

RULES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES		
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- (1) To establish the criteria for student eligibility for participation in intercollegiate athletics and for awarding and renewing financial assistance for Student Athletes inclusive of scholarships, Talent Grants, and need-based state and federal financial aid. A Student Athlete is defined as a College student who is participating in a National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association sanctioned intercollegiate athletic sport offered at Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ).
- A. Recruitment: Potential student athletes will be recruited by coaches based on athletic ability, potential to perform academically, and willingness to contribute to the College community. Student athletes must comply with all College policies and procedures regarding admissions, testing and degree requirements.
- B. Eligibility: Student athletes are recruited from high schools and non- National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) institutions and are admitted to the College and receive financial aid in the same manner as other students. In accordance with Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA) and the National Junior College Athletic Association rules, the College Athletic Director will recommend the participation of student athletes to the College Registrar, who will make the final determination regarding eligibility compliance. Continuing eligibility of student athletes at the College is subject to the rules established by the NJCAA and the FCSAA.
1. Letters of Intent: The awarding of financial assistance to student athletes will be implemented through the normal financial aid processes and schedules. *Letters of Intent* are negotiated between the student and the Athletic Director/Coach, but are not considered binding until signed by the College President, or designee.
 2. Substance Abuse Education and Consent to Participate: Participation in FSCJ Intercollegiate Athletics is a privilege; not a right. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, honesty, integrity, and respect for others, as well as abide by all team, athletic program, FSCJ, FCSAA, and NJCAA policies, regulations, and procedures. To become and remain a participant in FSCJ Intercollegiate Athletics, a student-athlete must comply with the terms of this program that encompasses drug education, screening and counseling. By signing the Substance Abuse Testing Consent Form, the student-athlete agrees to submit to any and all tests ordered by FSCJ to detect unauthorized drug and/or substance use. Completion of this document is required of all student-athletes prior to participation in any athletic practices or games. Refusal to sign a consent form prohibits a student-athlete from participating in any intercollegiate sport at FSCJ. Furthermore, if a student athlete chooses not to be screened/tested when selected or does not participate in the agreed upon counseling program after a 1st violation, he/she forfeits his/her right to participate and will be eliminated from the team immediately and referred to the Dean of Students.

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- a. **Drug Testing:** In consultation with the Vice President of Student Services, the Athletic Director or his/her designee reserves the right to randomly test student-athletes for the use of proscribed substances or alcohol. Such tests may also be administered to a particular team(s) or individual(s) based on a reasonable suspicion that the student(s) or team(s) is engaging in proscribed use of drugs or excessive consumption of alcohol. The costs associated with drug testing will be incurred by the College; however, any subsequent testing (i.e.: during counseling) will be the responsibility of the student athlete. Students who test positive for the second time in his/her career at FSCJ will be eliminated from program participation and immediately referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

- b. **Eligibility Compliance:** All athletic staff and coaches will annually receive copies of the Florida College System Activities Association and National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association rules regarding the eligibility of student athletes. Referenced staff and coaches will affirm in writing that they are in receipt of, understand and will comply with all applicable rules regarding the eligibility of athletes.

- c. **Pre-participation Physical:** In accordance with NJCAA rules, a student athlete must have on file the results of a pre-participation physical examination attesting to the student's fitness to participate in intercollegiate athletics. In instances where there is a substantive change in physical condition, the student will be immediately suspended from participation in athletic activities pending the results of a medical evaluation.

- C. **Financial Assistance:** The financial assistance program provides financial support to student athletes who without such assistance would be unable to attend FSCJ. Financial assistance consists of scholarships, athletic talent grants, need-based grants, loans and employment that may be offered to students. Students must participate fully in the activity required to receive Athletic Talent Grants during the term in which funds are received.

(General Authority: F.S. 468.454, 1001.64, 1001.65, 1005.05, 1006.71, 1009.23, Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA), National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA))

(Adopted: 08/12/14, Revised 04/12/22)