

UNIVERSITY of SAINT FRANCIS
Student-Athlete
Handbook



November 2009

Athletic Staff Directory

Mark Pope	Athletic Director	399-7700 ext 6202	mpope@sf.edu
Mitch Ellisen	Associate Athletic Director, Men's Soccer	399-7700 ext 6206	mellisen@sf.edu
Bill Scott	Sports Information Director	399-7700 ext 6223	bscott@sf.edu
Mike McCaffrey	Assistant Athletic Director, and Director of Athletic Marketing	399-7700 ext 6250	mmccaffrey@sf.edu
Juanita McMeeking	Athletic Business Manager	399-7700 ext 6200	jmcmeeking@sf.edu
Nicole Henline	Spirit Coach	399-7700 ext 6210	nhenline@sf.edu
Tony Gambill	Head Athletic Trainer	399-7700 ext 6208	tgambill@sf.edu
Dave Ivy	Equipment Manager	399-7700 ext 6211	
Greg Roberts	Baseball Coach	399-7700 ext 6222	groberts@sf.edu
Gary Andrews	Women's Basketball	399-7700 ext 6216	gandrews@sf.edu
Jeff Rekeweg	Men's Basketball	399-7700 ext 6220	jrekeweg@sf.edu
Sarah Thrall	Cross Country, Track & Field	399-7700 ext 6224	sthrall@sf.edu
Kevin Donely	Head Football Coach	399-7700 ext 6204	kdonley@sf.edu
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Trevor Miller	Offensive Line	399-7700 ext 6252	tmiller@sf.edu
Maury Waugh	Inside Linebackers / Special Teams	399-7700 ext 6226	mwaugh@sf.edu
Dave Ivy	Outside Linebackers	399-7700 ext 6211	divy@sf.edu

Eric Wagoner	Defensive Line	399-7700 ext 6225	ewagoner@sf.edu
Al Harants	Wingbacks	399-7700 ext 6251	aharants@sf.edu
Patrick Donley	Wide Receivers	399-7700 ext 6205	pdonley@sf.edu
Eddie Nolan	Tight Ends	399-7700 ext 6254	enolan@sf.edu
Chad LaCross	Men's & Women's Golf, Asst Men's Basketball Coach	399-7700 ext 6213	clacross@sf.edu
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Ryan Bolyn	Softball	399-7700 ext 6231	rbolyn@sf.edu
Kevin Lane	Women's Volleyball	399-7700 ext 6212	klane@sf.edu
Kristen Harrow	Women's Tennis	399-7700 ext 6234	kharrow@sf.edu
Beth Shefferly	Dance	399-7700 ext 6221	bshefferly@sf.edu

Sponsored Sports

Men's Sports

Baseball
Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Soccer
Track and Field

Women's Sports

Basketball
Cross Country
Golf
Soccer
Softball
Tennis
Track and Field
Volleyball

Cheer
Dance

Hutzell Fitness Center

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday	8am-10pm
Friday	8am-6pm
Saturday	8am-4pm
Sunday	Closed

Please obtain a copy of the 2008-2009 University of St Francis Student Handbook. The handbook contains useful information on academic policies and procedures, disciplinary procedures, your rights and responsibilities as a USF student, and other issues affecting student life.

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS MISSION STATEMENT

Catholic and Franciscan

The University of Saint Francis holds fast to the teachings and faith of the Roman Catholic Church, the liberal arts tradition, and the virtues of the tradition inspired by Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi: respect the unique dignity of each person; encourage a trustful, prayerful community of learners; serve one another, society and the Church; foster peace and justice; and respect creation.

The Liberal Arts Tradition

The Liberal Arts, encompassing the humanities and the natural and social sciences, convey specific content knowledge, but they also form a certain discipline of mind that promotes skilled judgment and intellectual acuity. They are action-oriented, exciting in students habits of active engagement, continuous questioning, probing, exploring, and connecting knowledge across disciplines. When these thinking skills are combined with professional education in business, the health sciences, education, counseling, social work, or the creative arts, students at the University of Saint Francis are transformed into intentional learners and highly competent professionals.

Faith and Reason

In the words of Pope John Paul II, Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth." In the Catholic and Franciscan traditions, faith is not merely a supplement or afterthought to reason, still less its rival. Rather, in these traditions, faith and reason complement each other because "each contains the other."

Diversity

Profoundly committed to building a civilization of love and mutual understanding, the University of Saint Francis actively promotes an appreciation and understanding of all religious traditions, cultures, and individuals; and encourages members of the University community to explore their faith, ethnic and cultural traditions in the context of an intellectually robust and supportive community. Accordingly, diversity

at the University of Saint Francis includes the interests, experiences and backgrounds of individuals based on, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, culture, language, nationality, religion, socioeconomic status, age, gender and disability.

Community

Students, faculty, staff and administrators, each according to his or her role and capacity, actively participate in a community of scholars wherein each member continually develops his or her professional expertise in service to others. An ethic of study, continuous quality improvement, reflection and dialogue is foundational to the University of Saint Francis as a learning organization.

Quality

The University's commitment to continuous study and improvement is underscored by its participation in the Academic Quality Improvement Program of the Higher Learning Commission, and by the variety of professional accreditations for its academic programs. Quality at the University of Saint Francis is a persistent quest for excellence shaped by the needs of students, professional and academic standards, and best practices.

Vision

The University of Saint Francis is a comprehensive University founded in the Catholic Franciscan tradition, committed to being one of the best student-centered learning communities in the nation.

The University combines excellent professional and liberal arts education with the development of life-long learning attitudes and skills. All campus constituencies understand and share the University's Franciscan Charism and promotes it in all aspects of the life of the campus.

The University is characterized by, and has found success in, its distinctive set of Values at the Core, its creative Leadership through the Disciplines, and an organization that fosters Agility in relation to the external environment. These characteristics serve to differentiate the University of Saint Francis from its competitors and assure its success.

ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

The USF Department of Athletics dedicates itself to the mission of providing opportunities to our student-athletes in an environment in which they can achieve their academic goals and succeed at championship levels. To honor the academic mission of the University, the Department supports the educational aspirations, academic progress and general welfare of the student-athlete. The Department strives to be the preeminent representative of the University, supporting our Franciscan Traditions of Faith and Reason. In competition, the Department fosters principles of sportsmanship, respect, fair play and athletic excellence. In all of its activities, the Department will conduct itself in compliance with NAIA, MCC, MSFA and University rules and insist on integrity, ethical conduct and accountability.

ACADEMICS

Policy

It is the intent of the University's President, Provost, Vice President of Enrollment, and the Athletic Director that each of our student-athletes graduates.

The University Academic Support Services offers much to students who come in for help. Please visit their website at: <http://www.sf.edu/success/> to learn more about the services they provide.

USF Athletic Department policy prohibits any student-athlete from missing class for practice. It is acceptable for the student-athletes to miss class for games and travel. Only those student-athletes who are playing in the contest can travel with the team when classes are in session.

A. Students are not permitted to miss a class to attend a home practice session or team meal. All practices must be scheduled before

or after classes, or the students with classes must be excused from practice.

B. During the week of final examinations, games will not be scheduled from the last day of scheduled classes in a term until the day after the last scheduled examination. If a contest must be scheduled during exam week, it should be on Saturday or Sunday.

C. Games must be scheduled so that a student does not miss the same class more than one time during a week and never back-to-back classes (i.e., Friday/Monday).

D. If games are cancelled or postponed, all student-athletes are required to attend classes even though prior approval for missing them was granted.

All work missed due to participation in athletics must be completed in a timely manner.

ACADEMIC GUIDELINES FOR NAIA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

To become certified for athletic competition, students must meet the following requirements:

Direct-out-of high school students: Initial Eligibility

Fall Sports

Meet all Admissions requirements-including receipt of all final, official transcripts

Meet 2 of the following 3 academic requirements:

- A minimum score of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT;
- An overall high school grade point average of 2.000 or higher on a 4.000 scale;
- Graduate in the upper half of the student's high school graduating class.

Be currently enrolled in 12 credit hours

Spring Sports

Meet all Admissions requirements-including receipt of all final, official transcripts

Meet 2 of the following 3 academic requirements:

- A minimum score of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT;
- An overall high school grade point average of 2.000 or higher on a 4.000 scale;
- Graduate in the upper half of the student's high school graduating class.

Have earned a minimum of 9 credit hours in the fall semester

Be currently enrolled in 12 credit hours

Maintain a minimum, cumulative GPA of 2.00

Transfer Students: Initial Eligibility

Fall Sports

Meet all Admissions requirements-including receipt of all final, official transcripts

Complete the NAIA Transfer Player Eligibility Statement

Be currently enrolled in 12 credit hours

Have earned a minimum, combined cumulative GPA of 2.00 from all previous institutions

Have earned a minimum of 24 credit hours in the 2 immediately previous terms of attendance

Transfer hours from previous institutions are calculated at face value only for the first term of attendance at USF

Thereafter, only transferred credit hours accepted by USF and posted to the USF transcript will be used for calculating athletic eligibility

Spring Sports

Meet all Admissions requirements-including receipt of all final, official transcripts

Complete the NAIA Transfer Player Eligibility Statement

Be currently enrolled in 12 credit hours

Have earned a minimum, combined cumulative GPA of 2.00 from all previous institutions

Have earned a minimum of 24 credit hours in the 2 immediately previous terms of attendance

Transfer hours from previous institutions are calculated at face value only for the first term of attendance at USF

Thereafter, only transferred credit hours accepted by USF and posted to the USF transcript will be used for calculating athletic eligibility

All Students: Continuing Eligibility

All students are awarded a total of 4 seasons of competition
All students must complete the 4 seasons of competition within 10 full-time terms of attendance

To become eligible for upcoming seasons, the following applies:

Previous seasons of competition used	Min # earned credit hours required
1	24
2	48
3	72

Repeated courses will affect certification for athletic eligibility
Check with the coach before dropping courses
In certain circumstances, other restrictions apply
This information is not a guarantee of eligibility

Please contact the USF Registrar's Office if you have any questions about your eligibility!

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2009-2010

Fall Semester 2009

Weekday classes begin Monday, August 24
Labor Day (no classes) Monday, September 7
Faculty Development Day (no classes) Tuesday, October 6
Mid-Semester Friday, October 16
Thanksgiving vacation (no classes) Wednesday-Sunday, November 25-29
Classes resume at 8:00 a.m. Monday, November 30
Final exams Monday, December 7-Friday, December 11

Spring Semester 2010

Weekday classes begin Monday, January 11
Martin Luther King Day (no classes) Monday, January 18
Mid-Semester Friday, March 5
Spring vacation (no classes) Monday-Friday, March 8-12
Easter vacation (no classes) Thursday (5:00PM)-Sunday, April 1-4

Final exams Monday, April 26-Friday, April 30
Commencement Ceremonies Saturday, May 1

Summer Session I 2009

Weekday classes begin Monday, May 17
Memorial Day (no classes) Monday, May 31
Weekday classes end Friday, June 25

Summer Session II 2009

Weekday classes begin Monday, June 28
Weekday classes end Friday, August 6

Grade Point Average Requirement

The University of Saint Francis requires that **all** student-athletes maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale.

CREDIT HOURS

IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS, A STUDENT-ATHLETE MUST BE REGISTERED FOR AT LEAST 12 CREDIT HOURS. IF A STUDENT-ATHLETE FALLS BELOW 12 CREDIT HOURS, HE/SHE WILL IMMEDIATELY BECOME INELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION.

Study Tables

Study tables are monitored by one of the assistant coaches and the schedule for Study Tables will be determined by that coach. Please ask your coach about the times during which Study Tables will be available.

Each coach may determine which upper class students need to attend study tables. It is recommended that all freshmen attend at least two times a week. Each coach is responsible for notifying the Athletic Director of the student-athletes who should attend Study Tables.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER

The University of Saint Francis is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Launched by the NAIA in 2000, the Champions of Character program addresses character issues more comprehensively than any other national program for youth. The program currently reaches hundreds of thousands of students on nearly 300 college and university campuses in North America and extends into their surrounding communities.

There are 5 core values of the Champions of Character program:

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

INTEGRITY

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

SPORTSMANSHIP

Each program is required to participate in two (2) community outreach programs per year. Additionally, each athletic program shall assign 2 members of the team to sit on the Leadership Council.

USF Athletics has developed a Leadership Council. The Leadership Council consists of the following number of representatives from each team:

Baseball	2	Basketball (M)	2
Basketball (W)	2	Cross Country (M/W)	2
Football	2	Golf (M/W)	2
Soccer (M)	2	Soccer (W)	2
Softball	2	Spirit Team	2
Tennis	1	Track and Field (M/W)	2
Volleyball	2		

The Contact Person for USF's Champions of Character Program is Coach Christy Young.

Conduct, Ethics and Sportsmanship

1. Personal Conduct

For the student-athlete, the acceptance of athletic financial aid and/or participation as a member of an athletics team carries with it definite academic and athletic responsibilities. They are as follows:

- Have your application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file at USF at the appropriate date;
- Maintain the minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above;
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Funding and NAIA requirements;
- Maintain full-time (**at least 12 credit hours**) undergraduate enrollment;
- Obey the rules and regulations of the Athletic Department and the University; and
- Participate actively in your sport.

2. Academic

- A.** Attend all classes, complete all academic assignments in a timely manner, and adhere to the University's Academic Integrity Guidelines;
- B.** Consult with Athletic Advisors, Compliance Coordinator, and coach and attend tutoring sessions, as directed;
- C.** Maintain an academic course load of at least twelve (12) hours per semester AND make satisfactory progress toward a degree;
- D.** Accept responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility; and
- E.** Strive to obtain a college degree within four (4) years.
- F.** Academic dishonesty cases involving cheating, plagiarism, and other areas will be handled through University policies.
- G.** Behave appropriately while in the classroom (e.g., refrain from talking in class, belligerence, and misrepresenting your athletic responsibilities.)

3. Athletics

- A.** Abide by all team, University, conference, and NCAA rules;
- B.** Maintain yourself in top physical condition, within accepted health standards;
- C.** Attend all organized practices unless officially excused;

D. Take the proper care of uniforms and equipment and return them in good condition;

E. Treat officials, opponents, and teammates with respect, and avoid confrontations;

F. Maintain proper standards of grooming and dress; and,

G. Abstain from using tobacco, alcohol, and non-therapeutic drugs.

4. Sporting Conduct

Sporting conduct means more than the absence of negative actions in public. It includes behavior both on and off the playing field and in and outside the sport's season. Unacceptable behavior on the playing field includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A. Physical or verbal abuse of officials, coaches, opponents or spectators;

B. Throwing of objects;

C. Unauthorized seizure of equipment from officials or news media;

D. Inciting players or spectators to negative actions or to any behaviors which insult or defile an opponent's traditions;

E. Use of obscene or otherwise inappropriate language or gestures;

F. Making public statements which are negative, controversial or outside the Department's media policy; or

G. Participating in any action that violates generally recognized ethical standards of intercollegiate athletics participation.

5. Criminal Activity Policy

The Athletics Department has implemented the following sanctions for student-athletes involved in criminal behavior:

A. Misdemeanor (not including minor traffic violations) charges, and felony investigations will be left to the discretion of the

University Standing Disciplinary Committee/Dean of Students Office.

B. Misdemeanor convictions will result in minimum of a 2 game suspension (or 7%) of total competitions remaining.

C. A Felony Charge will result in indefinite suspension, term of which will be the University Standing Disciplinary Committee

D. A Felony Conviction will result in removal from team and loss of athletically related aid, if applicable.

E. All sanctions are in addition to any imposed by [USF](#) and local/state/federal legal system.

6. Hazing

Indiana law prohibits hazing. Hazing means forcing or requiring another person, with or without the other person's consent, to perform an act that creates a substantial risk of bodily injury as a condition of association with a group or organization. Like any other state law, this applies at the University of Saint Francis. The university supports this law and sets it forth in order to educate its students. The responsibility for complying with the hazing law and other laws rests with the students and the organizations they create. Any violation of the hazing law of which the university becomes aware can be the basis of disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Our Franciscan values call upon us to create a trustful and affirming community. It is inconsistent with our Franciscan values for one student to subject another student, with or without the other student's consent, to physical, mental, emotional or psychological abuse or intimidation as a condition of association with a group or organization. Responsibility for compliance with these Franciscan values rests with the students and organizations they create.

Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol

Alcohol Policy

The possession, consumption, serving, and selling of alcoholic beverages on University premises is limited to University of Saint Francis-sponsored functions in restricted areas. When the university sponsors an event where alcohol is sold or served, all participants

must be of legal age as governed by the laws of Indiana. The University of Saint Francis will not tolerate drunkenness or public intoxication on University premises or University-related premises.

Coaches reserve the right to establish rules for their athletes regarding the use of alcohol as long as those rules are consistent with federal, state and USF policies and regulations.

Tailgating Policy

1. University security personnel are authorized to remove any individual from campus whose behavior becomes unruly, argumentative, unethical, or irresponsible or who poses a danger to themselves or others.
2. Tailgating is allowed three hours prior to the game and two hours after the game.
3. Tailgating is permitted in designated areas only: the two parking lots at the north end of the stadium or on the nearby adjacent grassed areas (not the drive aisles).
4. Kegs and glass bottles containing alcohol or other beverages are not permitted.
5. Tailgate parties are not permitted in the parking lots during the game.
6. Alcohol consumption is allowed for individuals over the age 21 at University sanctioned or sponsored events. Permissible areas for alcohol consumption during the football game include the general admission tailgate area and the corporate hospitality area.
7. Consumption of alcohol is not allowed in Bishop D'Arcy Stadium.

Drug Policy

In order to foster the personal health and development of students and to support an environment that is wholesome and supportive of the growth of students, the University of Saint Francis supports a drug-free environment. Therefore, in order to support this environment, the University of St Francis does not permit the possession, manufacture, sale, use, or sharing of illicit drugs or other controlled substances as defined in the Indiana Criminal Code by students on university premises or university-related premises. Student-athletes will be subject to prosecution by civil authorities as well.

Student-athletes who violate this policy can be disciplined by the institution's judicial system in the Office of Student life and/or the Director of Athletics, and are subject to expulsion from the University. Other punishments include fines, suspension from extra-curricular activities including athletics, and/or suspension for an entire semester.

Each coach will work with the Athletic Trainer to conduct at least two drug tests of each student-athlete per academic year.

First Violation

1. If a student-athlete has a confirmed positive test result, the Associate Director of Athletics will report such fact to the student, the Head Coach and the Director of Athletics.
2. The Head Coach shall establish a private meeting attended by himself/herself, the student-athlete, the Head Athletic Trainer or his/her designee, and the Associate Director of Athletics to:
 - a. Reinforce the non-punitive philosophy of the Substance Abuse Program, discuss any input of notified parents, review the sanctions and implications of Step 2 and thereafter, and discuss any other matters desired by any of the participants in the meeting.
 - b. Agree upon and attend a mandatory assessment education/counseling session with a counselor, to discuss:
 - (i) A commitment by the student-athlete that he/she will meaningfully cooperate in problem awareness/assessment/counseling sessions as proposed by the personal counselor.
 - (ii) Specific objectives or activities to be accomplished or discontinued by the student-athlete.
3. During Step 1, team membership and athletic activities may not be adversely affected solely for the reason that the student-athlete had a confirmed positive test result.
4. During Step 1, at any time(s) with or without prior notice or cause, the student-athlete may be required to participate in further testing procedures.

Second Violation

1. If a student-athlete has a second confirmed positive test result during the same academic year, such fact will be reported by the

Associate Director of Athletics to the student-athlete, the Head Coach, the Head Athletic Trainer or his/her designee, and the Director of Athletics.

2. The Head Coach shall establish a private meeting attended by himself/herself, the student-athlete, Associate Director of Athletics, the Head Athletic Trainer or his/her designee, and potentially the Director of Athletics.

3. During Step 2, the Head Coach may take action by demoting the team status of the student-athlete (benching him/her) and/or then or later suspending him/her from the team.

4. During Step 2, at any time(s) with or without prior notice or cause, the student-athlete may be required to participate in further testing procedures.

Third Violation

1. If a student-athlete has a third confirmed positive test result during the same academic year, such fact will be reported by the Associate Director of Athletics to the student athlete, the Head Coach, the Head Athletic Trainer or his/her designee, and the Director of Athletics.

2. Upon such third confirmed positive test result, the student-athlete shall automatically and forthwith be dismissed from all athletic teams and shall lose his/her athletic scholarship.

Parent Involvement

1. Unless prohibited by law (e.g., FERPA/HPPA), parents (including legal guardians) of a student-athlete will be notified as to matters involving participation of such student-athlete in this Substance Abuse Program under the following circumstances:

a. If a student-athlete is denied the opportunity to participate in intercollegiate activities for the reason that he/she refused or otherwise failed to participate in the testing procedure by not providing a specimen when and where requested, the parents will be notified of such fact when the Director of Athletics determines that the student-athlete denied participation has not availed himself/herself of the interview opportunity or in the discretion of the Director of Athletics after the interview.

b. If a student-athlete who is not then availing himself/herself of the services of a counselor by self-referral has a first confirmed positive test result, the parents may be notified of such fact at

the discretion of the Director of Athletics after consultation with the a counselor.

c. If a student-athlete has a second or third confirmed positive test result during the same academic year, the parents will be notified of such fact at the time of each such result.

2. Such parent notification will be by the Director of Athletics and notified parents are encouraged to thereafter initiate discussions of the matter with the Head Coach and/or the Director of Athletics and provide any input that might be of assistance in achieving the objectives of the Substance Abuse Program.

Sanctions

1. Failure to participate in testing procedures: A student-athlete will be denied the opportunity to participate in intercollegiate athletic activities.

2. Second confirmed positive test result during one academic year: The student-athlete may be demoted in team status (benched) or may be suspended from the team.

3. The student-athlete will be dismissed from all athletic teams and may lose his/her athletic scholarship under the following circumstances:

- a. A third confirmed positive test result during one academic year.
- b. A material and substantial failure to participate in the USF Drug Policy, including the refusal or failure to provide a specimen when and where requested as provided above under testing procedures. Nothing herein contained supersedes or modifies any other procedure which may be applicable or sanction which may be imposed by the University or the Athletic Department or University disciplinary process resulting from the sale, transfer or use of illegal substances or the use/misuse/abuse of any substance.

Appeal of Nonacademic Disciplinary Decision

Appeal of Suspension or Expulsion from Athletic Participation

No coach can reduce the punishment listed above; however, a coach may reserve the right to implement other penalties, in addition to

those listed above. Students may seek help for drug or alcohol problems through the Office of the Dean of Students. Referrals are made to outside agencies such as Catholic Charities and Family Care Center. An additional source of help is Alcoholics Anonymous (471-6262).

Tobacco Policy

The University of St Francis recognizes the health risks associated with tobacco use and the risks associated with exposure to second-hand smoke. Therefore, smoking is limited to designated outdoor areas on campus. The use of tobacco, including cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, is prohibited in University of Saint Francis buildings. This includes staff and faculty offices, residence hall rooms and all public areas. In accordance with local law, smoking is prohibited within 20 feet of all building entrances.

The use of tobacco or tobacco products by student-athletes is prohibited.

Gambling

Participation in gambling activities on university premises or university-related premises may be grounds for discipline by the University.

Staff members of the Athletic Department and student-athletes shall not knowingly:

- Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletic competition;
- Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;
- Accept a bet on any team representing the institution; or
- Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card, or any other method employed by organized gambling.

Booster Activity

Each of the following scenarios qualifies an individual as a “Representative of USF’s Athletic Interests”:

- Alumnus
- Contributor to USF Athletics or Booster Club
- Provides benefits (e.g., employment) to enrolled student-athletes; or
- Otherwise promotes USF athletics in any other way

The NAIA and USF have specific rules for the acceptance of assistance from a Booster Club. Failure to abide by these rules could result in loss of athletic eligibility for an individual student-athlete or an entire team. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Booster Activity, please contact your coach or the Athletic Director.

University of Saint Francis Athletic Booster Information and Guidelines

The University of Saint Francis considers the participation in intercollegiate athletics by both athletes and spectators to be an integral part of the community experience. The University is committed to following established Mid-Central College Conference (MCC), Mid-States Football Association (MSFA), and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Rules and Regulations. All athletic booster organizations, alumni and other groups or individuals who represent the University’s athletic interests are expected to adhere to the policies and procedures established by the NAIA and the University of Saint Francis for the governance of its intercollegiate athletic program.

NAIA Official Handbook

Article II, Section B, Paragraph 2:

Any financial aid or assistance to prospective or enrolled students in money or in kind, except that which comes from members of their immediate family or from those upon whom they are legally dependent, shall be administered by the institution under policies and procedures established by the institution through its regularly constituted committee on student loans and scholarships. Under no conditions may an individual or organization provide direct financial assistance to a previously enrolled or prospective student.

Council of Presidents Policies

The NAIA recognizes the importance of booster clubs, and similar support groups, to the institution and to the community, provided such assistance is rendered in an educationally-sound manner.

ATHLETIC POLICY

STATEMENT ON ATHLETICS

The University of Saint Francis believes that a well-balanced program in intercollegiate athletics is consistent with the mission of the institution and is a vital and wholesome adjunct to the purposes and goals of higher education. While participation in intercollegiate athletics is necessarily limited to students with special skills and aptitudes, it is recognized that these programs represent a source of pride and identification for not only the participants, but for all members of the university and the community. The University recognizes that participants are students first and that the primary goal of all student-athletes must be to secure an education and obtain a degree.

The relationship between academics and athletics at the University of Saint Francis is based on mutual support, respect, and a commitment to: provide high-quality programs that reflect positively on the institution; teach the importance of striving for excellence in every endeavor; advance the mission of the institution; and promote the six core values as spelled out by the NAIA Champions of Character initiatives. The University of Saint Francis is committed to achieving and maintaining equality of opportunity in intercollegiate athletics without regard to race or gender.

THE STUDENT-ATHLETE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS

Student-athletes at Saint Francis will be enrolled in a degree program that will enable them to obtain a four-year bachelor's degree. Academic progress of the student-athlete must take precedence over matters related purely to intercollegiate athletics. Athletic talent will not be exploited at the expense of the educational and personal development of the student-athlete. The University will provide the necessary support services to ensure the well being of those who compete in intercollegiate athletics and will encourage and support programs to improve the academic performance of student-athletes. The University will provide the best available coaching leadership, facilities, and equipment consistent with its fiscal resources. Student-athletes shall accept the responsibility of becoming effective and

contributing members of the University community and serve as positive influences both on and off campus.

By means of various recruiting resources, the University athletic program will attempt to attract student-athletes who display a realistic potential to graduate within the academic curriculum. Men and women who participate in intercollegiate athletic programs at Saint Francis shall be expected to maintain the academic standards required of all students at the University and adhere to applicable NAIA and MCC/MSFA regulations. The University realizes that an athletic program brings publicity to an institution and its programs. Saint Francis attracts and intends to recruit student-athletes who reflect an image consistent with the institutional aims of learning and higher education.

All student-athletes shall conduct themselves with honesty and sportsmanship at all times. Participation in intercollegiate athletics at the University of St Francis is a *privilege*, not a *right*!

Thank you for being a member of the University of Saint Francis Department of Athletics. We will do everything that we can to make your time with us enjoyable, successful and exciting!