

NUMBER: ACAF 3.21
SECTION: Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: Athletic Competitions During Final Exams
DATE: July 17, 2007
REVISED: July 9, 2015
Policy for: Columbia and Palmetto College Campuses
Procedure for: Columbia and Palmetto College Campuses
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Issued by: Provost's Office

I. Policy

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.

II. Procedure

1. 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.
 - a. 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:
 - all of the athletes on the team will have completed their final exams prior to departure; or

- 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.
- b. Both the Provost and the Athletics Director must approve such requests if:
- the team has already exceeded the 12.5% per semester missed class limit; or
 - 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.
2. 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.

III. Related Policies

See also:

SEC Bylaw 17.1.15(b)

University Policy STAF 3.25 Use of University Facilities

USC Athletic Department Competition Scheduling and Missed Class Time Policy

IV. Reason for Revision

Policy organization, content, and accuracy reviewed; non-substantive revisions required.