics Representatives, Athletics Directors, Senior Women Administrators and coaches in the conference are committed to maintaining sportsmanship and healthy competitive environments. The conference will strive to promote environments that are hospitable; the conference does not believe that it is desirable to create a hostile environment for intercollegiate athletic contests. The members believe that part of the mission of intercollegiate athletic programs, within an educational context, should be to set an example for students and communities of how to act with sportsmanship and respect for opponents.

Therefore, Conference Carolinas expects all participants to treat opponents and officials with respect. Failure to do so may lead to penalties. Trash talking, taunting, baiting, celebrations that demean opponents, vulgar or profane language, intimidating actions, fighting, attempts to injure, and any other malicious or violent conduct may be penalized by contest officials and/or the conference. At the same time, the conference has no desire to take away the joy and exuberance that naturally occurs following an exciting play or contest. Rather, the intent of the conference is to encourage sportsmanship and honest competition.

Student-athletes will sign a Conference Carolinas Student-Athlete Pledge of Sportsmanship Form prior to the start of their season, and this form will be kept on file in the FMU Department of Athletics.

MEDIA AND PUBLICITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Associate Athletic Director for Communication Services (Sports Information Director)

Positive promotion and publicity are important to a successful athletic program. As an athletic representative at FMU, there are some obligations in dealing with members of the mass media. The Sports Information Director (SID) and the Public Affairs Office (SAB 101) are available to assist you in dealing with the members of the mass media.

Although members of the media have the direct telephone numbers of the coaching staff, the SID will attempt to have members of the media arrange interview requests with student-athletes ahead of time through his office. The SID is available to assist student-athletes with media interviews. The SID attempts to fulfill all hometown media requests for information. If your local hometown media requests information or a photograph, please contact the SID.

The SID is responsible for screening all music to be played at University sporting events.

In Case of an Accident or Crisis

In the case of a serious accident or a crisis situation, refer all questions from the media to your head coach or the sports information director.

UNIVERSAL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT RULES

It is assumed that the Francis Marion University students who participate in intercollegiate athletics will conduct themselves in a manner befitting representatives of the University and abide by practices that enhance their personal health as well as their skills in sports.

Students representing Francis Marion University in intercollegiate athletics shall not act in a manner contrary to regulations of the University nor the policies of the team. Because of the demanding nature of sport as well as the privilege of participation, and in an effort to make clear the conduct expected in athletics and procedures which will be followed in case of misconduct, please be alerted to the following:

1. Meet all academic responsibilities, including regular class attendance and the completion of all assignments in a timely manner. Class absences will be limited to days that are missed due to intercollegiate competition.
2. Meet regularly with faculty advisors. Student-athletes are responsible for knowing and understanding all academic requirements to maintain eligibility and to graduate.
3. Alcohol consumption by minors is prohibited. At no time should an athlete consume alcohol when representing the University at any team function (e.g., travel, meetings, and practice). Any violation will result in the implementation of the Athletic Department Alcohol Policy.
4. The use of tobacco products is prohibited per NCAA rules concerning practice and competition.

5. Drug activity (buying, selling, using) of any nature is strictly prohibited. Any violation will result in the implementation of the Athletic Department Drug Policy.
6. Student-athletes are expected to be on time to all classes and athletic department events.
7. Hazing of any type is strictly forbidden per university and athletic department policy.
8. Acts of misconduct can lead to immediate suspension from the program. Student-athletes are expected to obey the rules and regulations of FMU and the Conference, as well as local, state, & federal law.
9. Profanity is strongly discouraged. Each team should have guidelines regarding profanity.
10. Student-athletes are required to travel with their teammates to and from all activities. The only exception is if prior written permission is obtained from the student's parent/guardian and submitted to the head coach before the date of the contest. This process is necessary because of legal and liability issues and is designed to protect the student-athlete and FMU.
11. Student-athletes must report any injury or illness to the sports medicine department.
12. Student-athletes must attend practice even when injured unless given permission to miss by the head coach.
13. Student-athletes must attend all prescribed therapy sessions when injured.
14. Student-athlete are subject to the department of athletics policies from the first day of classes following their initial enrollment at FMU to their final day of enrollment. This includes summer months in-between academic years. All student-athletes are required to report to the Director of Athletes any incident involving law enforcement authorities (including FMU Public Safety) where a citation or warrant is issued, within two business days. This includes any incident that occurs when school is not in session starting with the student-athletes' first day of enrollment.
15. Student-athletes have a responsibility to adhere to team rules as provided by the head coach and the athletic department. These rules are important and can affect the status of a student-athlete (i.e., suspension or dismissal from team).
16. Student-athletes must follow all protocols established for infectious diseases (including COVID-19).
17. Student-athletes must receive written permission for the FMU Compliance Office before participation in any outside competition. This includes summer teams, tournaments, completion breaks in academic calendar or alumni games.
18. You can face possible punishment, including dismissal from a team, if you provide misleading, false, or erroneous information on any official form with the University while

a student at the institution, or you do not report any pending criminal charges, or report any convictions of criminal offenses.

Student-Athletes are subject to additional NCAA, Conference, Francis Marion University, the Athletic Department, and team policies during their tenure at Francis Marion University. Student-Athletes are responsible to acquaint themselves with the rules and regulations of each unit and when concerns or questions arise to take the initiative and get the answers.

Penalties for infringement of the above rules shall be determined by the athletic department and University policy where applicable, and may range from warning to immediate and/or permanent dismissal.

All decisions directly related to team performance (e.g., playing time, position, traveling squad, training, curfew, appearance, and conduct) are the responsibility of the head coach. Student-athletes who have not received a copy of their teams' rules should obtain a copy.

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND MEDIA USE POLICY (7-1-2014)

The Francis Marion University Department of Athletics recognizes and supports its student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of online social networks. In this context, however, each student-athlete must remember that playing and competing for Francis Marion University is a privilege, not a right. As a student-athlete, you represent the University and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the University in a positive manner at all times. Any online postings must also comply with federal government, state of South Carolina, Francis Marion University, Conference, and National Collegiate Athletic Association rules and regulations.

It is incumbent upon student-athletes to be aware of University regulations regarding social networking sites. Ignorance of these regulations does not excuse student-athletes from adhering to them.

Guidelines for Student-Athletes

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for student-athletes to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a student-athlete at Francis Marion University, you must keep the following guidelines in mind:

1. Everything you post is public information - any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online - even if you limit access to your site or later delete the item.
2. Use caution when adding someone or inviting someone to be a friend. Many individuals are looking to take advantage of student-athletes, to get close to student-athletes to give themselves a sense of membership, or to gain information about you, your teammates, or your team for the purposes of negative publicity.
3. Limit the posting of personal information like your home address, local address, phone number, birth date, as well as your whereabouts or your plans. This will help to minimize the potential of becoming a victim of criminal activity.
4. Be aware that many employers, graduate schools, and scholarship committees often review social networking sites as part of your overall evaluation as an applicant. What you post may negatively affect your future. Protect yourself by maintaining a positive

image and carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before posting any information.

5. You are responsible for ANY and ALL material on your site –including content posted on your site by other individuals and the individuals/sites you follow or like.

6. Four Things to Keep in Mind

- a. It's a tool, not a toy
- b. Nothing is truly private.... Ever
- c. If you retweet it (or share it), you own it
- d. Personal branding: Every tweet reflects who you are

Prohibited Conduct

The Department of Athletics will not tolerate inappropriate content and behavior online. This may include but is not limited to: partial or total nudity, underage consumption of alcohol, hazing activities, tobacco use, obscene gestures, derogatory statements or vulgar language. This also includes the retweeting of inappropriate content, inappropriate behavior portrayed in photographs or video while subjects are wearing team apparel or FMU apparel and the establishment of any “false” social network accounts. “Team” pages or any social network site that appears to be associated with FMU or the athletic department which are constructed by student-athletes without the approval of the Director of Athletics are prohibited. Student-athletes should refrain from contacting prospective student-athletes via social networking sites who may be considering attending FMU (i.e. posting a wall message to a prospect’s facebook account).

Sanctions

Any inappropriate activity or language in violation of the above guidelines is subject to investigation and possible sanctions by Francis Marion University, the Athletic Department, and civil authorities. Sanctions imposed by the Director of Athletics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Written notification from the Director of Athletics to the student-athlete outlining the policy and requiring that the inappropriate content be removed within 24 hours or the social network profile deactivated.
- Temporary suspension from the team until prescribed conditions are met.
- Suspension from the team for a prescribed period.
- Indefinite suspension from the team

Student-athletes are required to sign an agreement to this policy at the beginning of each academic year in order to be eligible for competition.

ELIGIBILITY

AMATEURISM

To remain eligible athletically, the most important thing to remember is not to endanger your amateur status. It is essential that you check with your head coach or the Director for Compliance before making decisions regarding outside athletic participation.

The following are NCAA guidelines for maintaining your amateur status:

You cannot, within your sport:

1. Accept payments or a promise of payments (in cash, prizes, gifts, or travel) for participation, even if such pay is to be received following completion of athletics participation.
2. Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to compete in professional athletics.
3. Enter into an agreement with an agent (either orally or in writing) to represent him/her in future negotiations prior to or following initial full-time enrollment.
4. Use your athletic skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport.
5. Compete on any professional sports team, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received.
6. Receives directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a pro sports organization based on athletics skill or participation.
7. Participate on teams other than those fielded by FMU during the declared traditional and nontraditional playing seasons (this includes exhibition or tournament games).
8. Accept such things as gifts, meals, loans of cars, or money from athletic booster groups or people within the athletic program at the University.
9. Receive any benefit that is not available to other students at the University.
10. Accept any remuneration for or permit the use of your name or picture to advertise, recommend or promote directly the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind, or receive remuneration for endorsing a commercial product or service through the individual's use of such product or service.

EXTRA BENEFITS

Student-athletes at FMU are not to receive any extra benefits from coaches, alumni, boosters, etc. These individuals are known as "athletic representatives."

The FMU Department of Athletics is responsible for the control and conduct of the intercollegiate athletic program, and this responsibility includes accountability for the acts of its "athletic representatives." Once an individual has been identified as an "athletic representative," that identity is forever and is governed by the same NCAA and FMU rules and regulations as our athletic staff members.

Questions concerning benefits, gifts, and services that have been offered to a student-athlete should be reported to the head coach, the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Welfare, or the Director of Athletics immediately.

A benefit is not a violation if it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the general student body.

A. Benefits That Are Not Permissible

- Reimbursement for travel to practice or to competition
- The use of an automobile by an athletics' representative
- A loan of money from an athletics' representative
- An athletics' representative signing or cosigning a note with an outside agency to arrange a loan
- Special discounts, payment arrangement, or credit on a purchase (e.g. airline ticket, clothing) or a service (e.g. laundry/dry cleaning) from either an athletics' representative.
- Telephone or credit card usage for personal reasons without charge or at a reduced cost
- Housing benefits such as stereo equipment, room furnishings, etc. which are not available to the general student body
- Use of Athletic Department phones for personal phone calls. Emergency calls may be made; yet always get permission from your coach or a staff member of the Athletic Department before using for such purposes.
- Services (e.g. movie tickets, dinners) from commercial agencies (e.g. movie theaters, restaurants) without charge or at reduced rates, or free or reduced-cost admissions to pro sports events from pro sports organizations
- The acceptance of athletics equipment, supplies or clothing (e.g. tennis racquets, golf clubs) from a manufacturer or commercial enterprise free or at a discounted or reduced price

GAMBLING AND BRIBERY

As a student-athlete, you may at some point be in a position to be involved in a gambling or bribery situation. It is important to realize that participation in gambling interests, even in the most minor fashion, can jeopardize your athletic career as well as have effects on the entire FMU athletic program.

It is important that you follow these guidelines:

1. Report to your coach or Director of Athletics if you are approached or aware that a teammate has been approached by someone trying to alter the outcome of a contest.
2. The NCAA requires that you report any individual who offers gifts, money, or favors in exchange for supplying information or attempting to alter the outcome of a contest.
3. There are legal implications involved with gambling. Being involved in such activities can result in expulsion from the University as well as a violation of federal, state, and local anti-bribery laws.

The following activities may render a student-athlete ineligible or result in severe disciplinary action:

1. Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletic competition.

2. Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate or professional team.
3. Engaging in activities designed to influence the outcome of a contest in an effort to affect the win-loss margin (e.g. point shaving)
4. Accept a bet on any team representing the institution.
5. Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate or professional competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value.
6. Sell complimentary tickets to anyone.
7. Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card, the internet, fantasy leagues (where an entry fee is required and/or there is an opportunity to win a prize), pools, or any other method employed by organized gambling (i.e., NCAA Basketball Tournament bracket, Super Bowl pool).

OUTSIDE COMPETITION

Alumni and summer league games - Due to the complexities of these rules, each student-athlete must contact the FMU Compliance Office with any questions. NOTE: Most of these types of games are prohibited. Therefore, ineligibility could result by participating in any of these types of contests unless it has been pre-approved by the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Welfare.

Student-athletes will lose eligibility if they participate on any outside team during the academic year. Penalties can range in severity, and ineligibility may be for an entire year or entire educational career.

FMU NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS (NIL) POLICY

1. Student-athletes at the Francis Marion University may earn compensation for their name, image, or likeness (compensation can come in the form of money, goods or services).
2. Francis Marion University institutional faculty or staff members cannot be involved in arranging NIL agreements, contracts, appearances, gift-in-kinds and/or compensation for an intercollegiate athlete or providing compensation themselves.
3. Athletic boosters may create or facilitate NIL compensation opportunities to current and prospective student-athletes provided those deals are not used as a recruiting inducement or inducement to remain enrolled for current student-athletes at Francis Marion University.
4. NIL activities must occur outside of participation in academic, athletic, or Francis Marion University sponsored activities.
5. A student-athlete's scholarship awarded by the Francis Marion University is not considered compensation and may not be revoked or reduced because of a permissible NIL agreement.
6. A student-athlete's compensation earned may be used in the calculation for need-based financial aid available to the general student population based on federal guidelines, and therefore, could impact the amount of need-based aid a student-athletes is awarded.
7. The use of Francis Marion University facilities, uniforms or Francis Marion University intellectual property, including but not limited to, the unauthorized use of registered trademarks or products protected by copyright for NIL activities is prohibited. Student-athletes may be allowed to use some Francis Marion University facilities, uniforms, and/or intellectual property with the prior written approval of the Francis Marion University Athletics Department and Compliance Office. Student-athletes may autograph and sell officially licensed memorabilia that includes University marks that is purchased by the student-athletes.
8. Francis Marion University retains all rights to content produced or published by the University or associated entities. This includes all video, pictures, articles or social media posts produced by athletic department or university. These can be used only with prior written consent from the Francis Marion University Athletics Department and Compliance Office.
9. All NIL activities must be disclosed through the seven days prior to the activity and signing of a contract. All in-kind deals (deals not involving monetary compensation) should be submitted as soon as the deal is agreed upon. A prospective student-athlete who enters into a name, image, or likeness contract shall disclose the name, such contract to the athletic department prior to enrollment or signing a financial aid agreement with Francis Marion University.
10. Name, image, or likeness contracts to be authorized must have a prominent disclosure of the name, image, or likeness contract that a student-athlete must acknowledge. The disclosure required pursuant to this section shall be worded to warn the student-athlete of potential eligibility issues that may exist under rules and policies of athletic conferences or the NCAA concerning the use of the student-athlete's name, image, or likeness.
11. Due to federal guidelines, student-athletes attending Francis Marion University on an F-1 visa are encouraged to contact International Student Services prior to participating in any name, image, likeness activities. To date (July 1, 2021), US Customs and Immigration Services (UCIS) has not provided guidance regarding NIL legislation. However, it appears that F-1 students will not be eligible to benefit from NIL compensation as regulations state that they cannot be employed in the US without authorization.

12. Student-athletes may secure representation such as an agent or marketing representative for NIL activities. The prior guidelines on professional representation stay in place and student-athletes may not secure representation for future professional athletic contract negotiations. The contract cannot extend beyond a student-athlete's participation in an athletic program at Francis Marion University.
13. All athlete agents representing student-athletes from Francis Marion University must comply with federal and state regulations surrounding athlete agents and their activities.
14. If an athlete agent is an attorney, then he or she must also be a member in good standing of all state bar associations the athlete agent is a member of.
15. Francis Marion University may prohibit an student-athlete from using his name, image, or likeness for compensation if the proposed use of his name, image, or likeness conflicts with:
 - (a) existing institutional sponsorship agreements or other contracts; or
 - (b) institutional values as defined by the institution of higher learning.
16. This is the list of prohibited categories for Francis Marion University student-athletes
 - Tobacco
 - Alcohol
 - Substances Illegal in South Carolina
 - Activities illegal or prohibited by federal, state or Francis Marion University laws/guidelines
 - Substances illegal in South Carolina or Banned NCAA athletic substances
 - Gambling, including but not limited, to sports betting.
17. Failure to abide by these student-athlete name, image and likeness guidelines may result in loss of privileges and other sanctions as appropriate, including but not limited to verbal or written reprimand, probation, loss of practice privileges, loss of competition privileges, suspension, dismissal from the program, loss of eligibility.

EQUIPMENT ISSUE

All student-athletes are responsible for all equipment (practice gear, uniforms, etc.) that is issued to them. If a student-athlete leaves the team for any reason all equipment must be returned within two business days. Uniforms are to be turned in to be cleaned immediately after each contest, home or away. At the end of each semester during the academic year, student-athletes will be notified what equipment must be returned. Student-athletes that do not return equipment will have a charge placed on their account for the replacement costs. During mandated breaks, student-athletes are not allowed use of FMU equipment per NCAA policy and South Carolina state policy.

FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

ATHLETIC GRANT-IN-AID

A full athletic grant-in-aid, as described by NCAA regulations, is restricted to room, board, tuition, fees, and course-related textbooks and supplies.

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID

Institutional financial aid includes scholarships, grants, employee dependent tuition benefits, loans, aid awarded through an established outside program that recognizes outstanding high school graduates in which athletics participation may be a criterion, tuition waivers, and government and private grants for which FMU determines the recipient and the amount of aid. Please make sure your coach and the Director for Compliance are aware of such aid.

FINANCIAL AID RECEIVED OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

If you anticipate receiving funds from outside the University (other than from parents or legal guardians), then these funds must be reported to the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Welfare and the Director of Financial Assistance.

TERM OF AWARD

FMU athletic scholarships are only for ONE academic year (per NCAA rules). The scholarship can be reduced, or not renewed, after the academic year for any reason.

RENEWAL, NON-RENEWAL, OR REDUCTION POLICY

Student-athletes are to be notified by July 1 before the academic year regarding the renewal, non-renewal, or reduction of their athletic grant-in-aid. Reasons for non-renewal or reduction of a student-athlete's athletic grant-in-aid may include, but are not limited to, the following actions of the student-athlete:

- Rendering himself or herself academically ineligible for intercollegiate competition.
- Give false information on FMU application, letter of intent, athletic paperwork, sexual violence attestation, financial aid agreement, or medical documentation as it relates to past or present injuries or illnesses/conditions.
- Engages in misconduct warranting disciplinary penalty.
- Voluntarily withdraws from the sport.
- Violation of athletic department policy, team rules and/or practice regimen.
- Not reporting an athletic injury to the sports medicine department prior to the next countable athletic activity; not reporting a non-athletic injury or illness within 72 hours of suffering; and/or missing treatment/rehabilitation sessions.
- Sustaining an injury outside of a Francis Marion University countable athletic related activity that results in either inability to perform or diminished athletic performance.
- Failure/refusal to participate in athletic contest, practice or any countable athletic-related activity (or making only token appearances as determined by the institution) when called upon to do so by the coaching staff, when cleared by the athletic training staff and/or team physician.
- Engaging in activities at athletic training, practice, contest or other sites that are harmful to the student-athlete or to others.
- Violation of standards of good sportsmanship as identified by the conference and the NCAA.
- Destruction or defacement of institutional property.
- Conduct that violates athletic department and/or institutional rules or regulations.
- Conduct that violates Conference or NCAA rules.

Non-renewal or reduction based on items listed above must be documented by the coaching staff and/or another institutional staff member as they occur. Documentation shall include the name of the student-athlete and the date and circumstances of the infraction. The head coach must provide the student-athlete with notification (verbally or written) prior to the conclusion of the award verifying that the student-athlete was made aware of the potential reduction or cancellation of athletic grant-in-aid for the subsequent academic year (or semester).

Athletic grant-in-aid can be reduced or not renewed after the term of the award due to playing ability. The head coach must provide the student-athlete with notification (verbally or written) prior to the conclusion of the award verifying that the student-athlete was made aware of the potential reduction or cancellation of athletic grant-in-aid for the subsequent academic year (or semester).

If the student-athlete believes that the reduction or non-renewal of the grant-in-aid is unjustified, he or she is entitled to a prompt hearing.

CANCELLATION OF ATHLETIC GRANT-IN-AID DURING ACADEMIC YEAR

FMU can reduce or cancel a grant-in-aid during the period of the award if the student-athlete:

- Rendering himself or herself academically ineligible for intercollegiate competition.
- Give false information on FMU application, letter of intent, athletic paperwork, sexual violence attestation, financial aid agreement, or medical documentation as it relates to past or present injuries or illnesses/conditions.
- Engages in misconduct warranting disciplinary penalty.
- Voluntarily withdraws from the sport.
- Violation of athletic department policy, team rules and/or practice regimen.
- Sustaining an injury outside of a Francis Marion University countable athletic related activity that results in either inability to perform or diminished athletic performance.
- Failure/refusal to participate in athletic contest, practice or any countable athletic-related activity (or making only token appearances as determined by the institution) when called upon to do so by the coaching staff, when cleared by the athletic training staff and/or team physician.
- Failure to report an athletic injury to the sports medicine department prior to the next countable athletic activity; not reporting a non-athletic injury or illness within 72 hours of suffering; and/or missing treatment/rehabilitation sessions.
- Engaging in activities at athletic training, practice, contest or other sites that are harmful to the student-athlete or to others.
- Violation of standards of good sportsmanship as identified by the conference and the NCAA.
- Destruction or defacement of institutional property.
- Conduct that violates athletic department and/or institutional rules or regulations.
- Conduct that violates Conference or NCAA rules.

The grant-in-aid cannot be reduced or cancelled during the period of the award based on an injury, illness, or for athletic performance.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

If a student-athlete believes the decision to cancel, reduce or terminate the athletic grant-in-aid is unjustified, he or she may request a hearing:

1. To appeal a decision of the Athletic Department, the student-athlete must notify Francis Marion University in writing within 14 days from the date of the letter notifying him/her of the University's decision with regard to transfer or scholarship. The letter of petition should be addressed to the attention of the Provost, SAB 115, Francis Marion University, P.O. Box 100547, Florence, SC 29502-0547.
2. The Provost or designee will convene a Special Appeals Committee to consider the matter within 30 days from receipt of the petition. The three voting members of the committee will include:
 - one faculty member appointed by the Provost;
 - one faculty member appointed by the Faculty Chair;
 - the Dean of Students or his/her designee.The Provost/designee will moderate the meeting but will not vote.
3. The student-athlete may bring a member of the University community to the meeting for the sole purpose of offering support and unobtrusive advice. A person attending in this capacity may not address the panel.
4. During the meeting, both the Athletic Director and the student will be given an opportunity to explain their positions, to answer questions from the committee members, and to make final statements. The two parties will not direct questions to each other. The Provost/designee will notify the student and the Athletic Director in writing within 7 days of the committee's decision.
5. Per NCAA rules, the decision of the committee is final.

NCAA REGULATIONS

PLAYING AND PRACTICE LIMITS

The NCAA limits the amount of time a student-athlete can be involved in “athletically related activities.” Athletically related activities are any required activity with an athletics purpose and at the direction of, or supervised by coaches and must be counted under the daily and weekly limitations

GENERAL GUIDELINES (IN-SEASON):

1. You are allowed to participate in “countable athletically related activities” for 4 hours/day and 20 hours/week. The following are countable activities.
 - A. On-court (field, floor, etc.) activity
 - B. Setting up offensive or defensive alignment
 - C. Chalk talk
 - D. Lecture or discussion of strategy
 - E. Activities using equipment related to the sport
 - F. Review or discussions of game films
 - G. Activities conducted under the guise of PE class work (any class composed primarily of members of an intercollegiate team on a required attendance basis)
 - H. Competition or practice (including walk-throughs)
 - I. Required weight training and conditioning activities
 - J. Participation in individual skill-related instructional activities with a coach
 - K. Required participation in camps, clinics, or workshops
 - L. Individual workouts required by the coach
 - M. Visiting the competition site in cross country or golf
 - N. Meeting required by the coach (non-administrative), including individual or end of season meetings.
 - O. On-court or on-field activities called by any member or members of a team and confined primarily to members of that team that are considered as requisite for participation in that sport (e.g., captain's practices).
2. You must have one day off per week with no related activities (travel can be a day off).
3. Competition counts as 3 hours regardless of the actual duration of competition.
4. Daily and weekly hour limitations do not apply during an institution’s official vacation period or semester break. A student-athlete shall not participate in any countable related activity nor any voluntary athletically related activity on campus on Election Day in November and for a seven-consecutive calendar-day period from Dec. 20-26 per NCAA rules.
5. No missed class time for practice activities is allowed per NCAA rules

The following are not countable activities:

1. Physical rehab, taping, or medical exams/treatments
2. Study hall or tutoring sessions
3. Meetings with coaches or other athletics personnel on non-athletic matters, including Champs Life Skills, SAAC or Compliance meetings
4. Team travel
5. Visiting the competition site in sports other than cross country and golf.
6. Participation in regular PE classes that are open to all students

7. Voluntary individual workouts (e.g. weight training, and sport-related activities), including use of the university's facilities provided they are not supervised by a coach
8. Individual meeting with a coach initiated by you
9. Recruiting activities (i.e. student host)

GENERAL GUIDELINES (OFF-SEASON):

1. Maximum 8 hours/week for weight training and conditioning
2. Only 4 of these hours can be used for on-court (floor, field, etc.) skill instruction and/or team activities.
3. There are a required two days off per week.
4. Sports that have a non-traditional season have 24 days to practice or play contests in a 45 day window with a maximum time limitation of 15 hours per week.
5. Summer workouts on one's own are voluntary, which means the student-athlete is not required to partake in the activity or to report back to the coach on any participation.
6. All countable athletically related activities outside of the playing season are prohibited one week prior to the beginning of the final exam period through the conclusion of the final exams.

STUDENT-ATHLETE FORUMS

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is a forum for the student-athletes to have input on various issues involving athletic policies and practices, NCAA proposed legislation, concerns of their teammates, and issues raised during the year by the Director of Athletics. Each member institution has a link to the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee through the Conference Carolinas SAAC. The Conference Carolinas draws a representative from each of its member schools. Within FMU, two student-athletes are selected from each of the 12 sports to represent their teammates at scheduled meetings throughout each school year. This enables the student-athletes of FMU to have an active voice within the NCAA, CC, and FMU legislative and administrative processes.

EXIT INTERVIEW

All student-athletes completing their eligibility are given exit interviews at the conclusion of that academic year. The purpose of these interviews is to determine how student-athletes feel about their experience at FMU, the strengths and weaknesses of the program, and to assess areas of concern that need to be addressed in the future.

SPORTS MEDICINE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM

In general, morning hours are reserved for rehabilitations and evaluations, with the afternoons being focused on pre- and post-practice treatments. **Pre-practice starts one hour prior to practice and post-practice is immediately following practice as needed.** Morning rehabilitation, treatment, and evaluation hours are **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. All appointments must be scheduled ahead of time via Athletic Trainer System (ATS). See below for instructions as to how to schedule an appointment. No appointments are needed for pre- and post-practice treatments and taping. Needing pre-practice treatment is **NOT** a reason to be late to practice. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to allow enough time to get treatment or to communicate with the athletic training staff if they have class right before practice. **It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate in advance if they need to change an appointment.**

The athletic training room is a medical facility and will be treated as one. The athletic training room is not meant for social hour. Additionally, no horseplay, profanity, or use of video/picture-based social media is permitted. Athletic training room usage is a privilege that can be revoked if procedures are not followed.

ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM (ATR) RULES

- Appropriate attire: fully clothed in athletic attire
 - No white spandex, compression shorts, or sports bras while in ice bath
 - No jeans or leggings if being seen for a lower body injury
 - No flip flops, slides, Crocs, or Uggs for rehab
- Ice bath requirements: must have shoes, a towel, and arrive fully clothed; must be scheduled in advance
- No cleats, spikes, muddy, or grassy shoes in the ATR
- No shoes on any table
- No photos, videos, social media, phone calls, or Facetiming while receiving treatment/doing rehab
- Personal bags and belongings must be placed in a storage bin or in the locker room
- Athletes must shower before receiving treatment after practices and competitions
- Athletes must sign out of the ATR after each session
- No self-treatment; only an AT can provide treatment
- No student is allowed to get OTC medication out of the cabinet
- It is the responsibility of the student athlete to report all physical injuries, as well as, mental health concerns to the AT staff as soon as they occur
- Appointments for rehabilitation and treatment with an AT must be kept. Late arrivals and missed sessions will be reported and will result in disciplinary action
- Towels in the ATR will not be used for personal use
- Headphone/airpod use must be approved by AT
- All ace wraps, braces, crutches, boots, etc... must be returned once no longer needed

Review additional rules posted in the Athletic Training Room.

CONTACT INFORMATION

University Center Athletic Training Room

Email: FMUSportsMedicine@fmarion.edu

Phone: (843) 661-1358

Fax: (843) 661-4645

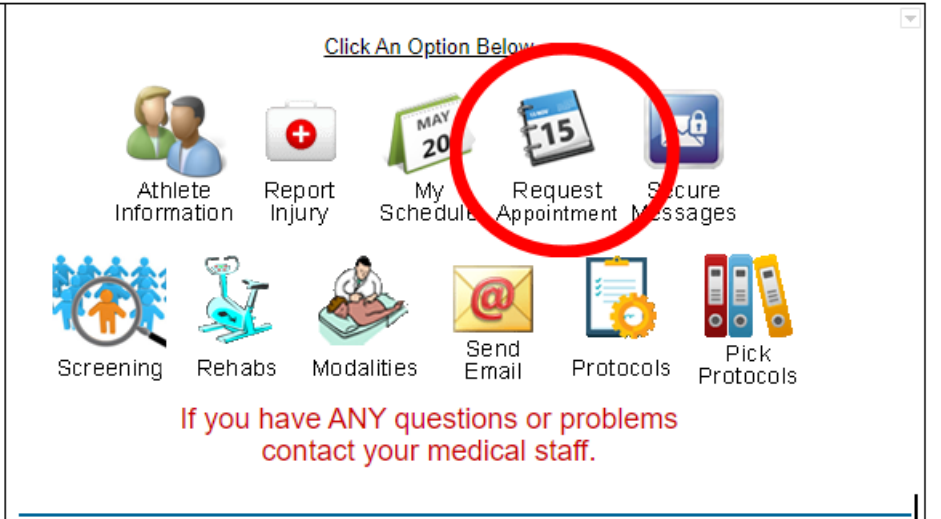
Instagram: @FMUSportsMed

Website: <https://fmupatriots.com/sports/2020/7/22/sports-medicine-sports-medicine-page.aspx>

ACCESSING ATS

Making an Appointment

All appointments in the Athletic Training Room (ATR) outside of pre-practice/post-practice treatments must be made through Athletic Trainer System (ATS) using any internet-compatible device. This is the same system in which annual pre-participation paperwork will be completed and where insurance information can be updated as necessary. Appointments can be made with any athletic trainer.

<p>Website: msm2.atsusers.com</p> <p>Athlete ID: Student ID Number</p> <p>Password: Unique to you</p> <p>Database: atsmasm (this should automatically be entered)</p>	<p>Click An Option Below</p>  <p>If you have ANY questions or problems contact your medical staff.</p>
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Steps for Making an Appointment

1. Log-in to your ATS account via the link above
2. Click the “Menu” button on the top of the page
3. Click the “Request Appointment” Icon
4. Select the date for the appointment
5. Choose your desired time slot and enter the reason for your appointment in the note section at the bottom of the page
6. Click “Send Request”

PARTICIPATION WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION

Any student-athlete who participates in supervised workouts, practices, and/or a contest without a physical exam and without having been cleared by the FMU Athletic Training Staff will be responsible for any injuries or medical liabilities that occur. **Any injuries that result will be the legal and financial responsibility of the coach and the individual student-athlete.** No student-athlete will be eligible for participation until all required athletic training paperwork has been completed and received by the athletic

training staff. All pre-participation physical exams must be completed with the FMU team physicians and scheduled through the FMU Athletic Training Staff.

INJURY/ILLNESS REPORTING

The sports medicine staff is the primary and the initial contact for student-athletes to report all athletic injuries and illnesses, no matter the severity. All injuries must be reported to the sports medicine staff within 24 business hours. This includes the reporting of any possible concussion or COVID-19 symptoms. Delaying notifying us of an injury may result in prolonged recovery time and/or further injury. **Failure to report an injury to the Sports Medicine Staff may also result in the student-athlete being responsible for any medical bills that may be incurred. FMU cannot guarantee secondary insurance coverage if an injury is report more than 72 hours following occurrence.**

In addition, the sports medicine staff should be the first point of contact when feeling ill and/or when wanting to see student health. If a student-athlete goes to the emergency or urgent care, whether athletics-related or not, it is their responsibility to report it to the Sports Medicine Staff.

In the event of an emergency or medical problem outside athletic training room hours, contact the athletic training staff for necessary assistance. If unable to contact the athletic training staff, call Campus Police for assistance at (843) 661-1109.

TREATMENT OF INJURY AND ILLNESS

All treatment and rehabilitation activities are the responsibility of and directed by the athletic training staff under the supervision of the Head Athletic Trainer and team physician. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to meet all their treatment and rehabilitation requirements. **Missed appointments, tardiness, and/or non-compliance with treatment and rehabilitation is the same as missing or being late to a practice or training session.** Student-athletes are expected to continue treatment until told by the sports medicine staff that their treatment is completed. In some cases, this may occur after the student-athlete has returned to participation. Unless otherwise requested by the FMU AT Staff or Team Physician, all treatment and rehabilitation will take place on-campus in the athletic training room. Rehabilitation and treatment services that occur off-campus without prior approval will be the financial responsibility of the individual student-athlete.

REFERRALS

For some injuries, referral outside of the athletic training room may be necessary for further evaluation, imaging, treatment, etc. All referrals will be made by the FMU Athletic Training Staff or Team Physicians.

Self-referrals are NOT PERMITTED. If a student-athlete is seen by a physician without referral from the FMU Athletic Training Staff for an injury or illness related to their participation in FMU Athletics, FMU will not be responsible for any incurred medical costs. Additionally, a written note from the outside physician stating that the student-athlete is cleared to participate in inter-collegiate athletics will be required before the student-athlete is permitted to return-to-participation. The University reserves the right to require the student-athlete to be seen by our physicians to get final clearance to return-to-play.

SECOND OPINIONS

If an athlete desires a second opinion, the financial responsibility falls fully upon the athlete and his/her parents. Furthermore, if a student-athlete receives a second opinion outside the FMU team physician system, it is his/her responsibility to request that a copy of the results of that opinion be sent to the athletic training office. No follow-up care can be provided before the appropriate medical records are received. A student-athlete will not be permitted to return to participation following a visit with an outside physician without written documentation that they are cleared for athletic participation.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITION/INJURY

A pre-existing injury is an injury that occurred prior to your time as a student-athlete at FMU or that occurred while participating with an outside organization over a school break. FMU will not be financially responsible for any pre-existing injuries, illnesses, or conditions.

CONCUSSION POLICY

Francis Marion University has developed a concussion policy based on the National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement, as well as the National Collegiate Athletic Association concussion recommendations. Francis Marion University has implemented the most up-to-date guidelines for recognition, evaluation, treatment, and return-to-play for an athlete who has sustained a concussion. The complete FMU Concussion Policy can be found in the Pre-Season Sports Medicine Paperwork on ATS and on the Sports Medicine website.

If a concussion is suspected, the student-athlete will be immediately removed from participation and evaluated. **It is required that the student-athlete accurately and honestly report a possible concussive injury and any symptoms associated with the injury.** Any athlete suspected of having a concussion will not be allowed to return to sports until cleared by a team physician or designee. Below is a list of common signs and symptoms of a concussion. It is important to remember each individual will present differently, even when the same individual suffers from a repeat concussion.

*Signs and symptoms of a concussion include but are not limited to:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Forgets plays or demonstrates short-term memory difficulties (e.g. unsure of game, opponent)
- Exhibits difficulties with balance, coordination, concentration, and attention
- Answers questions slowly or inaccurately
- Demonstrates behavior or personality changes
- Inappropriate emotional response
- Is unable to recall events prior to or after the hit or fall
- Headache/"pressure" in head
- Balance problems and/or dizziness
- Changes in vision (double, blurry)
- Sensitivity to light and/or sound
- Feeling tired, foggy, slowed down
- Difficulty concentrating
- Confusion
- Nausea/vomiting

Once a student-athlete has been medically cleared, he or she must follow a Return-to-Play program, comprised of increasing levels of activity with each single session. No more than one session can be completed per day, and the student-athlete must complete the entire Return-to-Play program without recurrence of signs or symptoms before being allowed to return to full activity. Should signs or symptoms occur during a Return-to-Play session, the athlete will not be allowed to advance to the next session. As part of the clearance process, an evaluation form from a team physician is required.

SICKLE CELL TRAIT

Per NCAA rules, all incoming student-athletes must provide blood test results showing their individual sickle cell trait status with doctor's signature. This document must clearly state student-athlete's name, date, and "negative" or "positive" in English. A student-athlete is not permitted to participate without this documentation on file.

MEDICATION POLICY

All medications must be kept on file with the Athletic Training Staff and updated when prescriptions change. This can be done by logging into your ATS account or by contacting the athletic training staff. Those student-athletes who have inhalers or epi-pens need to notify their athletic trainer prior to the start of the year and coordinate a plan for how to keep these items on hand during all activities. Student-athletes taking prescription medicines on the NCAA banned substances list will be asked to provide additional documentation from the prescribing physician.

ADHD POLICY

All student-athletes diagnosed with ADD or ADHD must provide medical documentation from their prescribing doctor if taking any medication. The NCAA has a specific form that needs to be signed by the student-athlete's doctor, along with guidelines for what documentation is required. Further information on this topic can be found in the Pre-Participation Sports Medicine Paperwork and on the Sports Medicine website. A copy of the reporting form can also be found on the Sports Medicine website.

MENTAL HEALTH

Francis Marion University prioritizes supporting both the student and the athlete. We are committed to providing the support and resources needed to prevent and treat these conditions. All Stakeholders in the sport environment, including coaches, medical staff, athletic administrators, and teammates play an important role in mitigating these risk factors. At FMU these stakeholders are educated each year on recognizing the potential risk factors, signs, and symptoms of a potential mental health concern. Additionally, FMU Sports Medicine has screening procedures and a Mental Health Protocol in place to help identify student-athletes that may need additional support and get them the assistance they need.

If a student-athlete feels like they may need some additional support, they should reach out to their coach, athletic training staff, or the FMU Counseling Center. Contact information and appointment scheduling for the FMU Counseling Center can be found on their website: fmarion.edu/counselingandtesting

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- FMU Testing, Counseling, and Special Services Center
 - Schedule appointment online or by calling the office
 - i. 843-661-1840
 - ii. <https://www.fmarion.edu/counselingandtesting/>
 - Weekday walk-in hours available, call the office to find out specific times
- Suicide Crisis Lifeline
 - Call 988 to talk with someone, they will help you get further help, if needed
 - Or can use "chat" feature on 988lifeline.org
- South Carolina Mobile Crisis
 - Call 843-364-2274
- Crisis Text Line
 - Text Hope4SC to 741741
- SC Hopes
 - 1-844-724-6737

INSURANCE

Primary Insurance Policy

All student-athletes, both domestic and international, are required to have primary medical insurance that covers athletic injuries in the state of South Carolina and other parts of the United States. All International students will be required to purchase insurance through the athletic department or provide WRITTEN documentation in English that their insurance is valid in the United States, covers athletic injuries, and has a minimum of \$10,000 benefit limit per injury. All insurance information and pictures of primary insurance card must be on file to be permitted to practice or play. Student-athletes that do not purchase or let their primary coverage lapse will be responsible for the entire medical bill if injured. Additionally, they will be removed from participation until they have valid, active primary medical insurance. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to provide the sports medicine staff updated insurance information if their coverage changes during the school year.

The University's athletic insurance requires that the student-athlete's (or parent's) insurance be utilized for primary coverage of medical and surgical expenses. The University's policy will pay no bills until all claims have been first submitted to the student-athlete's (or parent's) policy. The University's policy may pay claims that are denied or paid in part, but only after a copy of the "Explanation of Benefits" from each date of service showing payment record and any outstanding bills are submitted by either the student-athlete, parents, or providers of service to the Head Athletic Trainer. It is the responsibility of each student-athlete to insure that the claim is filed with their primary insurance company.

Student-athletes using Tricare or Medicaid as their primary insurance will not qualify for use of the University's athletic insurance as these plans do not act as a primary policy when combined with other policies. Health share plans are NOT accepted as primary insurance.

Secondary Insurance

Francis Marion's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has a secondary insurance policy for our student-athletes. This secondary insurance policy is designed to supplement the student-athlete's personal primary insurance policy to aid in covering medical costs related intercollegiate athletic participation. Any portion of a claim that is left outstanding after primary insurance is exhausted will be filed under FMU's secondary insurance policy and paid based on reasonable and customary charges.

This policy will not necessarily cover all out-of-pocket expenses. **FMU's secondary policy will not take effect until a \$1000 vanishing deductible has been met, which means some out-of-pocket costs may occur.**

- Our secondary policy DOES cover:
 - Injury sustained while participating in a supervised practice, game, or training session
 - Injury sustained while traveling with the team to or from a supervised event in University transportation
 - Illness or infection whose cause can be directly linked to participation in FMU athletics
- Our secondary policy DOES NOT cover:
 - Illnesses/ general medical conditions
 - Pre-existing injuries
 - Aggravation or re-injury of a pre-existing injury
 - Injuries that occur outside of supervised practices, games, or training (ex. Captain's practices, extra weightlifting on your own, activities of daily living, etc.)
 - Mental Health services
 - Elective medical procedures
 - Injuries that occur while traveling in personal vehicles

- Chiropractors

How to File Secondary Claim

If you do get injured and you want to file a claim with our secondary insurance, please follow these steps:

1. Reach out to the athletic training staff and they will notify the Head Athletic Trainer that you want to file a claim.
2. Email, bring, fax, or mail all bills and primary insurance Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) related to your injury to the athletic training staff or the Head Athletic Trainer. Need itemized bill(s) with CPT codes.
3. Once all bills and EOBs are received, the athletic training staff will submit these documents, along with an injury claim form to our secondary insurance company.
4. If any further information or documentation is needed, or there is an issue with the claim, our secondary insurance company will contact you directly through the mail. They will mail all correspondence to the address listed on the Parent/Guardian/Student Information Form you filled out as part of your Pre-Season Sports Medicine Paperwork.

* There is a 15-month deadline from date-of-injury for bills to be submitted.

NCAA BANNED SUBSTANCES

The NCAA bans classes of drugs because they can harm student-athletes and/or can create an unfair advantage in competition. These drug classes include:

1. Stimulants
2. Anabolic Agents
3. Alcohol and beta blockers (banned for rifle only)
4. Diuretics and Masking Agents
5. Narcotics
6. Cannabinoids
7. Peptide Hormones, Growth Factors, Related Substances and Mimetics
8. Hormone and Metabolic Modulators
9. Beta-2 Agonists

There is no complete list of all banned substances. Any substance or drug chemically or pharmacologically related to a listed class is banned. A general list with examples can be found posted on the bulletin board outside the Athletic Training Room, linked to the Sports Medicine page of the FMU Athletics website, and at <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2015/6/10/ncaa-banned-substances.aspx>

Note: This also includes any substance chemically/pharmacologically related to one of the above-listed classes that has no current approval by a governmental regulatory health agency for human therapeutic use.

There are a few medical exceptions to this policy recognized by the NCAA. These exceptions are only made when the substance is being used for a legitimate medical purpose and the proper medical documentation has been submitted. Medical exception review is allowed for the following drug classes: stimulants, beta blockers, beta-2 agonists, diuretics. The NCAA does not make medical exceptions for cannabinoids or medical cannabis.

If you have questions regarding a specific medication or substance or have further questions regarding the NCAA banned substances policy, please reach out to one's athletic trainer.

The NCAA does not ban or approve any specific dietary/nutritional supplements due to the lack of government regulation in the supplement industry. Some examples of these substances include: vitamins,

minerals, protein powder, pre-workout, BCAAs. It is the responsibility of the individual student-athlete to review the ingredients of a supplement and do their research on the supplement prior to putting it their body. Due to lack of regulation, many of these products are contaminated with banned substances, some of which are not listed on the nutrition labels. **Taking a dietary/nutritional supplement is done at the student-athlete's own risk.**

To find out more information regarding specific supplements, you can reach out to the athletic training staff or log on to the Drug Free Sport website (dfaxis.com) – password: ncca2.

NCAA SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

- A. Every student-athlete and student-support staff member is subject to out-of-competition (year-round) drug testing.
- B. Student-athletes and student-support staff are subject to testing before, during, or after their competitive season.
- C. Student-athletes and student-support staff are required to keep up to date addresses and phone numbers on file with the Compliance Director stating where they can be reached during the academic year and summer.
- D. A student-athlete or student-support staff member 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 in accordance with the ineligibility provision, in Bylaw 18.4.1.5, totaling one calendar year and be charged with the loss of a minimum of a season of competition.

FMU SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Francis Marion University supports the NCAA statement of substance abuse. We are dedicated to promoting and preserving the integrity of athletics for the benefit and welfare of our student-athletes. The abuse of alcohol or illicit drugs by student-athletes will adversely affect their performance, athletic achievements, and personal well-being. Student-athletes who abuse alcohol and/or controlled substances put themselves, their teammates, and the university at risk. For these reasons, we are committed to develop, initiate, and maintain requirements/policies/procedures which have a proactive approach in regards to the choices our student-athletes make in these matters.

Francis Marion University does not tolerate under-age drinking or the inappropriate use of alcohol, substance abuse, or use of any substance banned by the NCAA. Participation in intercollegiate athletics at Francis Marion University is a privilege; those who participate are expected to uphold the highest standards of the University.

FMU is committed to enhancing the life of every student-athlete who attends Francis Marion University, and because of this, we believe that a strong alcohol and substance abuse prevention program and drug-screening program are essential for the protection of student-athletes from the harmful effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

1. To educate through discussions and Champs Life presentations FMU student-athletes and student-support staff on the effects of tobacco, vaping, alcohol abuse, and or illicit drug use on their physical, psychological, and social well-being.
2. To identify the substance abuser and to provide a mechanism of counseling and rehabilitation.
3. To improve class attendance and academic performance.
4. To act as a deterrent to prevent drug usage.
5. To develop a proactive means to prevent inappropriate use of tobacco, vaping, alcohol, or drugs.

PARTICIPANTS

1. All student-athletes at Francis Marion University, both scholarship and non-scholarship, including student-athletes who are ineligible to play or who have redshirt status.
2. All student-support staff, including but not limited to, student managers, student trainers, student coaches and practice players.

DURATION STUDENT/ATHLETES ARE SUBJECT TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Every student-athlete and student-support staff member is subject to the department of athletics substance abuse policy from the first day of classes following their initial enrollment at FMU to their final day of enrollment. This includes summer months in-between academic years. Every student-athlete and student-support staff member is required to report to the Director of Athletics any violation or incident involving law enforcement authorities where a citation or warrant is issued within two business days

HOW INDIVIDUALS ARE SELECTED FOR TESTING

Methods of Selection

1. Random selection
2. Reasonable Suspicion
3. Referral
4. Positive from previous test
5. Arrest or conviction for a criminal offense related to alcohol or drug use
6. Observed abnormal appearance, conduct, or behavior, including absence from class and training or competition reasonably interpreted as being caused by the use of alcohol or illegal drugs

Notification of Individuals Selected

Advanced notice **will not** be given. On the day that the test will take place, the Head Athletic Trainer, Assistant Athletic Trainer(s), director of NCAA Compliance or head coach will hand deliver a paper notification of selection to each student-athlete that will be tested. At the time of that presentation, the student-athlete will be notified of time and location of the drug test and then will sign a notification form. All notified individuals should bring a photo ID to the drug

testing site. If a notified student-athlete fails to report to the drug testing session, he/she will be considered to have a positive test and face sanctions as if his/her specimen tested positive.

Testing Procedures

1. Selected individual will provide a urine specimen under observation
2. Sample will be analyzed (the FMU Athletic Department tests for banned drugs that include but are not limited to the NCAA banned drug list)
3. Testing results will be returned to the head athletic trainer, who will notify the Director of Athletics of all results; the Director of Athletics will notify the appropriate head coach

Note: These policy sanctions do not super cede any action taken under Francis Marion University's Code of Student Conduct.

TOBACCO

The use of tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco and vaping, is PROHIBITED by all student-athletes and student-support staff in all sports during practice and competition.

Penalties: A player is to be removed from practice or ejected from a contest at which time further sanctions will be determined.

VIOLATIONS/SANCTIONS – ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA

Alcohol is the most frequently abused drug in our society, and the Francis Marion University Athletic Department will not tolerate the abuse or illegal use of alcohol or marijuana.

Level One Violation

1. Underage drinking without hospitalization
2. Underage Possession.
3. Possession of marijuana
4. Disruptive Behavior due to alcohol or marijuana without hospitalization
5. Possession of alcohol or marijuana where prohibited by FMU, state, or federal statutes

Level One Sanctions

Head Coach in consultation with Director of Athletics will decide sanctions. Depending on the violation, the individual may be placed in a counseling program, the duration and intensity of which is determined by problem severity as measured by professional counselors. Any costs associated with this will be the responsibility of the student-athlete. Student-athlete will be under a 60-day probation period. Another level one, two, or three violation during that time and additional sanctions will be imposed by the Director of Athletics. Additional level one violation during a student-athletes' career will result in increased sanctions as instituted by the Director of Athletics. By federal law, all offenses must be reported to the appropriate campus official in order to be submitted for the Clery Act Report.

Level Two Violations:

1. Intoxication
2. Impaired or Disorderly Conduct
3. Failure to comply while under the influence

Level Two Sanctions:

1. Suspension for 10 days from all athletic events. In addition, 25 hours of community restitution will be administered by the Director of Athletics.
2. Parents and/or guardians will be notified of the incident.
3. The student-athlete will automatically be placed in a counseling program, the duration and intensity of which is determined by problem severity as measured by professional counselors. Any costs associated with this will be the responsibility of the student-athlete.
4. By federal law, all offenses must be reported to the appropriate campus official in order to be submitted for the Clery Act Report.
5. Additional level one or two violations during a student-athletes' career could result in increased sanctions as instituted by the Director of Athletics.

Level Three Violations:

1. Serving or supplying underage persons alcohol and/or supplying marijuana
2. Driving under the influence (DUI, DWI)
3. Hospitalization while under the influence of alcohol or marijuana

Level Three Sanctions:

1. Suspension for 20 percent of contests during the championship season of competition. In addition, 25 hours of community restitution will be administered by the Director of Athletics.
2. Parents and/or guardians will be notified of the incident.
3. The student-athlete will automatically be placed in a counseling program, the duration and intensity of which is determined by problem severity as measured by professional counselors. Any costs associated with this will be the responsibility of the student-athlete.
4. By federal law, all offenses must be reported to the appropriate campus official in order to be submitted for the Clery Act Report.
5. Additional level one, two or three violations during a student-athletes' career could result in increased sanctions as instituted by the Director of Athletics.

Level Four Violations:

1. Serving or supplying prospective student-athletes alcohol or marijuana
2. Any serious criminal activity while under the influence of alcohol or marijuana; which would include but is not limited to sexual assault, threats, physical abuse, etc.

Level Four Sanctions:

1. Permanent suspension from FMU intercollegiate athletic program.
2. Parents and/or guardians will be notified of the incident.
3. By federal law, all offenses must be reported to the appropriate campus official in order to be submitted for the Clery Act Report.

Alcohol and Marijuana Abuse

As an athletic participant, you may receive special attention from other students. Along with this "high visibility" come some responsibilities. As a "role model," you are expected to present a wholesome public image.

CANCELATION OF ATHLETIC GRANT-IN-AID

Any violation of any of the above four levels that brings disciplinary sanction by the institution's normal governing body can result in immediate cancellation of the athletic grant-in-aid. In addition, any violation of the above levels can result in non-renewal of the athletic grant-in-aid

for the next academic year. The above sanctions have to do with participation, not cancellation or renewal of athletic grant-in-aid. Refer to financial aid for student-athletes section in this handbook.

SANCTIONS FOR ILLEGAL USE OF DRUGS

The Athletic Department will consider the following instances as a positive test:

1. Confirmed positive test result.
 2. Violating FMU's illicit drug code of conduct.
 3. Arrest or conviction of illegal drugs.
 4. Failure to show up to the designated drug testing site on time after prior notification.
- Confirmed positive tests accumulate throughout the student-athlete's or student-support staff member's career at FMU.
 - Refusal to be tested will result in immediate termination of a student's intercollegiate athletic career at FMU.

First Offense

1. Suspension for 20 percent of all games or matches during the championship season of competition.
2. Parents and/or guardians will be notified of the incident.
3. The student-athlete will automatically be placed in a counseling program, the duration and intensity of which is determined by problem severity as measured by professional counselors. Any costs associated with this are the responsibility of the student-athlete.
4. May be retested anytime during athletic career at expense of the student-athlete. This retest will not be given within 30 days of the most recent positive test.
5. By federal law, all offenses must be reported to the appropriate campus official in order to be submitted for the Clery Act Report.

Second Offense

1. Suspension for a full calendar year.
2. Loss of financial aid for two full semesters (does not include summer semester). Renewal of financial aid will not be automatically granted. The Director of Athletics, in consultation with the head coach, will make that determination.
3. Parents and/or guardians will be notified of the incident.
4. The student-athlete will automatically be placed in a counseling program, the duration and intensity of which is determined by problem severity as measured by professional counselors. Any costs associated with this will be the responsibility of the student-athlete.
5. May be retested at anytime during athletic career at expense of the student-athlete. This retest will not be given within 30 days of the most recent positive test.
6. By federal law, all offenses must be reported to the appropriate campus official in order to be submitted for the Clery Act Report.

Third Offense

1. Permanent suspension from the FMU intercollegiate athletic program.
2. Parents and/or guardians will be notified of the incident.
3. Financial aid is terminated and student-athlete is responsible for all financial obligations.
4. By federal law, all offenses must be reported to the appropriate campus official in order to be submitted for the Clery Act Report.

CANCELLATION OF ATHLETIC GRANT-IN-AID

Any sanction for illegal drug use that brings disciplinary sanction by the institutions' normal governing body can result in immediate cancellation of the athletic grant-in-aid. In addition, any violation of the athletic drug policy can result in non-renewal of the athletic grant-in-aid for the next academic year. The above sanctions have to do with participation, not cancellation or renewal of athletic grant-in-aid. Refer to financial aid for student-athletes section in this handbook.

FALSIFICATION OF TEST RESULTS

Any attempt to falsify test results, or helping to do so, by providing false information, altering a urine sample, manipulating test results, or any other conscientious effort to circumvent the process will result in permanent suspension from participation in the athletic program and the termination of any athletically-related financial aid.

All sanctions for tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and/or illicit drug violations will take effect immediately after the student-athlete is notified.

SELF-REPORTING

Any student-athlete or student-support staff member who self-reports is defined as the individual who voluntarily comes to the Director of Athletics, head coach, or head athletic trainer stating that he/she may have a drug or alcohol problem and wants professional help. However, if a student-athlete or student-support staff member is notified for a drug screening or is charged with a drug or alcohol related crime, they cannot self-report themselves. An individual who is self-reporting a possible existing condition will face the following disciplinary actions:

1. Parents and/or guardians will be notified of the incident.
2. The student-athlete will automatically be placed in a counseling program, the duration and intensity of which is determined by problem severity as measured by professional counselors. Any costs associated with this will be the responsibility of the student-athlete.
3. If a self-reporting student-athlete or student-support staff member tests positive or is arrested or convicted of an alcohol or drug-related crime after his/her initial self-report, the student-athlete will suffer the disciplinary actions previously set forth in this document.

If, after being notified by his/her coach, a student-athlete or student-support staff member fails to report for the drug test, it will be considered a positive test.

FOLLOW-UP OF TESTING

Screening results will be reported as soon as possible. A representative of the athletic department will notify student-athletes or student-support staff members with negative results. Student-

athletes or student-support staff members with a positive result will be contacted and requested to meet immediately with the head coach.

If requested by the student-athlete, the following will hold a review of the positive result: Chairman of the Athletic Advisory Committee, Director of Athletics, and the head athletic trainer.

TRANSFER REGULATIONS

- A. If a student-athlete wishes to transfer, you must put the request in writing to the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Welfare.
- B. A student-athlete, or his/her representative, cannot speak with or send information (videos, webpage links) to another institution before first being put in the transfer portal and fulfilling all other NCAA requirements. In addition, our NIL Policy states that student-athletes must receive permission to use FMU photos and videos, as well as any game tapes.
- C. A student-athlete must speak with his/her head coach before releasing him/her to another institution will be considered.
- D. After speaking to his/her head coach and being entered into the transfer portal, the student-athlete can contact other institutions that he/she wishes to transfer to.
- E. In general, a student-athlete must be academically eligible and under no disciplinary suspension at FMU in order to be immediately eligible at another institution.
- F. Conference rules do not allow the student-athlete to compete right away at another conference institution.
- G. A student-athlete who has signed a National Letter of Intent must complete one year at FMU before he or she would be eligible at another NLI participating institution. National Letter of Intent guidelines state the student-athlete signs with the institution, not with the coach.
- H. A student-athlete that is granted a release WILL NOT have his/her grant-in-aid renewed for the following academic year.
- I. Policy involving appeals on transfer.
 - 1. To appeal a decision of the Athletic Department, the student-athlete must notify Francis Marion University in writing within 14 days from the date of the letter notifying him/her of the University's decision with regard to transfer or scholarship. The letter of petition should be addressed to the attention of the Provost, SAB 115, Francis Marion University, P.O. Box 100547, Florence, SC 29502-0547.

2. The Provost or designee will convene a Special Appeals Committee to consider the matter within 30 days from receipt of the petition. The three voting members of the committee will include:
 - a. one faculty member appointed by the Provost;
 - b. one faculty member appointed by the Faculty Chair;
 - c. the Assistant Dean of Students or his/her designee.
3. The Provost/designee will moderate the meeting but will not vote.
4. The student-athlete may bring a member of the University community to the meeting for the sole purpose of offering support and unobtrusive advice. A person attending in this capacity may not address the panel.
5. During the meeting, both the Athletic Director and the student will be given an opportunity to explain their positions, to answer questions from the committee members, and to make final statements. The two parties will not direct questions to each other. The Provost/designee will notify the student and the Athletic Director in writing within 7 days of the committee's decision.
6. Per NCAA rules, the decision of the committee is final.

J. The deadline to be put into the portal is June 15 for Division II.

CONSENT TO PERFORM URINALYSIS FOR DRUG TESTING AT FMU 2024-25

I hereby consent to have a sample of my urine collected under the observation of the FMU athletic training staff and/or a collection company and tested for the presence of drugs in accordance with the Francis Marion University Department of Athletics Policy on Substance Abuse. This consent is for both random and probable cause testing should my behavior or performance merit such.

I understand that this testing will occur at such time, or times, as deemed appropriate by the Head Athletic Trainer or the Director of Athletics.

I understand that any urine samples will be analyzed and measured according to the NCAA banned drugs cut-off levels, but not limited to.

I hereby authorize the release of results of such urine testing to the Director of Athletics, Head Athletic Trainer, and my head coach. I understand that these results will also be made available to me.

I understand that failure to sign this consent form and/or refusing to be tested will bar me from participation in intercollegiate athletics at Francis Marion University.

I hereby understand that failure to sign this consent form will result in the loss of my athletic scholarship at Francis Marion University.

I hereby authorize the release of the results of such testing to my parents and/or guardians should the Director of Athletics or my head coach wish to inform them.

I hereby release Francis Marion University, its trustees, officers, employees, and agents from legal responsibility for the release of such information and record as authorized by this form.

Sport (Print): _____

Student-Athlete Name (Print): _____

Student-Athlete Signature: _____

Date: _____

I understand my parents and/or guardians will not be informed if I am classified as an independent and can prove my independence by attaching to this consent form my federal tax return plus the federal tax return of my parents and/or guardians.

**FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

Student-Athlete Handbook Acknowledgement

By signing below, you acknowledge having received a copy of the 2024-25 FMU Student-Athlete Handbook. Further, you understand that you are responsible for its contents, including all institutional, conference, and NCAA regulations. Failure to abide by the regulations outlined in the handbook may result in the loss of your athletic grant-in-aid or dismissal from the team.

Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this student-athlete handbook, or any area which you feel is not covered adequately, please contact your coach or a member of the athletic staff immediately.

The provisions of this student-athlete handbook are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and Francis Marion University. Francis Marion University reserves the right to change any provision or requirements anytime within the student-athletes term of residence

Print Sport

Print Name

Signature of Student-Athlete

Date

Student-Athlete Handbook Addition 2024-25

Any student-athlete that lives off campus and has disciplinary sanctions imposed by Francis Marion University Student Affairs or the Francis Marion University Athletic Department can be required to move back on campus. If the student-athlete is required to move back on campus and they refuse, the student will be terminated from the athletic program and have their athletic scholarship cancelled immediately.

Print Sport

Print Name

Student-Athlete Signature _____

Acknowledgement and Understanding of Francis Marion University's NIL Policy

Print Sport

Print Name

Student-Athlete Signature _____