

UAF Philosophy of Athletics

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE – MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the University of Alaska Fairbanks athletics program is to provide the student-athlete with an opportunity to compete at the Division I and II levels of competition while receiving a quality education consistent with the mission of the University. The athletics experience is an extension of the educational process whereby student-athletes acquire the skill, characteristics and self-confidence that will enable them to reach their full potential. The athletics program is committed to assisting student-athletes to achieve their academic and physical potential by learning to develop worthy goals for a meaningful life. It is the goal of the athletics program to provide the student-athlete with the means to perform with distinction.

To achieve this mission, the University:

1. Has a goal of maintaining a graduation rate for all student-athletes that is equal to or higher than that of the general student body.
2. Has a long-range planning process for athletics.
3. Has developed a master plan to update facilities to Division I and II standards.
4. Has adopted the Knight Commission's "one-plus-three" model, a structure of reform in which the "one" (presidential control) is directed toward the "three" (academic integrity, financial integrity, and independent certification).
5. Has joined the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA), the Central Collegiate Ski Association (CCSA), the Pacific Coast Swimming Conference (PCSC) and the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), which provide the opportunity for our sports to compete at the highest level and at the same time afford a quality athletics experience for all our student-athletes.
6. Has expanded student support services to include an academic monitoring system that tracks the progress of all student-athletes and provides tutoring for all those in need.
7. Has created a student-athlete academic center.
8. Has a compliance program in place to effectively safeguard the welfare of student-athletes and minimize the likelihood of NCAA rules violations.
9. Has organized a student-athlete advisory committee (SAAC) for input and constructive feedback regarding the athletics programs.
10. Has annual meetings between athletics administration and all student-athletes for the purpose of evaluating the coaches and the programs.
11. Supports attendance of coaches at workshops and clinics to expand their knowledge and hone expertise in their respective sport.

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12. Has an on-going process to evaluate and comply with equal opportunity for all student-athletes regardless of gender, ethnicity, creed or religion.
13. Has a goal to raise athletics income to support the additional expenses that will be necessary to fund gender equity, conference requirements, and to maintain competitive programs. Any increases in resources provided to areas within the program will normally come from reallocation of revenue.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE – PHILOSOPHY OF VARSITY ATHLETICS

Intercollegiate athletics is a multi-faceted entity at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The University has the challenge of balancing the benefits derived from competing at the Division I and II levels and maintaining the integrity of the student-athlete. The paramount function of our varsity sports program is to provide the student-athlete with an educational, social, and physical experience that closely emulates the mission of the University. The essence of the athletics experience must adhere to the principles of sportsmanship and ethical conduct (including fair play), rules compliance and amateur athletics competition as defined by NCAA rules for athletics staff, student-athletes and institutional personnel (Constitution 2). The physical, emotional and social welfare of the student-athlete including gender issues, ethnic diversity and sexual orientation related issues will continuously be an essential aspect of the process.

Academic pursuit is the prime purpose of the University, and the athletics experience must at all times be a secondary component of this process. When the University of Alaska Fairbanks coaches recruit students, the priorities, in sequence, are academic ability, citizenship, and athletics talent. When the athlete does not measure up as a student, or fails to display responsible behavior, athletics talent will not be of consequence.

The University has chosen to compete at the Division I and II levels to maximize benefits that can be obtained with a successful athletics program. The pressures of having winning teams, producing revenue, and receiving wide media exposure are intense, but they are part of the Division I and II commitment. Successful athletic teams provide local, regional and national publicity that benefit student recruitment, stimulate alumni pride and enhance development.

UAF Department of Athletics is committed to equity and will continue to provide an environment that allows individuals to express themselves at their maximum potential.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE – NCAA PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

In addition to the purposes and fundamental policy of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, as set forth in Constitution 1, members of Division II believe that a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program, based on sound educational principles and practices, is a proper part of the educational mission of a university or college and that the educational welfare of the participating student-athlete is of primary concern.

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Members support the following principles in the belief that these objectives assist in defining the Division and the possible differences between it and other Divisions of the Association. This statement shall serve as a guide for the preparation of legislation by the Division and for planning and implementation of programs by institutions and conferences. A member of Division II:

- (a) Believes in promoting the academic success of its student-athletes, measured in part by an institution's student-athletes graduating at least at the same rate as the institution's student body;
- (b) Believes that participation in intercollegiate athletics benefits the educational experience of its student-athletes and the entire campus community;
- (c) Believes in offering opportunities for intercollegiate athletics participation consistent with the institution's mission and philosophy;
- (d) Believes in preparing student-athletes to be good citizens, leaders and contributors in their communities;
- (e) Believes in striving for equitable participation and competitive excellence, encouraging sportsmanship and ethical conduct, enhancing diversity and developing positive societal attitudes in all of its athletics endeavors;
- (f) Believes in scheduling the majority of its athletics competition with other members of Division II, insofar as regional qualification, geographical location and traditional or conference scheduling patterns permit;
- (g) Recognizes the need to "balance" the role of the athletics program to serve both the campus (participants, student body, faculty, staff) and the general public (community, area, state);
- (h) Believes in offering opportunities for participation in intercollegiate athletics by awarding athletically related financial aid to its student-athletes;
- (i) Believes that institutional control is a fundamental principle that supports the educational mission of a Division II institution and assumes presidential involvement and commitment. The institution should control all funds supporting athletics. The emphasis for an athletics department should be to operate within an institutionally approved budget and compliance with and self enforcement of NCAA regulations is an expectation of membership; and
- (j) Believes that all members of Division II should commit themselves to this philosophy and to the regulations and programs of Division II.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE – NCAA AND CONFERENCE AFFILIATION

NCAA and Conference Affiliation

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and has conference affiliations with the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA), Central Collegiate Ski Association

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(CCSA) and Pacific Collegiate Swimming Conference (PCSC). The UAF Rifle team competes as an Independent.

The NCAA is the primary association that governs and controls and Campus Recreation athletics on the national level. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is a Division II member, and also a multi-division (Division I and II) NCAA member.

Great Northwest Athletic Conference Members

Alaska Fairbanks	Saint Martin's
Alaska Anchorage	Seattle Pacific
Central Washington	Western Oregon
Northwest Nazarene	Western Washington
Montana – Billings	Simon Frazier University

Central Collegiate Hockey Association Members

Alaska Fairbanks	Michigan State
Bowling Green State	Nebraska Omaha
Ferris State	Northern Michigan
Lake Superior State	Notre Dame
Miami Ohio	Ohio State
Michigan	Western Michigan

Central Collegiate Ski Association Members

Alaska Fairbanks	Saint Cloud State
Gustavus Adolphus	Saint John's
Finlandia	Saint Benedict
Michigan Tech	Saint Olaf
Northern Michigan	Wisconsin-Green Bay

University of Alaska Fairbanks Sports

Men's Sports

Basketball
Cross-Country Running
Nordic Skiing
Rifle
Hockey

Women's Sports

Basketball
Cross-Country Running
Nordic Skiing
Rifle
Volleyball
Swimming