DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS & RECREATION
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ACADEMIC-ATHLETICS CONFLICTS

Bucknell University maintains a policy on Conflicts Between Regularly Scheduled Classes and Other Activities. The Department of Athletics and Recreation has fully endorsed this policy and adopted supporting policies and procedures that are outlined in both our athletics staff manual and student-athlete handbook. Below are key policy provisions that impact the operation of each of our athletics programs.

Specifically,

- Academic commitments of student-athletes take priority over all external activities.
- Coaches should not unduly influence a student-athlete to rearrange their academic curriculum in order to attend practices.
- Student-athletes should attend all of their classes.
- Student-athletes should not miss a class due to an athletics practice.
- Student-athletes should never be penalized for missing or arriving late to a practice due to a class or lab.
- Student-athletes should notify professors of all competitions that affect class attendance prior to their contest.
- If a scheduling conflict occurs, student-athletes should work together with their professors to address the situation. If the conflict cannot be worked out, the student-athlete should not only contact their academic dean and coach, but also Amanda Backus, Associate Director of Athletics/SWA who serves as the athletics department’s academic liaison.
- In general, mandatory athletically related activities as defined by the NCAA (including meetings, film sessions, chalk talks etc.) shall not commence prior to 4:00 p.m. during any academic calendar day. However, it shall be permissible for coaches to accommodate individual student-athletes as well as teams, who do not have academic obligations, in providing individualized skill instruction and/or team practice opportunities at times throughout the calendar day.

Maintaining academic priorities and supporting the education of our student-athletes is paramount to our responsibility as a coach or staff member in the Bison athletics program. Should you, your staff or your student-athletes have any additional questions, please contact Amanda Backus, Associate Director of Athletics/SWA at 577-1712.