

MOVED that the BFA affirm the following campus policies and practices regarding conflicts between classes and intercollegiate varsity athletic events:

- It is the student's responsibility to notify each instructor—in the first week of the semester and in writing--about any known conflicts between academic requirements and intercollegiate varsity athletic events.
- For conflicts that arise during the regular term, instructors have full authority to decide whether and/or how to accommodate those conflicts.
- While an instructor has the right to refuse to allow make-ups or other accommodations, he or she is permitted to provide such accommodations.
- Intercollegiate varsity athletics events during final exams, which are normally forbidden by university policy, must be approved in writing by the BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee well in advance of the event. Students involved in these events must then work with their instructors in regard to any missed work, as required above.

Further MOVED that:

- The BFA consider a general statement of policy in the case of accommodation of conflicts that arise when students are representing CU-Boulder.
- The attached report be reviewed on an annual basis by the IAC, and be sent out to all teaching faculty at CUB by the BFA before classes start every year.

From BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee: March 30, 2009  
Approved as amended by the BFA Executive Committee: March 30, 2009  
Notice of motion to the BFA: April 2, 2009  
Approved as amended by the BFA: April 30, 2009

## **Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Report on Conflicts Between Classes and Academic Events**

This report summarizes campus policies and practices regarding conflicts between classes and varsity athletic events. This information is intended to help guide decisions about how to deal with conflicts when they arise, and it may be especially useful for new or junior faculty.

Because this document was prepared by the BFA Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, it focuses on conflicts between classes and NCAA-sanctioned intercollegiate varsity sports scheduled through the Department of Athletics. It does not address conflicts involving club sports (<http://www.colorado.edu/recreation/club-sports>).

Student-athletes participating in NCAA-sanctioned intercollegiate athletic competitions are representing CU Boulder. As such, they are bound by the campus Honor Code (<http://www.colorado.edu/honor-code>) and the student-athletes' Colorado Commitment, as well as by general policies of CU Boulder (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/>) and the specific policies of the Department of Athletics.

Normally, schedules for these competitions are known well in advance. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to notify instructors at the beginning of the semester about any known conflicts between classes or tests and athletic events. To facilitate this, the Herbst Academic Center in the Department of Athletics identifies potential conflicts and provides written notifications about them to each student-athlete, who is to hand deliver a written request for missed-class time accommodation to the instructor. When these conflicts interfere with the learning goals of the course (as, for example, when athletic team practice conflicts with a required weekly lab), the student may be advised not to enroll in that particular course during the term in question.

Conflicts can sometimes arise with little advance notice, however - e.g., when a student athlete makes the travel roster and/or qualifies for a game or tournament at the last minute. In that event, the student-athlete may be unable to provide much advance notice of an upcoming absence.

During final exams, when university policy generally forbids participation in athletic competitions, requests for class conflict accommodations must be approved by the BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. Recent examples include several track athletes and a soccer player who were invited to Olympic qualifying events during spring semester exams. In those cases, in consultation with the Herbst Academic Center, the Committee has authorized requests for accommodations on a case-by-case basis.

Instructors have full authority to decide whether and/or how to accommodate athletics-related class conflicts. While an instructor has the right to refuse to allow make-ups or other accommodations, he or she is permitted to provide such accommodations.

Examples of accommodations include, but are not limited to, allowing assignments to be turned in late, scheduling early or make-up tests, or excusing the absence in classes where attendance is taken. The BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee encourages instructors to resolve the resulting conflicts in ways that neither unduly penalize the student-athlete nor provide him or her with an unfair advantage.

Several resources exist to help faculty when conflicts arise. For instance, should the absence occur on the day of a scheduled quiz or exam, members of Herbst Academic Center staff or the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) can assist in proctoring the quiz or exam at a convenient time for the faculty member and student-athlete. When travel is involved, host institution FARs, other faculty, or academic support staff can be asked to proctor work to ensure academic integrity.

To avoid any real or perceived pressure, CU policy forbids coaches from initiating contact with instructors regarding schedule conflicts, grades, or academic progress. Faculty may be contacted, however, by the staff of the Herbst Academic Center to provide notification about a student-athlete's injury, surgery, or illness; to assist in rescheduling exams, tests, or quizzes; or simply to check on the progress of a student-athlete in a particular course. Any instructor who feels that inappropriate contact has been made should contact CU Boulder's Faculty Athletics Representative (Joseph Jupille, [jupille@colorado.edu](mailto:jupille@colorado.edu)), the Athletic Director (Rick George, [rick.george@colorado.edu](mailto:rick.george@colorado.edu)), the Director of the Herbst Academic Center ([Kris Livingston, kris.livingston@colorado.edu](mailto:Kris.Livingston@colorado.edu)), or any member of the BFA Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (<https://www.colorado.edu/bfa/committees/intercollegiate-athletics-committee>).

There is no rule forbidding instructors from contacting athletics staff. In fact, the Herbst Academic Center welcomes communication with instructors regarding their thoughts and concerns about class conflicts, as well as about matters involving attendance, academic performance, or classroom behavior.

Revised: 12/5/2017