ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION	POLICY NUMBER
ACAF Academic Affairs	ACAF 3.21
POLICY TITLE	
Athletic Competitions During Final Exams	
SCOPE OF POLICY	DATE OF REVISION/REVALIDATED
USC System	December 10, 2024
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost	Office of the Provost

PURPOSE
This policy establishes guidelines for balancing the demands of intercollegiate athletics with academic obligations. It aims to ensure that student-athletes prioritize their academic commitments while participating in athletic activities.

DEFINITIONS

Intercollegiate Athletics: Sports teams organized and funded by the institution through the athletics department. Intercollegiate does not refer to or include recreational sports, intramural sports, club sports, or other special interest sport clubs or organizations.

POLICY STATEMENT
The University of South Carolina recognizes the importance of intercollegiate sports to our university community and to the development of our students. The educational mission of the University is our highest priority, however, and accordingly should take precedence when determining student participation in athletic events that conflict with academic obligations.

It is established Conference, University and Athletics Department policy that competition and travel should not normally occur during reading days or the final exam period of a semester. Additionally, it is Athletics Department policy that the members of an athletics team may collectively miss no more than 12.5% of class time during any one semester.

Primary responsibility for resolving schedule conflicts and for ensuring that teams do not exceed the 12.5% missed class limit rests with the Athletics Department. Exceptions to the above policies will be reviewed by the Athletics Director on a case-by-case basis and in some instances must also be approved by the Provost or his/her designee.

The University of South Carolina prioritizes the academic success of its student-athletes. The Athletics Department will work diligently to schedule athletic events in a manner that minimizes conflicts with academic responsibilities. Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis and require approval from designated university officials.

PROCEDURES

A. If a team is scheduled for non-conference competition during the final exam period, the team's head coach should submit a written request for approval to participate to the Athletic

Director.

1. The Athletics Director may approve such requests without further review if the team has not exceeded the 12.5% per semester missed class limit and either of the following two situations exist:

   a. all of the athletes on the team will have completed their final exams prior to departure; or

   b. appropriate arrangements for make-up exams can be made with relevant faculty for any athletes on the team not able to complete their final exams prior to departure.

2. Both the Provost and the Athletics Director must approve such requests if:

   a. the team has already exceeded the 12.5% per semester missed class limit; or

   b. any student on the team will not have completed his/her final exams prior to departure and arrangements for make-up exams cannot be made.

B. Requests should normally be submitted to the Athletics Director at least two weeks prior to the date of departure, or as soon as it becomes clear that a potential conflict exists. When Provost approval is necessary, a final decision will be conveyed to the Athletics Director and the coach within 48 hours of receipt of the request

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES
SEC Bylaw 17.1.15(b)
STAF 3.25 Scheduling University Union Facilities
USC Athletic Department Competition Scheduling and Missed Class Time Policy

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
July 17, 2007	New policy approval.
July 9, 2015	Policy organization, content, and accuracy reviewed; non-substantive revisions required
December 10, 2024	Policy revalidated and updated to standard template