

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR COMPLIANCE MEETING

Virginia Commonwealth University

2021-2022



WHO ARE WE?

- **Noah Strebler**- Associate Athletic Director for Compliance & Student Services
- **Ernest Washington**- Director of Compliance
- **Theresa Barsanti**- Director of Compliance



PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide a basic understanding of the rules that affect you as a student-athlete.
- Provide you with enough knowledge to know when to raise a **red flag**.
- Remind you to be accountable for your action- **BE SMART!**



AGENDA

- Eligibility
- Notification of Transfer
- Financial Aid and Employment
- Name, Image, and Likeness
- Playing and Practice Season Rules
- Outside Competition
- Promotional Activities and Media Appearances
- Extra Benefits
- Amateurism and Agent Reminders
- Gambling
- NCAA Drug Testing
- Tobacco Products



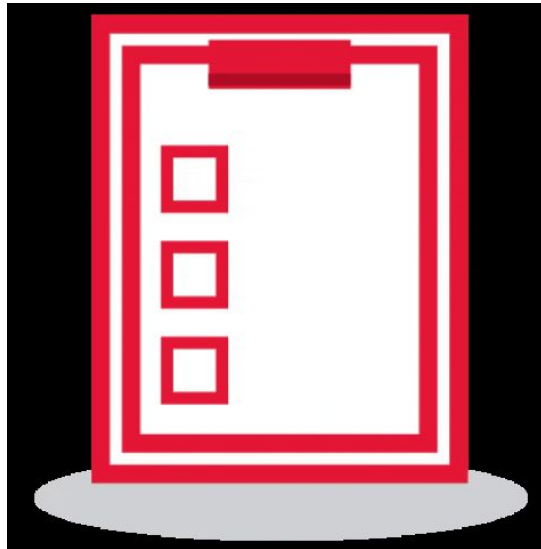
ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Freshman, Sophomore, Juniors, and Seniors
 - Enrolled full time (Minimum of 12 credits for Undergraduates and 9 credits for Graduates)
 - Pass 6 or more credits per semester
 - Pass 18 or more credits per academic year
 - Freshman ONLY: Pass 24 or more credits in Fall/Spring/Summer during your first year
 - Choose major by start of junior year (5th semester)
 - Meet GPA requirements and any other institutional requirements
 - **If there is postseason competition taking place in between semesters, you MUST pass at least 6 credits in order to participate in that competition.**



ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY- PTD

- You must meet Percentage of Degree (PTD) in your declared major:
 - Entering your 5th Full Time Semester- 40%
 - Entering your 7th Full Time Semester- 60%
 - Entering your 9th Full Time Semester- 80%



ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY- REQUIRED CUMULATIVE GPA

- Entering 3rd Full Time Semester- 1.80
- Entering 5th Full Time Semester- 1.90
- Entering 7th Full Time Semester- 2.00

NCAA Minimum!



ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY- 5TH YEAR

- Enroll Full-Time
- Pass at least 6 credits per semester
- If there is postseason competition taking place in between semester, you **MUST** pass at least 6 credits in order to participate in that competition.



ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY- INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

- NCAA Eligibility Center
 - In order to compete, you must be certified as an academic qualifier and as an amateur.
 - In order to practice, you must be certified as an academic qualifier and an amateur by the 45th day of practice.



SEASONS OF ELIGIBILITY

- You have 4 years of eligibility to use within 5 years of initial enrollment.
 - Clock begins upon full-time enrollment
- Exceptions
 - Redshirt
 - Medical Hardship
 - Season-ending injuries
 - Must have proper medical documentation to apply
 - Military Exception
- If you don't meet one of the exceptions, you use one year of eligibility (even if you only compete for one second of one contest of just a single play the entire year).



NOTIFICATION OF TRANSFER

- Student-athletes will have the ability to transfer to a different school and receive a scholarship without asking their current school for a permission to contact. The NCAA calls this process the "notification of transfer."
- The notification of transfer allows a student-athlete to inform his or her current school of a desire to transfer, then requires that school to enter the student-athlete's name into a national transfer database **within two business days.**
- Once the student-athlete's name is in the database, other coaches are free to contact that individual.
- Once a student-athlete's name is entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal VCU has the discretion to cancel your athletics aid at the conclusion of the current semester.



FINANCIAL AID

- NCAA limits what you may receive to attend college:
 - Limit is generally the value of a full scholarship.
 - Compliance will review athletic scholarships, institutional grants, federal grants, outside aid to ensure that you never exceed your maximum financial aid limit.
- Be sure to let the Compliance Office and the Financial Aid Office know of ALL outside scholarships that you receive.
- If you exceed the individual or team limits, your scholarship may have to be reduced it may impact your eligibility.



REDUCTION/CANCELLATION OF AID HEARING OPPORTUNITY

- If your athletics aid is reduced or cancelled during the academic year, you are entitled to an hearing to appeal the decision.
 - You will receive official notification from the Office of Financial Aid of this opportunity.
 - You have 10 days from issuance of notification to provide a written response detailing why you are appealing the decision.
- Hearing specifics
 - The Office of Financial Aid organizes and chairs the hearing
 - You are permitted to have witnesses support your hearing case (as will the Athletic Department).
 - Representatives of the Financial Aid-Student Athlete Appeals Committee makes a decision regarding the hearing.
 - Office of Financial Aid will provide written notice of this decision.



EMPLOYMENT

- If you work, you must fill out the “Student-Athlete Employment” workflow on ARMS before you start working (including official vacation periods).
 - You can only be paid for work actually performed.
 - You must be paid at a rate commensurate with the going rate for anyone else performing the same job with similar experiences.



FEE-FOR-LESSON

- Student-athletes can give lessons and be paid for those lessons under the following conditions:
 - You cannot use any VCU facilities (that means Athletics Department or general university facilities);
 - You cannot give playing lessons (e.g., a basketball lesson cannot be a game – it has to be actual instruction);
 - VCU has to document who received the lesson, how much was paid and who made the payment;
 - Payment has to be made by the lesson recipient (or the recipient's family);
 - If you give a group lesson, instruction to each individual must be similar.



NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS

- **What is NIL?** Your Name, Image and Likeness compose your Right to Publicity which enables you, as a student-athlete, to profit (via monetary compensation or in-kind goods) from your non-athletically based performance such as autographs, endorsements, business ventures and sports camps.
- **Where does NIL currently stand?** As of July 1, the NCAA adopted a new interim policy to guide and permit NIL activities. The NCAA Rules provide that a student-athlete is prohibited from: (1) receiving pay-for-play; and (2) receiving an improper recruiting inducement.
- **What do the new NIL rules mean for me at VCU?** The Commonwealth of Virginia currently has not adopted a statewide policy regarding NIL, therefore VCU has implemented a new interim policy to guide student-athletes, donors, and other constituencies within this new landscape. All student-athletes and other parties interested in learning more about the new VCU policy should visit <https://athleticscompliance.vcu.edu/name-image--likeness/policy/> for the complete version of the document.



NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS

- **Institutional Involvement:** VCU, including its faculty, staff, and other representatives, may not arrange third-party compensation for a VCU student-athlete related to the use of their NIL.
- **Team Activities and Academic Obligations:** Student-athletes cannot engage in NIL activities during the course of team activities, which include competitions, practices, and team gatherings and meetings. Student-athletes also must not allow NIL activities to interfere with their academic obligations.
- **Facility Use:** Student-athletes may not use VCU Athletics' facilities to conduct camps, clinics, or lessons. Student-athletes may not engage in NIL activities while in VCU Athletics' facilities.
- **Use of University Intellectual Property:** Student-athletes are not permitted to use VCU's intellectual property, including its athletics uniforms, trademarks, logos, or symbols, to either implicitly or expressly endorse a third party or product without the prior written approval of VCU's Office of Trademarks and Licensing. Per NCAA Rules, student-athletes may not sell products provided by VCU Athletics or awards received for intercollegiate athletic participation while they are a student-athlete.
- **Financial Aid:** Student-athletes should be aware that receiving compensation for NIL activities could have an impact on their financial aid, especially for those receiving Pell Grants and institutional need based aid. Student-athletes are encouraged to consult with the VCU Office of Financial Aid to fully understand these potential impacts before engaging in any NIL activity.
- **Taxes:** Student-athletes are responsible for all tax, withholding, reporting, licenses, permissions, permits, expenses, fees and any other obligations, liabilities or costs associated with NIL activities. For tax services and advice please consult a tax advisor. VCU Athletics does not provide tax services or advice.
- **International Student-Athletes:** International student-athletes should discuss how receiving compensation may impact their VISA status with the Global Education Office (GEO) prior to engaging in any NIL activities.



NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS

- **Restricted Categories:** Student-athletes are prohibited from engaging in NIL activities involving a commercial product or service that conflicts with existing NCAA legislation (e.g., sports wagering, banned substances). Student-athletes must not use their NIL to promote casinos or gambling, including sports betting; alcohol products; tobacco and electronic smoking products and devices; cannabis, cannabinoids, cannabidiol, or other derivatives; drug paraphernalia; adult entertainment; weapons, including firearms and ammunition; substances banned by the NCAA; or products or services that are illegal. Student-athletes cannot engage in NIL activities for a competitor of any existing VCU sponsorship arrangement.



PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS

- Playing & Practice Rules
 - Vacation Periods/ Institutional Holidays
 - In-Season Limits
 - Out-of-Season Limits
- Definition of countable athletically related activities (CARA): any required activity with an athletics purpose involving student-athletes and at the direction of, or supervised by one or more of VCU's coaching staff (including strength coaches).
- Weekly approval of CARA logs on Teamworks.



COUNTABLE ATHLETICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES

- While in season you can have no more than 20 hours a week/4 hours a day and one day off.
 - EXCEPTION: During vacation periods/holidays/institutional days off (e.g. August before first day of school, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Spring Break), no daily limits regarding CARA.
- When out of season, you can have no more than 8 hours a week (4 hours of skill instruction and 4 hours of conditioning) with 2 days off (and CARA is prohibited during vacation periods/holidays/institutional days off).
- COUNTABLE: Practice, competition, any required athletic activity, strength/conditioning, etc.
- NONCOUNTABLE: Study hall, SAAC/community service involvement, compliance meetings, etc.



VOLUNTARY WORKOUTS

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

- a) Must not be required to report back to a coach or other staff member (e.g., strength coach, trainer, manager);
- b) Non-Coaching staff members who observe the activities (e.g., strength coach, trainer, manager) may not report back to the coach any information related to the activity;
- c) Must be initiated and requested solely by the student-athlete (NOT required);
- d) Attendance and participation (or lack therefor) may not be recorded for the purposes of reporting such information to a coach or teammates;
- e) Must not be subjected to penalty if you elect not to participate in the activity; and
- f) No recognition or incentives can be given based on attendance or performance.



OUTSIDE COMPETITION

- During the academic year, student-athletes may not participate on any outside team in any competition.
- Exceptions for sports other than basketball
 - You may compete if you are out-of-season during an official VCU vacation period (e.g., summer/ winter break, spring break).
 - If you are a basketball student-athlete, you MAY NOT compete for an outside during the academic year.
- Competition as individual (“unattached”)
 - Open event
 - You pay for all of your own expenses (i.e. transportation, meals, etc.)
 - You cannot wear any VCU-issued apparel
- Outside Competition could affect your eligibility. So, please fill out the “Outside Competition Form” on ARMS prior to engaging in competition.



RECRUITING- OFFICIAL VISIT

- VCU pays for the prospective to visit for up to 48 hours
 - Student-athlete may be a student host and that is an opportunity to recruit prospects to come to VCU.
 - May entertain the prospect within a 30 mile radius of campus.
 - Permissible dollar amount per day to be used on the prospect (cannot purchase items that the prospect can take home with them).
 - Student host can receive a free meal and a complimentary admissions, provided the student host accompanies the prospect.

No impermissible/inappropriate entertainment activities.



RECRUITING- UNOFFICIAL VISIT

- Prospect visits VCU, but pays for their own expense.
 - Student-athlete may be a student host and that is an opportunity to recruit prospects to come to VCU.
 - Must pay for own expenses if involved with prospects on an unofficial visit (re: no student host money).
 - Can have contact with prospects on an unofficial visit within a one-mile radius of VCU's campus (this includes the Medical School).

No impermissible/inappropriate entertainment activities.



EXTRA BENEFITS

- **Extra Benefits rules/regulations still apply in absence of a NIL deal with an entity.**
- Any special arrangement to provide a student-athlete a benefit that is not generally available to other VCU students or the general public.
 - Discounts at stores
 - Meals at restaurants
 - Transportation
 - Clothing
 - Gifts
 - Financial Loans
 - Discounted Services
 - Drinks/Cover at a bar
 - Anything from a booster
- Student-athletes may not sell or exchange awards/memorabilia for cash or anything of value.



NOT AN EXTRA BENEFIT

- Occasional Meals from boosters, VCU staff and student-athlete's family member are permissible.
- VCU staff may also provide local transportation on an occasional basis.



COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION

- Regular Season Competition: 4 complimentary admissions per home or away events in your sport.
- Postseasons Competition: 6 complimentary admissions per home or away events in your sport.
- Issuance Procedures for receiving a complimentary admission
 - Must present identification (i.e. Driver Licenses, military ID, ID Card, School ID, Passport, etc.)
 - Must go through the pass list gate.



AMATEURISM

- Cannot sign a contract or commitment of any kind to play professionally
- Do not accept pay or promise of pay for competing in your sport
- Do not compete on a professional team
- Cannot win prize money



AGENTS

- You cannot enter into any agreement with an agent to have them represent you.
 - Includes written and verbal contracts
- You cannot accept anything of value from an agent or anyone employed by an agent.
- Policies regarding mere discussions with agents vary by team (talk to your head coach for specific team rules).



GAMBLING

- No wagers of anything of material value on an NCAA sponsored sport or the corresponding professional sport
 - No fantasy sports/ leagues
 - No March Madness pools
 - No Super Bowl picks
 - No bets for your entire time at VCU
- Don't provide any information to any gamblers, whether you know them or not, about injuries, suspensions, or anything else that can impact a game.
 - That information is private and should stay within this athletic department.



NCAA DRUG TESTING

- Routine drug testing is done by VCU in addition to NCAA testing
- First positive test: **One year suspension from all competition and loss of a minimum of one season of competition in all sports.**
- Second positive test: **Permanent suspension**
- A Missed Drug Test = **Testing Positive**
- Manipulation of drug test sample: **two year suspension from all competition and loss of a minimum of two seasons of competition in all sports.**
- The most updated list of Banned Drugs is available online at ncaa.org. Also, check with your athletic trainer if you have any questions about products that you want to take (medicine, supplements, etc.)



TOBACCO PRODUCTS

- No tobacco products may be used during practice or competition.
- If a student-athlete is caught using tobacco products during a practice or competition, he or she shall be disqualified for the remainder of that practice or competition.



CONTACT US!

- Noah Strebler (Associate AD for Compliance & Student Services): nstrebler@vcu.edu
- Ernest Washington (Director of Compliance): elwashington@vcu.edu
- Theresa Barsanti (Director of Compliance): tgbarsanti@vcu.edu

