

MINUTES

University Athletics Committee

April 23, 2026

3:30 pm

Jamerson Student-Athlete Performance Center (SAPC)

Present: Jennifer Irish (presiding), Angela Page (for Simon Allen), Chris Wise, Jill Sible, Brad Wurthman, Jane West, David Knight, Gina Seebohm, Angela Anderson, Irene Leech, Robin Queen, Ron Poff (for Dirk Buengel), Eric Martin, Dan Thorp, Marlena Lester (for A/P Faculty Senate), Amy Ingram, Katherine Lemke, Phil Miscovic,

Absent with Notice: Whit Babcock, Joseph Tront, Lisa Karlisch, Alexis Henderson, Travis Burns, Mark Feldman, David Stanford

Absent: Kenneth Stiles, Joseph Lee

Guests: Brandon Hall, Chris Helms, Bridget Brugger McSorley, Les Myers

Irish called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of March 26, 2026.

Irish noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: governance.vt.edu

3. New Business

Preview of Revisions to Policy 1036, Student-Athlete Monitoring and Assistance Program (SAMAP)

Chris Helms previewed revisions to Policy 1036, which is currently under review by university legal counsel. The NCAA does not require institutions to maintain a drug-testing policy, but institutions that do must follow their established policy. Revisions continue to emphasize student-athlete health, safety, and well-being, while streamlining the policy for greater clarity, consistency, and compliance and modernizing sanctions for positive drug tests. Updates also align the policy with current NCAA guidance, add a Plan of Care appendix, revise sport suspension tables to reflect current permissible contest numbers, and provide clearer examples for each drug class. Given the NCAA no longer tests for THC, careful consideration was given to this topic after which it was determined that testing for THC should continue for educational and well-being purposes. A peer review of ACC institutional practices was also completed.

University Athletics Committee Competition Scheduling and Oversight Procedures & Athletics Department Scheduling Policy and Procedures

Irish presented the documents for first reading. The two documents were overhauled and consolidated into a single University Athletics Committee procedures document. The result integrates feedback and contributions from the Academic Success Subcommittee, the Provost's Office including

Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS), and Athletics administrators. Substantive updates streamlined the procedures by removing redundancies and codifying recent practices regarding missed class time and competition during final exams. These include permitting home competitions on Reading Day and on finals-period days without exams (e.g., Sunday) and requiring mitigation plans when a team cannot meet the missed-class cap; to date, all identified teams have such plans in place. Revisions also shift from a prohibitive model to one emphasizing advocacy for student-athletes facing academic-athletic conflicts. Finally, the revised procedures clarify deliverables and workflow responsibilities. A motion to approve was made and seconded, and there was no additional discussion. A vote was taken on the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation

Brandon Hall, Chief Financial Officer, and Brad Wurthman, Chief Revenue Officer, gave an update on Athletics Department finances and revenue. Hall discussed the Invest to Win initiative. He noted that Virginia Tech has historically overachieved relative to resources but underachieved relative to aspirations. He reviewed the proposed investment budget, including initial projects to modernize Lane Stadium and other athletics facilities. While a significant share of facilities funding will support football, all sports are expected to benefit. Beginning in Spring 2026, 44 additional scholarships were added, with most allocated to Olympic sports. Hall indicated that more than half of the investment is expected to come from philanthropy, with additional support from university bridge funding and other sources. Wurthman reviewed external strategy metrics. He reported an immediate visibility boost following Coach Franklin's hire, approximately 1,000 more ticket sales than at the same point last year, and an early recruiting benefit reflected in a higher recruiting class ranking. He also discussed reserving seats for single-game sales as a strategy to increase brand visibility and revenue.

5. Announcements

- Irish made a call for committee topics for the 2026-2027 academic year.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 pm.

University Athletics Committee Competition Scheduling Oversight Procedures

I. Purpose

Virginia Tech holds paramount the academic success and well-being of its student-athletes. These University Athletics Committee (UAC) procedures are intended to foster student-athlete academic success while supporting their participation in competition and related travel. The Head Coach (or designee) is responsible for complying with the expectations of these procedures.

II. Scheduling Guidelines and Procedures

A. NCAA and Conference Bylaws

All scheduling should adhere to NCAA and Conference bylaws, to include the requirement that mandatory practice sessions, workouts, and non-traditional contests not be allowed to interfere with any student-athlete's classes, except those in conjunction with an away-from-home, regular season contest, further specified in NCAA bylaws.

B. Maximum Allowable Class Absences

A student-athlete should not miss more than 17% of any one course in a given semester. To accommodate most class schedules, specifically 3-credit courses meeting Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday, competition and travel schedules should:

1. Not result in more than seven absences per semester of the same course on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and
2. Not result in more than five absences per semester of the same course on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If a team's competition schedule, as dictated by the Conference and/or other factors beyond the team's control, results in class absences exceeding the above minimum, the team must establish a Plan for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success (Article V, Section B).

C. Scheduling During Final Exam Period

1. ***Away from home competitions.*** It is not permissible to schedule an away from home competitions on the day prior to final exams ("reading day"), during final exam week, or on commencement day, except those contests dictated by the NCAA or Conference.

2. **Home competitions.** It is not permissible to schedule a home competition on any day when final exams are scheduled or on commencement day, except those contests dictated by the NCAA or Conference. However, home competitions may be scheduled on “reading day” or on any day when final exams are not scheduled (typically a Sunday).
3. For teams competing during the final exams period:
 - a. Prior to the start of final exams, the Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) Director (or designee) will provide to the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs (VPUAA) (or designee) for review a list of all student-athletes participating in competitions during final exams along with SAASS staff’s evaluation of the student-athletes’ final exam schedules, plans to mitigate exam conflicts, and any academic concerns related to the participating student-athletes.

If scheduling a Non-Conference competition at home on a permissible day is not possible, permission to participate during exam week must be given by the Provost’s Office (Article V, Section A).

D. Campus Operations

Any home athletic competition (e.g., weekday football competitions) that will, or has the potential to, impact campus operations (e.g., early campus closure and class cancellation) should be reported by the Athletics Department Liaison to SAASS (Athletics Liaison) to the President (or designee) and the FAR; the FAR will notify the Provost and Faculty Senate President. Such reports are due by July 1st for Fall semester competitions and by November 1st for Spring semester competitions.

E. Schedule and Roster Communication

1. Team schedules (home and away) should be submitted by the Athletics Liaison to the SAASS Director (or designee) and the FAR and are due by August 1st for Fall semester competitions and by December 1st for Spring semester competitions. Schedule updates related to changes in competitions should be revised and resubmitted within one week, to include release of Conference schedules. See Appendix for team schedule sample.
2. A list of squad members who will miss class along with final team travel dates/times and travel locations must be submitted by the Head Coach (or designee) to the SAASS Director (or designee) at least 2 days prior to each competition.

F. Make Up of Coursework and Major Assignments

Rescheduling and make up of exams and other coursework is at the discretion of the instructor of record. Should there be an irreconcilable conflict between class responsibilities and athletics responsibilities, the student-athlete is invited to seek assistance from the FAR and VPUAA (or designee) to reach a resolution (see Virginia Tech Student-Athlete Handbook).

III. Establishment of Academic Success Subcommittee

A subcommittee of the UAC shall be established to facilitate student-athlete academic success (hereafter Subcommittee). Subcommittee membership comprises the FAR as chair and at least two faculty representatives from the UAC (volunteers approved by the UAC chair or appointed by the UAC chair).

IV. Periodic Evaluation of Academic Success and Well-being

To identify student-athlete academic success and well-being (e.g., mental health) as they are affected by scheduling, the Subcommittee will review at least every two years:

- Missed class information provided by the Athletics Department:
 - Missed class days by sport,
 - Missed days during the final exam period (including reading day) by sport.
- Academic performance information (including GPA, Academic Progress Rates (APR), percentage of student-athletes on academic probation, percentage of student-athletes on academic watchlist) provided by SAASS, and
- A summary of aggregated and anonymized key findings from student-athlete exit interviews and annual surveys provided by the FAR as a metric for well-being.
- Existing Plans for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success.

The Subcommittee shall report findings and recommendations to the UAC.

V. Review and Approval of Exceptions

A. Exceptions, Including Requests to Schedule Non-Conference Competitions in Accordance with Article II, Section C

Requests for exceptions to these procedures require Executive Vice President and Provost (or designee) approval prior to scheduling and announcing the competition. Exception requests are submitted by the Athletics Liaison (or designee) to the VPUAA (or designee). The request shall include the sport administrator and coach's justification for scheduling during the specified time period.

Once received, the request is reviewed by the VPUAA in consultation with the FAR, who will consider:

1. The final exam schedule for the date(s) student-athletes would be traveling/competing.
2. The team's academic performance as provided by the SAASS Director (or designee).

Following a timely review, the final decision is communicated to the Athletics Liaison (or designee), with copy to the SAASS Director and FAR. The Subcommittee is responsible for reporting the decision to the UAC.

B. Establishment of Plans for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success

If a team's competition schedule, as dictated by the Conference and/or other factors beyond the team's control, results in class absences exceeding the maximum stated in Article II, Section B, the Subcommittee shall establish a Plan for Minimizing Class Absence and Supporting Academic Success (hereafter Plan). The Subcommittee shall lead Plan development in collaboration with the team's Sport Administrator, Head Coach (or designee), and SAASS counselor. The final Plan endorsed by the Subcommittee will be signed by the team's Sport Administrator, Head Coach (or designee), SAASS counselor, and the FAR, then reported to the UAC.

C. Other Exceptions

The FAR will be responsible for collaborating with Athletics Compliance on athletics travel and competition that is consistent with University and Athletics Department policy and procedures but requires a waiver from the NCAA or Conference.

VI. Approval and Revisions

Approved April 13, 2023, by the University Athletics Committee.

These procedures must be reviewed every four years; they can be reviewed earlier as needed.

- Revision 1

Article II revised to encompass portions of sections B and D of "Athletics Department Scheduling Policy and Procedures," which was retired on April 23, 2026. Article II further revised to modernize and clarify procedures for class absences and for competitions during the Final Exam period. Article IV updated to clarify review includes missed time during the final exam period. Article V revised to streamline exception process. Points of contact and due dates clarified and updated throughout.

Approved by the University Athletics Committee on April 23, 2026.

Appendix

Athletics Department team schedule spreadsheet excerpt. The following information should be provided for each home and away competition. For teams with competition subgroups (e.g., Track & Field, Swim & Dive), a schedule should be provided for each subgroup.

Dates	Opponent	Location	Competition Start Time	Departure/Report Time	Return Time	Subgroup
1/30/26	James Madison University	Harrisonburg, VA	2:00 PM	1/30 @ 9:00 AM	1/30 @ 7:00 PM	if relevant