INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

Student-Athletes at Shippensburg University must be certified as eligible for practice and competition at the NCAA Division II level through the NCAA Eligibility Center. A potential student-athlete will be declared a **qualifier, partial qualifier, or non-qualifier** by the Eligibility Center. A **qualifier** can practice, compete, and receive athletics scholarship. A **partial qualifier** can practice and receive scholarship, but cannot compete. A **non-qualifier** cannot compete, practice, or receive scholarship. As you advise a potential student-athlete, please be aware of whether they are actually on a team (or recruited) versus a student who is considering a try-out or walk-on opportunity.

CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

To **remain** eligible to compete in intercollegiate athletics, student-athletes must:

- Earn a minimum of 24 New Credits per year.
- Be enrolled as a full-time student (at least 12 credits).
- 75% of new credits must be earned in the Fall/Spring semesters.
- Division II uses a sliding QPA scale. Student-athletes who have passed at least 24 credits must have a 1.8 Cumulative QPA; more than 48, they will need a 1.9; and more than 72, they will need a 2.0 QPA. ***Note: Starting in 2016, student-athletes must have a 2.0 across the board at all times to be eligible.***

DEVELOPMENTAL COURSES

Developmental courses count as part of the 24 new credit requirement **ONLY IN THE student-athlete’s FIRST YEAR. For example, if a student-athlete passes 24 new credits in their second year at Ship – and 3 of those credits were developmental credits, then they must pass 3 more new non-developmental credits for a total of 27 credits.**

COMPETITION & PRACTICE SCHEDULES

There is an expectation that a student-athlete be aware of their practice and competition schedules/calendars for the upcoming semester. The Coach is expected to make this information available to the student-athletes. Please try to assist them in scheduling their courses around both their practice and competition schedules. Student-athletes do have **Priority Registration**, which is designed to assist them in this process. In some cases, SA’s will need to take a course which does conflict with practice or competitions. While this is not ideal, the expectation is the student will take the class and miss whatever practice they need to
miss. But again, the goal will be to have the student-athlete reduce conflicts when possible.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ATHLETIC-RELATED ABSENCES FOR OFFICIAL COMPETITION**

Shippensburg University has, in place, an official policy (approved by the academic Deans’ Council) regarding absences for official competition. These absences are excused and student-athletes are expected to notify faculty members in advance and work with them to make up work. They should be afforded an opportunity to make up missed assignments and examinations. Full text of this policy is available in the Faculty Handbook or at info.ship.edu. At the start of each semester of competition, student-athletes are given a memo which outlines all competitions. The student-athlete is instructed to provide a copy of this memo to all of their instructors – in office hours – and discuss a plan to make up missed work.

**WORKLOAD & SUCCESS**

Student-athletes often put a great deal of time, effort, and energy into their respective athletic-related endeavors. Given that they do often place as much time into their sport as a part-time job (often more), they still achieve at a high level. Their average QPA significantly exceeds that of the general student body. Learning how to balance athletic responsibilities with academic commitments is a process throughout their entire educational experience. SA’s learn many valuable lessons away from the classroom, and they can bring many positive qualities to the classroom setting as well.

**QUESTION & CONTACTS**

If you have any questions about any of the above topics or want to talk about any athletic / academic-related matter, please be in touch with any of the following:

**KURT DUNKEL – Coordinator of Office of Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes**
717.477. 1699  kadunkel@ship.edu

**DR. RICH ZUMKHAWALA-COOK – Faculty Athletic Representative**
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**JEFF MICHAELS – Director of Athletics**
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**Ashley Grimm – Assistant Director of Athletics**
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