

## About VCCS Intercollegiate Athletics

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) endorses an athletic sports consortium consisting of club teams in men's and women's sports at various schools across the state. These VCCS schools will work together to set standards of excellence in academic achievement and sports participation.

### What is the difference between Club Sports, Varsity, and Intramurals?

#### Club Sports:

Club Sports in the VCCS are designed to provide opportunities for students to participate in a variety of sports and recreational activities. Each club is considered an organized club with an affiliation as a registered student organization on campus and a club sport. Club Sports are conducted under the direction of an assigned staff member of each college.

A Club Sport is formed by individuals with a common interest in a sport or activity to promote and enhance involvement in that particular activity. Clubs may be instructional, recreational, competitive, or some combination thereof. The basic structure of club sports, in general, allows student athletes numerous opportunities for leadership, decision-making, academic improvement, and retention. The actual success and strength of the club sport is dependent on effective leadership of the coaches and the degree of involvement of its club sports student athletes.

#### Who is eligible to join a club sports team?

Club Sport participants must be recognized as a \*current student by the college at which he/she participates. Club Sport membership must also be approved by individual club guidelines, as well by the college where the club is organized.

\* Current student is defined as currently registered and tuition/student fees paid for a minimum of six (6) credit hours at one of the VCCS schools. Individual club sports teams may, and are encouraged to, impose specific and more strict requirements, at the discretion of the college, pertaining to club membership provided these guidelines are non-discriminatory in nature (For example, a club soccer team may require that club participants be students currently enrolled in at least 12 credit hours in order to be eligible to participate), and is not in conflict with any of the VCCS Intercollegiate Board of Directors guidelines or regulations.

#### Varsity Teams:

Varsity teams must follow NCAA rules and regulations. Practices and games are mandatory, and travel is required to play other universities. Varsity sports usually require a full year commitment, various fees and dues, and well defined rules with sanctions.

#### Intramurals:

Intramural Sports are competitive or recreational sports played on campus and generally among other students, faculty, and/or staff teams. The sports season usually lasts 3-6 weeks. No travel or practice is required.

The conference is divided into Eastern and Western Divisions in all sports except football and baseball. The CIAA annually sponsors 16 men's and women's championships. The eight men's championships include football, cross country, indoor track, basketball, golf, tennis, baseball, and track & field. The eight women's champions are bowling, cross country, volleyball, indoor track, basketball, softball, tennis and track & field. The football champion is determined by standings as determined by regular season record.

---

# GUIDELINES TO GOVERN CLUB SPORTS

The following have been adopted by the Intercollegiate Athletic Board of Directors as guidelines to govern club sports in the Virginia Community College System. The Board is composed of twelve representatives from the colleges appointed by the Chancellor for one, two, or three year terms. A representative cannot sit on the Board if the college is a member of the NJCAA.

1. Other sports will be added besides men's and women's basketball, men's baseball, women's softball, and soccer as they are developed.

2. Eligibility:

a. Each student athlete must be enrolled for at least a minimum of six (6) credit hours each semester of participation and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.0 GPA in subsequent semesters to be eligible to play on a team or participate in any team activity.

- A student's GPA is a system-wide GPA, i.e., if a student has a 2.0 at one college it is considered a 2.0 at any college in the System.
- Students transferring from colleges outside of the VCCS enter with a "clean slate," since grades do not transfer with credits.
- Students who have completed college credits while enrolled in high school dual enrollment classes must have a 1.75 GPA at the beginning of the semester of participation to be eligible to play on a team.

b. Developmental course completions are to be counted towards GPA calculations as follows:

S grades = 3.0  
R grades = 1.0  
U grades = 0.0

This applies to new, or incoming, students as of Fall '05, since returning students already have an "earned" GPA.

c. Each student athlete must maintain a minimum of six (6) credit hours each semester of participation towards the completion of their declared curricular program, for a total of twelve (12) or more credit hours per academic year (to include summer). Withdrawals that take the student below the required six hours are not counted as "maintaining." If a player's graduation requirements can be met with more than six (6) but less than twelve (12) credit hours, then the player must complete his/her course graduation requirements during his/her semester of participation. To verify this exception for eligibility, the student must submit a signed request from the college dean with a copy of course registration by the end of his/her college's drop/add period to the Intercollegiate Athletic Board Chair.

- Each coach will have his/her registrar or appropriate admissions personnel calculate team student athletes' athletic eligibility GPA at the end of the semester.
- A new student's enrollment will be verified at census to insure that he/she is registered for at least six (6) credits.
- Since spring semester sport rosters may be developed during the previous fall semester, i.e., basketball, students' enrollment will be verified by December 1.
- The athletic director, student activities coordinator/director, or other college designee will oversee the rules of the sport and verify eligibility of each player.
- It is the coach's responsibility to share enrollment and GPA information with the Commissioner of his/her respective sport.

- d. No participant may drop below the minimum of six (6) credit hours during any semester of participation. If he/she does drop below six (6) credit hours, he/she will become immediately ineligible for the remainder of the season. (A student may enroll in a special session course to maintain minimum credits required.)
  - It is the coach's responsibility to remove the ineligible player from the team.
  - Use of an ineligible player will cause a forfeiture of all games in which the player participated. In addition, the use of an ineligible player will result in a forfeiture of any title earned in a tournament.
- e. A student may participate as a student athlete of a club sports team for a maximum of three (3) years at any post-secondary school in any particular sport.
- f. Institutional Appeal – A member college may appeal an eligibility decision to the Board of Directors. A letter from both a staff member administering the college's athletic program and the student must accompany the appeal.
- g. Hardship cases:
  - Hardship cases deal only with seasons of competition.
  - The appeal must involve an injury, illness, or personal circumstance beyond the control of the student or his/her respective college.
  - The athlete involved shall not have participated in more than 20% of the regular season.

Persons wishing to make appeals to the Board of Directors for hardship cases must submit a written appeal detailing all of the facts to the Board. Due to time constraints, email votes will be used to rule on each individual case.

- h. Violations of VCCS eligibility guidelines will result in sanctions as determined by the Board of Directors.
3. If a student is enrolled at more than one VCCS college during the same semester (through distance learning for instance), he/she can only be listed on one college's roster. This means that he/she must declare for which institution he/she will participate.
  4. If a VCCS college team wants to go to another league, even though they may have scheduled games with VCCS schools, they would not be eligible to compete for a VCCS championship. In other words, a college team can't play in two conferences in the same season.
  5. All college scheduled games must be approved by the college's president or designee.
  6. A signed assumption of risk form must be completed before a student can participate on a club sports team. This includes "try-outs" and/or practice prior to the actual beginning of the season of play. (Rita Woltz, VCCS attorney, has indicated that the form title may be modified, i.e., the word "intercollegiate" may be removed and "club sports" may be inserted in its place. A sample of an assumption of risk form is attached.)
  7. A coach's meeting should be held each year prior to the beginning of the season to define operational guidelines for play. Some possible items to be covered in these guidelines include:
    - a. minimum number of games to be played
    - b. rules of conduct and any sanctions to be imposed for violations
    - c. designation of a commissioner of the sport for the season to oversee such things as rosters, questions, compliance, etc. Terms of office for a commissioner and/or assistant commissioner will be developed by each sport.
    - d. The Athletic Team Commissioner's job description is attached.

Individual sports guidelines are subject to review by the Intercollegiate Athletic Board of Directors.

8. Protests must be submitted through the sport's commissioner in writing to the VCCS Coordinator of Student Affairs who will in turn schedule a conference call with the Board of Directors for a ruling.
9. Ejection/Suspension: Any coach or player who is ejected from a game will be suspended for the following game. In the event that the sport only has one coach, the coach can remain close to the dugout or benches to keep an eye on the teams, but he/she is not allowed to actively coach. The Commissioner is to be notified and further sanctions may be possible.

Revised: 8/28/08

# Virginia Community College System

## Athletic Commissioner Responsibilities

### Primary Position Purpose

To ensure a high quality sports program for the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) colleges and students. This is a non-paying, volunteer position.

#### Eligibility

- The Board will entertain nominations for each sport from within the Board and that sport's coaches. The Board will select the commissioner.

Commissioners:

- become non-voting members of the Board
- cannot serve as a coach for the VCCS sport for which they serve
- must be employees of the VCCS

### Commissioner Responsibilities

1. Ensure that Game Agreement Forms are used system-wide. Copies should be distributed three ways, both participating schools and the office of the Commissioner.
2. Collaborate with the Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletic Board to, recruit non participating VCCS institutions to become members.
3. Ensure the highest standard of quality competition is followed by all participating schools in the VCCS.
4. Try to attend at least one game in each venue in the VCCS. This should include meeting with each school representative responsible for sports at the member schools to discuss issues relative the specific sport.
5. Oversee the sport teams VCCS Conference Tournament. Working in conjunction with a Tournament Committee (to be developed by the commissioner), determine the site, game schedule, awards, and overall format of the end of season State Tournament.
6. Establish and finalize dates and deadlines for submission of team rosters.
7. Attend State Board of Athletic Directors meetings when appropriated.
8. Schedule meetings with representatives of member schools to discuss issues relative to the VCCS.
9. Work with other Commissioners within the VCCS to ensure the health and growth of the conference.
10. Serve as the first point of contact for questions/conflicts for the sport.
11. Commissioners serve a three year term, subject to yearly review by the Board. Commissioners can be reappointed.