

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK



**DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS
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2005-06 Edition

Published by the Department of Athletics
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Mississippi Valley State University, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Higher Education Act), does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or physical handicap in any of its policies and procedures. This provision includes, but is not limited to, admission, employment, financial aid and educational services.

The policies and rules outlined in this handbook do not constitute a contract, are subject to change and will be superceded by policies and rules included in the University's Student Handbook. Updates and/or changes will be disseminated via letters, memoranda and/or the University's official web site.

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HISTORY OF MVSU ATHLETICS

Intercollegiate athletics at MVSU began in the fall of 1953 with three sports -- men's basketball, baseball and football. Over the years, women's basketball, bowling (women), golf (men and women), tennis (men and women), cross country (men and women), softball (women), volleyball (women), indoor track and field (men and women), outdoor track and field (men and women) and soccer (women) were added. In 1975, the University competed at the NAIA level, while moving to NCAA Division I in 1981. The move to Division I began in 1981 with full membership approval in 1982. We currently sponsor 18 sports, which consist of eight men's and 10 women's teams.

THE DELTA DEVILS AND DEVILETTES

In the early 1950s, Dr. Cleophers Hatcher, athletics director and head football coach, is credited with giving Mississippi Vocational College its nickname and mascot. The original concept of the nickname was in a conversation with founder Dr. J.H. White (MVC's first president). Coach Hatcher said, "Dr. White told me on a very hot day to come up with a mascot and a nickname for MVC. I said to him, 'It's hot as the devil today.' That's where the Devils' name came into the picture. Because of Mississippi Vocational's Delta location, the Devils got the prefix "Delta," and besides, Delta Devils has a good ring to it." Since that time, MVSU has been honored by such publications as USA Today and Sports Illustrated for having an ordained minister serving as its mascot. GO DEVILS!

NCAA SPONSORED SPORTS PRESENTLY OFFERED AT MVSU

The 18 sports which MVSU currently sponsors are:

Men's Sports

Baseball
Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Indoor Track and Field
Outdoor Track and Field
Tennis

Women's Sports

Basketball
Bowling
Cross Country
Golf
Indoor Track and Field
Outdoor Track and Field
Soccer
Softball
Tennis
Volleyball

SOME MOMENTS IN MVSU SPORTS HISTORY

The MVSU men's track and field team, under the guidance of head coach William Brown and assistant coach Charles Barron, accumulated two NAIA national championships in the 1980s. During the period of Archie Cooley, the MVSU football team was nationally recognized for its point-a-minute offense. Jerry "World" Rice, who was a member of the famous 1984 football team and now an alumnus, became the first MVSU athlete to be drafted in the first round of the National Football League when he was taken by the San Francisco 49ers in 1985. The Devilettes softball team became the first Southwestern Athletic Conference and HBCU team to win games in the NCAA tournament, when it upset both Missouri and Cornell in the UCLA Regional in 2004.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE MVSU DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

MVSU is committed to balancing academics and athletics. The University's academic advisors are steadfast toward assisting student-athletes in achieving success in both areas.

The academic advisors promote the work habits that encourage the constituents to be responsible for their academic pursuits. They provide services to enhance the student-athlete's education in areas such as tutorials, study skills/strategies, self-development and transition to college life. In turn, this will elevate the intellectual and social development of the student-athletes, thereby leading to the successful completion of their education at MVSU.

The academic advisors assist with providing a structured atmosphere for student-athletes to study. The disciplines of studying, time management and organization are three elements for academic success. MVSU fosters the development of responsible and effective habits in our student-athletes. These habits can be applied beyond college, helping the student-athletes to be productive in society and successful in other areas of their lives.

RULES OF THE CLASSROOM

Student-athletes are required to attend all classes except when it is pre-determined that the student is required to compete or travel to an away contest or any documented illnesses by the Student Health Center or team trainer. **Since MVSU does not grant an automatic excused absence for student-athletes, each student-athlete must work closely with his or her professors to work out solutions to problems created by game and class conflicts.**

When student-athletes have been given a red shirt or are injured and unable to practice or participate, he/she may not be allowed to travel to away contests, if it necessitates their missing any classes.

At any time, the head coach and athletics director may declare an athlete ineligible for away competition or from practice and all competition when in his/her opinion a student-athlete's academic status so warrants.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

MVSU and the Department of Athletics enjoy a rich history of academic excellence. The cornerstone for our success in athletics is the academic assistance provided by the Academic Counseling Center, Career Services Office (CS) and the Student-Athlete Academic Resource Center. These offices are designed specifically to assist students in making academic and career decisions. The staff on-hand understands and effectively deals with the challenges associated with being a student-athlete. Athletics is obviously a big part of our focus, but our highest priority is reserved for academics.

The Department of Athletics is extremely proud of the fact that during the 2003-04 academic year, at least 80 of our student-athletes earned a minimum GPA of 3.0 or better. In addition, student-athletes have collectively garnered a cumulative GPA of 2.81.

SUPERVISED STUDY SESSIONS

In an effort to help insure academic success of all student-athletes at MVSU, each sport is required to develop and monitor a supervised study table at home and away from campus during travel time. The Student Support Services Department provides supervised study sessions for all students. The main focus of the study sessions is to help students develop consistent and appropriate study patterns by providing a structured environment in which to work on class assignments and to provide tutorial assistance before academic problems arise.

TRANSFER/AT-RISK CONTINUING STUDENT ADVISING

Student-athletes who have attended college but are entering into their first semester at MVSU will be required to complete the following tasks in helping to facilitate their transition from one college to another:

1. Meet with an academic advisor to assess academic skills and identify areas to be strengthened
2. Select either Option A or B below:
 - A) Attend a minimum of three workshops from the campus workshop list (see advisor for list). Evidence of this will be written documentation from the workshop coordinator or session attendance list; or
 - B) Complete a minimum of three hours from the Campus Service list (see advisor for list). Evidence of this will be written documentation from workshop coordinator or office representative.
3. Demonstrate work toward a semester GPA goal set during initial meeting. Evidence of this will be periodic grade check reports from course instructors.
4. Abstain from dropping below 12 credit hours per semester until first discussing it with an academic advisor.

Failure to follow the above guidelines will result in immediate suspension from all athletic activity until task is completed and an athletic advisor has cleared the student-athlete with the Compliance Office.

Continuing student-athletes or other at-risk student-athletes will be required to attend regularly scheduled academic support sessions with an academic advisor if they qualify in any one of the following areas:

- Continuing student-athletes whose semester GPA falls below a 2.5
- Any student-athlete whose cumulative GPA falls below a 2.5 and is recommended by an academic advisor, coach or athletic staff member; and
- Any student-athlete whose grade check reports reveal academic difficulty

OFFICE HOURS OF THE ADVISORS

The academic advisors will be accessible during the following hours in the fall, spring and summer semester terms:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>
Monday	8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	n/a
Tuesday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. -5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 3p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	8:30 a.m. -3 p.m.	n/a

The Academic Advisors offices are located in Room 12 of the Lucile Petry Leone Building. Please report to the reception desk or call 254-3477 to make an appointment.

TUTORING SERVICES

MVSU's athletics program, in conjunction with the University College and Academic Student Support Service, has made a substantial commitment to providing our student-athletes with a comprehensive tutoring program. The tutorial program is available to all student-athletes at MVSU. The intent of the tutorial program is to supplement all of the sound education practices (class attendance, note taking, reviewing and preparing properly for quizzes and exams, actively participating in class discussions, and staying current with all assigned readings) that are imperative for academic success. Student-athletes are expected to participate actively in the tutorial sessions. The student-athletes who attend tutorial sessions well-prepared and with an inquisitive mind, will have the best opportunity to greatly affect his or her chances for successful academic endeavors.

TUTORS

Tutors from the Academic Student Support Service office will be available during the day and some evenings and weekends in a variety of subjects. (Consult the University College for the specific times tutors are available).* Student-athletes who need one-on-one tutorial assistance may sign up for a time in the Tutors Schedule Book in Lucile Petry Leone Building, Room 12. Drop-in tutoring is also available for some subjects (Consult the University College for the drop-in tutoring schedule for the current semester).

*Note: The Academic Student Support Service is closed during final exams week, vacation periods, and the first week of each semester.

APPOINTMENTS

Students can sign up for an appointment by matching their free time with time that is free in a tutor's schedule. When signing up, include your name and the number of the course for which you need help. Students are to sign up for one appointment at a time. All appointments must be made 24 hours in advance. Once tutoring appointments are made, student-athletes are expected to attend all tutorial appointments. Students must meet their tutors in Room 12. They are to come to the session prepared with textbooks, special hand-outs, corrected assignments or tests, class notes and a list of questions or problems, and be prepared to actively participate in the study process. Remember that the goal of tutoring is to make you a successful independent

student. The tutor is not responsible for doing the student-athletes' work for them. Follow through on study ideas and practice problems that the tutor suggests.

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Just like any other MVSU student, you have an academic advisor assigned to you by your department. These departmental advisors or faculty members help you choose classes each term, make changes in your schedule, and plan your degree program. Your academic advisor will help you set realistic academic and career goals and select courses and experiences that are consistent with those goals. **Any student-athlete who fails to meet with their advisor will not be permitted to register.**

WEB REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Internet address for registering on the MVSU web page is: <https://sutton2.MVSU.edu>
After meeting with your advisor to discuss course plans, it is your responsibility to register for your courses each semester. MVSU's Web registration opens with the start of Priority Registration which provides the first opportunity for you to register. The available days and times for priority registration are based upon your class standing. To find the specific day(s) and time(s) when you may begin to register, please refer to the web address below:

<http://www.MVSU.edu/registrar/calendar.htm>

Other links that may help you with the registration process are listed below:

Web registration instructions - http://www.MVSU.edu/registrar/reg_instruct.htm

General Education course requirements - <http://www.MVSU.edu/registrar/gened-courses.htm>

SCHEDULE CHANGES - DROP/ADDS

Plans are underway to identify student-athletes as such within the University's student database. In addition, the system will be designed to identify student-athletes who drop below 12 hours, and thereby become ineligible. Schedule changes are to be made and approved by the student-athlete's academic advisor, then confirmed and approved by the Compliance Coordinator to insure course work will meet the NCAA eligibility and satisfactory progress requirements. **Failure to attend class will result in the student-athlete being purged from the class role for that semester.**

INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES

Individual conferences can be scheduled with the academic advisors for student-athletes who need to discuss academic concerns. The academic advisors will consider confidential anything discussed during these conferences, but with the student-athlete's permission, will feel free to share information with professors, chairperson, counselors, coaches, and/or tutors when this sharing is in the best interest of the student-athlete.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS APPRAISAL

At the beginning of the fifth and 10th weeks of the term, grade report request forms will be hand delivered by the student-athlete to all of his or her professors. After the student discusses his or her academic progress with the professor, the grade report can be procured by the student-athlete or returned to the Department of Athletics, where it will be evaluated by athletics personnel, such as the Compliance Coordinator, Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrator or the respective head coach.

SEMESTER GRADES

Grades are usually due from faculty two days after the completion of finals. As soon as possible thereafter, the student's academic advisor should receive copies of grades for each student-athlete. The grades are reviewed by the Compliance Coordinator and the Faculty Athletics Representative and notations are made regarding potential eligibility problems. Copies are also then distributed to appropriate coaches.

TEAM TRAVEL SCHEDULES

Prior to the beginning of each sport's season, the Compliance Coordinator and the Sports Information Director prepare letters to student-athletes' professors informing them of the team's game and travel schedules. Student-athletes will hand carry the letter to each of their professors. In the event of a schedule change, the Compliance Officer, coach and student-athlete will notify professors immediately.

Students are not permitted to miss a class to attend a home practice session or team meal (Exception: tournaments hosted by an MVSU home team). All practices must be scheduled before or after classes, or the students with classes must be excused from practice.

During the week of final examinations, games will not be scheduled from the last day of scheduled classes in a term until the day after the last scheduled examination (exception will be mandated conference games). If a contest must be scheduled during exam week, it should be on Saturday or Sunday. This will be permitted only by prior written approval of the Director of Athletics and the FAR. Games must be scheduled so that a student does not miss the same class more than one time during a week and never back to back classes (i.e., Friday/Monday). This will be permitted only by prior written approval of the Director of Athletics and the FAR. A maximum of six M-W-F classes and four T-TH classes may be missed by any student during any single semester. If games are cancelled or postponed, all student-athletes are required to attend classes even though prior approval for missing them was granted.

CONDUCT, ETHICS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Our student-athlete should recognize that they are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Currently, there are in excess of 25,000 high schools and only 309 NCAA Division I athletic programs. That works out to less than one spot at this level for every 80 individuals who played sports in high school.

It is also important to recognize that MVSU is a very special place. MVSU has a rich tradition of excellence in academics and athletics and is very excited that you are now going to help us

continue and improve upon that tradition. The fact that you chose MVSU is testimony alone that you believe in our mission.

To participate as an MVSU student-athlete, it comes with a cost. That cost will reflect your commitment to work hard and make sacrifices on and off the playing field. We also ask that you conduct yourself at all times in a manner that is consistent with the level of total excellence that we are striving for. Furthermore, you are expected to uphold the standards of ethical conduct established by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and MVSU.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

The student-athlete who accepts athletic financial aid and/or participates as a member of an athletics team must recognize that this carries with it definite academic and athletic responsibilities. They are as follows:

Academics

- Attend all classes, complete all academic assignments in a timely manner, and adhere to the University's Academic Integrity Guidelines; Consult with academic advisors, Compliance Coordinator and head coach and attend tutoring sessions as directed;
- Maintain an academic course load of at least 12 hours per semester and make satisfactory progress toward a degree; Accept responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility; and Strive to obtain a college degree within four (4) years.

Athletics

- Abide by all team, Department of Athletics, University and NCAA rules;
- Maintain oneself in top physical condition, within accepted health standards;
- Attend all organized practices unless officially excused;
- Take the proper care of uniforms and equipment and return them in good condition;
- Treat officials, opponents, and teammates with respect, and avoid undue confrontations;
- Maintain proper standards of grooming and dress; and,
- Abstain from using tobacco, alcohol and non-therapeutic drugs.

SPORTSMANSHIP CONDUCT

Sportsmanship conduct means more than the absence of negative actions in public. It includes your behavior both on and off the playing field. Unacceptable behavior on the playing field includes, but is not limited to, the following.

- Physical or verbal abuse of officials, coaches, opponents or spectators;
- Throwing of objects;
- Unauthorized seizure of equipment from officials or news media;
- Inciting players or spectators to negative actions or to any behaviors which insult or defile an opponents traditions;
- Use of obscene or otherwise inappropriate language or gestures;
- Making public statements which are negative, controversial or outside the Division's medial policy; or

– Participating in any action that violates generally recognized ethical standards of intercollegiate athletics participation.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY POLICY

If convicted of criminal activity, student-athletes must adhere to all penalties as imposed by the University's Judiciary Committee, Office of Student Affairs or other appropriate entity. Those policies are listed in the University's Student Handbook.

HAZING

Hazing is dangerous. Every year students suffer injuries or even death as a direct result of some rite of initiation into clubs, fraternities, and teams that go wrong. The University and the State of Mississippi describe hazing as any act or coercing of another to do any act of initiation that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Penalties range from large fines, to jail time, and expulsion from the University. This is a serious issue and one that no one should take lightly.

Many teams have acts of initiation for new athletes. Most are harmless and are intended to be fun. Remember, however, that the definition of hazing only requires that the potential for mental or physical harm exists. A simple, fun initiation can quickly turn into a dangerous situation and a crime. In order to make sure your team's initiation does not cross the line and become hazing, please observe the following:

1. Ask your coach, Student Affairs Office, or other athletics administrator about your plans before you enact them;
2. Student-athletes should be allowed to opt out of initiations without fear of reprisal; and
3. Never involve alcohol in an initiation, this almost guarantees it will become dangerous and result in a hazing incident.

GAMBLING AND BETTING

The NCAA prohibits a student-athlete from betting on college or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card, or any other method used by organized gambling. This prohibition includes participation in tournament pools (such as the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship) and rotisseries leagues where entry fees and/or awards and prizes are involved. (2003-04 NCAA Manual)

You should realize that the NCAA considers organized gambling to be bets placed or solicited between teammates, students and/or friends. As an intercollegiate student-athlete you can jeopardize your eligibility if you participate in any one of these forms of gambling.

GAMBLING AND BRIBERY

As a student-athlete, you are responsible for the following:

- Reporting any offers of gifts, money or favors in exchange for supplying team information or for attempting to alter the outcome of any contest;

- Maintaining a clear understanding of what constitutes gambling and bribery activities and reporting any suspected infractions;
- Contacting a coach or other athletics department personnel (i.e., Director of Compliance) when questions concerning inappropriate release of team information occur; and Increasing your awareness that participation in gambling and bribery activities can result in disciplinary actions by the University and the NCAA, as well as local, state and/or federal prosecution of the involved individual(s).
- Student-athletes and the athletics department staff members are prohibited from engaging in any type of gambling activity concerning collegiate and professional athletics competition.

Effective August 1, 2002, the NCAA established a two-tiered process of sanctions for violations of NCAA gambling/sports wagering.

- Engaging in activities designed to influence the outcome of a contest or wagering (soliciting or accepting a bet) on a University contest shall result in permanent loss of eligibility in all sports;
- Wagering on any intercollegiate or professional athletic contest will result in the loss of eligibility for a minimum of one year with a loss of one season of competition.

ENFORCEMENT/PENALTIES

If you are found to be in violation of a University, Athletics Department, Conference or NCAA policy, the penalty imposed depends upon the severity of the offense and may include:

- Private or public reprimand;
- Probation;
- Suspension from the squad;
- Dismissal from the squad;
- Cancellation or gradation of athletically related financial aid; and/or
- Dismissal from the University

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The MVSU community will not tolerate any form of sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, abuse, or other behaviors that offend the dignity of any human being or that undermines the integrity of the values of the institution. All students and guests are subject to and responsible for complying with the University's Sexual Harassment Policy. Sexual harassment is unacceptable at MVSU and will be subjected to disciplinary action.

The intimidation, harassment, or abuse of any person based on gender or sexual orientation is a violation of the fundamental principles of the University community. The issue in sexual harassment is not sexual practices in themselves, but coercion and the inappropriate use of power.

Unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment of an individual when any one of these conditions are met:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, participation in any program or activity, or status in an academic course; or
- Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individual; or
- Such conduct has the effect of creating an intimidation, hostile or offensive living environment on campus.

Sexual harassment can occur between any individuals associated with the University, including between two students.

Sexual harassment encompasses any sexual attention that is unwanted. Verbal, visual and physical conduct prohibited by the University's Sexual Harassment Policy includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Physical assault;
- A pattern of conduct that causes discomfort or embarrassment including:
 - Inappropriate comments of a sexual nature;
 - Unwelcome and repeated flirtations and sexual advances;
 - Sexually explicit questions, jokes, teasing, or anecdotes;
 - Touching, patting, hugging, whistling, pinching, brushing against a person's body, or repeated or unwanted staring;
 - Graphic commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess, sexual deficiencies, sexual activity, experience or orientation;
 - Crude or offensive language;
 - Derogatory or demeaning comments about women or men in general whether sexual or not;
 - Displaying objects or pictures which are sexual in nature and that creates a hostile or offensive living environment.

Students who believe that they have been sexually harassed should refer to the University's Sexual Harassment Policy.

For additional information regarding Sexual Harassment, refer to the policy A Sexual Harassment in the Anti-Harassment Policy Section of the MVSU Student Handbook and Planner, page 61-65. Complete copies of the University's Policy on Sexual Harassment can be obtained at the Office of Human Resources, the office of the Vice-President for Student Affairs and on the University's web site.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

The rules governing intercollegiate athletics exist to protect the student-athlete and to preserve the purity and fairness of competition, sportsmanship and ethical conduct among universities. The NCAA adopts legislation to ensure for a level playing field. So, if everyone has the same rules and regulation, similar resources and is restricted from gaining unfair advantages, then true competition can exist. The rules we abide by attempt to insure that victories are earned the right way and not through manipulation or at the expense of the welfare of the student-athlete.

To be eligible to participate in the intercollegiate athletics program at MVSU, a student-athlete must comply with the following NCAA and University rules and regulations which governs eligibility:

- As a student-athlete you must be in compliance with the principles of amateurism as established by the NCAA;
- As a student-athlete you must have been admitted to the institution in accordance with the regular published entrance requirements of the institution.
- To be eligible to practice and compete during any semester, you must be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies.
- To be considered full-time at MVSU, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours for the semester. All athletes must notify their coach immediately should hours drop below 12 hours. Failure to do so may affect your future eligibility and financial aid status.
- As a student-athlete you must be in good academic standing as determined by the NCAA and MVSU.
- A student-athlete who is not declared eligible to compete may not travel with the team and may have athletic aid immediately withdrawn.

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

To avoid probation and possible dismissal from the University, a student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 1.7 at the end of the first and second terms; a 1.80 GPA at the end of the third and fourth terms; and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 thereafter.

NCAA REQUIREMENTS (14.4.3.3.1 FULLFILLMENT OF MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENT)

The NCAA requires that a student-athlete (including a transfer) who is entering his or her third year of college work present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) that equals 90% of the grade point average required for graduation (2.0). A student-athlete entering the fourth or subsequent year of work needs a grade point average equal to 95% required for graduation (2.0). All MVSU student-athletes are required to maintain the prescribed cumulative grade point average.

Current NCAA academic regulations for students who have completed two or more semesters of college work are as follows:

Good Academic Standing

All student-athletes must remain in good academic standing by maintaining the specified cumulative GPA stated above under University Requirements.

Satisfactory Progress

A student must successfully complete at least six (6) semester hours in any given semester to be able to participate during the following semester.

A student must successfully complete at least 24-semester hours of academic credit since the beginning of the fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution' preceding regular two semesters or three quarters. (14.4.3.1(c))

A student-athlete shall earn at least 75% (18 hours) of the required 24 semester hours during the regular academic year. No more than 25%(6 hours) of the hours may be earned during the summer.(14.4.3.1.3)

Summer course work taken at another institution must have prior written approval from your Dean, Registrar and Athletics Compliance Office if such course work is to be used to satisfy the normal progress requirement.

Degree Declaration

Once a student-athlete has completed four semesters of college work (includes transfers), he/she must officially declare a major in order to continue to be academically eligible to compete.(14.4.3.1.4)

A student-athlete (including a transfer) who is entering his or her third year of college work must have successfully completed at least 40% of the course requirements in that student's specific degree program. A student-athlete entering the fourth year must have completed 60%, and upon entering the fifth year, 80% needs to be completed.

A student-athlete is entitled to four years of athletic participation at a Division I school, provided such participation occurs within five years after the student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment at a collegiate institution (14.2.1). Any competition (including a scrimmage) with outside participants during the intercollegiate season shall count as a season of competition.(14.2.3.1)

Annually, a student-athlete is required prior to competition to receive an NCAA rules summary and to sign a statement to verify the student-athlete's compliance with NCAA regulations governing eligibility, recruitment, financial aid, amateur status, and gambling involvement. Additionally, a student-athlete must give written consent to be tested for the use of drugs specifically prohibited by NCAA legislation.

Athletes who wish to compete in non-intercollegiate events during the academic year must be aware that events must be certified by the NCAA before collegiate athletes are permitted to

participate. Do not participate without receiving permission from the Director of Compliance, in advance.

A student-athlete is responsible for his/her involvement in any violation of NCAA regulations. In cases determined to be major violations, the student-athlete will not have eligibility restored by the NCAA eligibility committee unless circumstances clearly warrant restoration.

AMATEUR STATUS

Only an amateur student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport. An individual loses amateur status and becomes ineligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport, if the individual:

- Uses their athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;
- Accepts a promise of pay even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;
- Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforced or any consideration received;
- Receives, directly or indirectly, salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skill or participation, except as permitted by NCAA rules and regulations;
- Competes on any professional athletics team and knows (or had reason to know) that the team is a professional athletics team even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received; or
- Enters into an agreement with an agent or other entity to negotiate a professional contract.

If you have any questions about professional sports agents, accepting prize money for athletics contests, receiving payment of expenses or gifts of any kind, endorsing or advertising products or activities, you should talk to the Compliance Coordinator immediately.

NOTE: A student-athlete in basketball may enter a professional league's draft one time during his or her collegiate career, without jeopardizing eligibility, as long as the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in the league. The student-athlete must provide the Director of Athletics written declaration of intent to resume intercollegiate participation within thirty (30) days after the draft. The student-athlete may not enter into an agreement with an agent during this time.

In all other sports, an individual loses amateur status when he or she requests to be placed on the draft list of a professional league.

OUTSIDE COMPETITION

Competition and practice on outside teams during the academic year and during the summer are restricted in different ways for different sports. You can jeopardize your eligibility by participating on an outside team. Check with your coach and the Director of Compliance before

participating on any outside team. Student-athletes must be aware that in order to participate in a summer league, they must receive prior written approval from the Director of Compliance, and that league must first be approved by the NCAA. There may be no more than two members of the MVSU basketball team on your team and players should consult the Director of Compliance regarding NCAA approval. Players are only permitted to participate on one team in one league.

EXTRA BENEFITS

Receipt by a student-athlete of an award, benefit or expense allowance not authorized by the NCAA renders the student-athlete ineligible, unless that award, benefit or expense allowance is generally available to other University students. This rule also applies to your family and friends. Some examples of extra benefits which are NOT allowed are:

- Money or loans not available to MVSU students;
- Discounts on tickets, services, products or rent not available to other MVSU students;
- Use of an automobile (except one owned by you or your family);
- Meals at a restaurant, drinks at a bar, etc., provided free of charge or at a reduced rate by athletic boosters, alumni or others not related to you;
- Free or discounted typing services;
- Use of telephone or telephone credit card at no charge or a reduced rate;
- Use of copy machine at no charge or reduced rate;
- Co-signing of loans (except by family members);

TOBACCO USE

The use of tobacco products is prohibited by all players, coaches, trainers, managers and game personnel in all sports during practice and competition.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A student-athlete must receive written approval from the Director of Athletics before participating in any promotional activity, even if it is an institutional, charitable, educational or nonprofit promotion. Student-athletes should check with the Director of Compliance regarding participation in any promotional activities.

FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

Participating in intercollegiate athletics is a tremendous opportunity. Some student-athletes receive financial aid in the form of an athletic scholarship. Others may receive aid from the University or other sources that are not specifically related to their participation in athletics. Both the University and the NCAA have rules concerning the amount and types of aid that student-athletes may receive. Please contact the Financial Aid Office and/or the Compliance

Office for the MVSU athletics aid guidelines. Keep yourself informed of these regulations and abide by them in order to protect both your financial aid resources and your athletics eligibility.

GENERAL LIMITS

The following policies govern the award procedure for financial aid at MVSU:

All student-athletes who receive full athletics aid are required to stay on campus in the university's residence halls.

A student-athlete is allowed to accept institutional aid which covers, but does not exceed, the cost of tuition, fees, room and board, and required course-related books.

Student-athletes are also entitled to receive the following benefits which are considered incidental to athletic participation:

A student-athlete may receive complimentary admissions to any home athletics contest and up to four complimentary admissions for contests in which the athlete is participating.

Tutoring expenses, athletics insurance, limited awards, and career counseling expenses may be provided for student-athletes. Legitimate loans which are available to all students and based on a regular repayment schedule may be received by the student-athlete without affecting the athletics award.

If the total amount of aid (athletics, grants, etc.) awarded to a student-athlete exceeds the NCAA limits, the institution is required to reduce institutional aid. Pell Grants are exempt from the NCAA limit.

AID ADMINISTRATION

All financial aid must be administered by the student-athlete's institution with the following exceptions:

- Assistance is provided by anyone upon whom the student-athlete is naturally or legally dependent; and
- Assistance is awarded solely on the basis of having no relationship to athletic ability.
- Assistance awarded through an established and continuing outside program in which athletics participation is not the major criterion must be disbursed through the institution.
- Assistance awarded through an established and continuing outside program for the recognition of outstanding high school graduates in which athletics participation is a major criterion must be disbursed through the institution.

PERIOD OF AWARD

An award of athletics financial aid may not exceed a period of one year and it may not be reduced or cancelled during that year's term based on athletic performance or because illness or injury prevents participation. Aid may be reduced or cancelled under the following circumstances (15.3.4.1):

- The student-athlete fails to meet eligibility requirements for athletic participation;
- Fraudulent misrepresentation of any information by the student-athlete;
- Serious misconduct; or
- Voluntary non-participation.

SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

A student-athlete is to be notified on or before July 1, as to whether or not athletics aid is to be renewed. If the student-athlete receives a non-renewal notification and believes the non-renewal was for a questionable reason, the student-athlete may request and will be granted a hearing before the institutional agency making the request.(15.3.5.1)

SUMMER SCHOOL

Financial aid for summer school prior to initial enrollment in a higher education institution may be athletically related or from any athletics source. Aid cannot be awarded to attend a summer session at another institution. At MVSU, financial aid is applied directly to cover tuition, fees, room and/or board. Athletes receiving athletics aid should receive no cash except in the following cases:

Student-athletes who qualify for Pell may receive a portion (Stipend) of those funds through their University Business Office account.

Student-athletes who live off-campus and/or are receiving all or some portion of room and board will receive the awarded amount for room and board through a check at the beginning of each semester through the University's Business Office. Student-athletes who qualify for loans will receive a check for the approved amount through the University's Business Office.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Full scholarship athletes in their first year at MVSU (i.e., freshmen and transfers) are not permitted to work during the academic year except during vacation periods. First-year athletes (including transfers) receiving partial scholarships are permitted to work and earn the equivalent of a full ride (tuition, fees, room, board, and books). After the first year of residence, a full scholarship student-athlete who is in good academic standing may work on or off-campus and receive employment earnings up to \$2,000, as long as employment is not in the athletics department.

Non-recruited, non-scholarship student-athletes are permitted to work with no restriction on earnings.

In all cases, a student-athlete must be paid at the going rate for work he or she actually performs and compensation cannot be based on the student-athlete's athletics reputation.

Any student-athlete who is eligible to work during the academic term must receive written permission from the Director of Compliance before commencing employment.

RECRUITING

Recruiting is the driving force of any Athletics Department. The fruits of your recruiting efforts will directly affect the bounty of your harvest. As you know, there are many factors that can influence a young person's decision about which college and/or university to attend. We conduct our recruiting efforts in a manner that highlights the positive aspects of our campus and our program.

From time-to-time you may be asked to meet with, or serve as a host or hostess for someone who is considering competing for MVSU. This will be one of many opportunities you will have to influence the composition of our program. We hope you will be friendly, honest and sincere.

Certain NCAA rules apply to both you and the prospective student-athlete. Make sure you become familiar with these rules. If you have any questions and/or concern, please contact the athletics department's Compliance Coordinator.

You may receive complimentary admission to a campus athletic event only if you are accompanying a prospect during a visit.

Enrolled student-athletes or other enrolled students may not make or participate in telephone calls at the direction of a coaching staff member or financed by the institution or a representative of its athletics interests. Also, enrolled student-athletes are not permitted to participate in recruiting phone calls for any programs, even those unrelated to athletics.

ALCOHOL ON RECRUITING VISITS

The University is responsible for the welfare of prospective student-athletes while they are on campus. We want their visit to be an opportunity to show off all aspects of our campus and the educational and athletic opportunities that it offers. In almost all instances, recruits are underage and would be breaking the law by consuming alcohol. It is extremely unwise and potentially dangerous to have their visit hosted by someone who is consuming alcohol.

The newly revised Athletics Department Drug and Substance Abuse Policy strictly prohibits alcohol consumption by prospective student-athletes during campus visits. Those persons designated as hosts for these visits must also agree to refrain from consuming alcohol while they are responsible for the recruit.

MEDICAL POLICIES AND ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM PROCEDURES

At MVSU, the health and welfare of our student-athletes is a primary concern. We strive to prevent injuries through pre-participation physical examinations, strength and conditioning programs, nutritional considerations, proper practice planning, and appropriate equipment selection. When an athletic injury occurs, our goal is to provide the best medical care possible from the initial first-aid to the follow-up care and rehabilitation.

FACILITIES

There are two athletic training rooms at MVSU, the main Athletic Training Room is located in the HPER Complex and the second is located in the Devils' Den. The hours of operation are posted each academic year and are subject to change due to holidays and athletic events. Treatments are made by appointment to accommodate our student-athletes' busy schedules.

SPORTS MEDICINE PERSONNEL

The University's sports medicine staff consists of a team physician, orthopedic surgeons (through Mississippi Sports Medicine) and an in-house full-time nationally certified and licensed athletic trainer. The team physician may refer athletes to other physicians or specialists. However, the head team physician supervises the status of all athletes and has the final authority with regard to all medical disqualifications, treatment, and return to play. All referrals to specialists or other medical providers will be made through the team physician and the head athletic trainer.

Trained personnel are present at all athletic contests and, when possible, at all practices to insure prompt medical attention. Priority for coverage is given to those sports where the risk of injury is greatest.

The Sports Medicine Staff works closely with the coaching staff to keep them informed regarding the medical status of the student-athletes. All medical information becomes the property of MVSU and will be utilized only to make participation decisions and aid in filing insurance claims.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

All incoming freshmen and transfer students will be required to present their previous years physical prior to their arrival at MVSU from their family doctor .

All physicals will be completed on the forms provided to the student-athletes by the MVSU Department of Athletics. Forms may be obtained from the head coach or the Sports Medicine Staff.

All returning student-athletes will be required to fill out only the medical history questionnaire and complete a brief screening at no charge in the training room by the sports medicine staff. Second and fourth year returnees will have a physical screening provided by the athletic training staff, third year returnees will have a complete physical done by the athletic staff, unless otherwise specified by the head athletic trainer or the NCAA.

No student-athlete will be released to participate in any form (conditioning, practice, competition) until all of the following criteria are met and proper documentation is on file in the training room (THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS):

- Physical completed with personal information and signed by the student athlete
- Parent's Insurance Information signed by parents or student if self-insured

- Copy of both front and back of parent’s insurance card

Returnees must bring the above items with them to their physicals date and incoming freshmen and transfers are expected to send all information to the MVSU sports medicine staff prior to the academic year, if applicable.

INSURANCE

MVSU’s Department of Athletics carries a secondary athletic injury insurance policy. This policy only covers injuries sustained during official and supervised athletic activity. NCAA regulations prohibit payment of medical expenses for injuries and illnesses not the result of supervised intercollegiate competition or practice. Our athletic injury insurance policy requires that we first utilize the health insurance of the student-athlete’s parents or guardians. After the student-athlete’s insurance has paid all available benefits, any remaining balance should be submitted to the head athletic trainer, who will, in turn, facilitate payment through the proper University channels (including the Business Office, the Student Health Center and the Student Affairs Office).

The insurance company which MVSU utilizes outlines certain providers which the university may choose for providing specific services and products. If the student-athlete wishes not to utilize the approved providers due to personal constraints encumbered by their personal insurance, they may be held responsible for the remaining balance of any medical bill.

Only those dental injuries incurred as a result of practices or games are covered by our insurance policy. Report such injury immediately. Payment for all other dental problems is the responsibility of the student-athlete.

MVSU’s insurance and MVSU do not pay for any prescribed medication. That is the responsibility of the student-athlete.

The athletics department may assist in the purchase of corrective lenses for the eyes that are necessary to enable the student-athlete to participate in their sport. The purchase of additional lenses is the responsibility of the student-athlete and is recommended.

Each student-athlete’s insurance coverage information MUST be on file with the sports medicine staff. This information helps expedite insurance claims should they occur. No student-athlete will be allowed to participate until this information is on file.

INJURY PROCEDURES

All injuries and illnesses need to be reported to the sports medicine staff within six hours of injury. They can be reached by telephone if not present at the practice or game. In cases of an emergency or illness occurring during off hours, contact the head athletic trainer and report to Greenwood Leflore Hospital. List our head team physician as your primary care physician.

All injuries will be initially evaluated by the head athletic trainer and our team physician. All referrals to other physicians or specialists are to be made through the head athletic trainer only;

the athlete or coach is not to do this on his/her own. Any medical expense that results from outside physician consultation without the knowledge of our head athletic trainers or team physician will not be covered by our insurance. If the team physician recommends additional medical testing or examinations, this examination will be performed at the earliest opportunity based on:

- The student-athlete’s insurance policy and procedures;
- Physician or facility availability;
- Student-athlete availability

Injured players must report to the training room daily for treatment recommended by the team physicians and head athletic trainer. Each injured student-athlete is expected to get as many treatments per day as ordered by the team physician and head athletic trainer. Student-athletes will be notified of treatment times and are expected to be prompt for their appointment.

The Athletic Training Room will open approximately one-and-a-half hours prior to practice for treatments and taping. All injured players, unless attending classes, are expected to report to the training room shortly after the Athletic Training Room opens for treatment and taping. No treatments will be given 45 minutes prior to practice or during practice without permission of the head athletic trainer and head coach. Failure to report for treatment or to complete the prescribed treatment protocol will be reported to the coach and the student-athlete will be released and considered 100 percent.

Everyone will dress in appropriate gear for practice unless otherwise advised beforehand by the head athletic trainer. All clothing and footwear must be clean and free of perspiration, dirt, mud and grass. If the student-athlete is injured to the extent that he/she cannot dress in clean full gear or will be available only for limited work, he/she will be required to report to practice on time and in the gear suggested by the head athletic trainer. Injured players will be assigned special exercises, running and rehab intended to speed recovery and maintain conditioning. These exercises are to be performed at the practice area under the supervision of the head athletic trainer. No student-athlete is to leave practice because of an injury or illness without consulting the head athletic trainer. Failure to complete assigned exercises, loafing or inactivity during practice will be reported to the coach for appropriate action.

PREVENTION OF INJURIES

The prevention of an injury is much better than having to treat one after it occurs. All players should not underestimate the importance of flexibility, strength, and conditioning exercises, and perform them thoroughly. Taping or bracing will be at the discretion of the head athletic trainer. Those student-athletes who have chronic problems are expected to be taped or braced and perform specific exercises.

Tape will be applied directly on the skin whenever possible. All athletes should have the area clean shaved, free of all oils and dirt and prepared to be taped, when they enter the training room.

TRAINING ROOM RULES

The training room is a co-educational facility. Student-athletes coming in for treatment and or taping should wear shorts and a t-shirt. As a rule, student-athletes will not be treated in street clothes. Do not bring uniforms, shoes, or other clothing into the training room.

Sports medicine staff phone numbers:

Patti Webb Head Athletic Trainer W: (662) 254-3563 or C: (662) 392-0821

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The Department of Athletics at Mississippi Valley State, including its administrators, physicians, athletic trainer and coaches, strongly believe that the use and abuse of nutrition supplements, drugs, tobacco and alcohol can be detrimental to the physical well-being of our student-athletes. The use of nutrition supplements, drugs, tobacco and alcohol (excluding those prescribed by a physician to treat a specific medical condition) can seriously interfere with the performance of individuals as students and athletes. This abuse is not only dangerous to the student-athlete, but also to his/her teammates during practices, competitions and daily activities.

Components of Program

At the beginning of the academic year, a presentation will be made to all MVSU student-athletes to outline and review the NCAA's and University's substance abuse policies. Student-athletes should note that the following substances are banned by the NCAA (the list is non-inclusive):

Psychomotor and Central Nervous System Stimulants:

amiphenazole	fencamfamine
amphetamine	meclofenoxoate
bemigrade	methamphetamine
benzphetamine	methylene-dioxymethamphetamine (MCMA) (Ecstasy)
bromantan	methylphenidate
caffeine	nikethamide
chlorphentermine	pemoline
cocaine	pentetaxol
cropropamide	phendimetryzine
crothetamide	phenmetrazine
diethylpropion	phentermine
dimethylamphetaminepicrotoxine	
doxapram	pipradol
ephedrine	prolintane
ethamivan	strychnine
ethylamphetamine	and related compounds

Anabolic Agents:

anabolic steroids	dehydrotestosterone
norethandrolene	androstenediol
dromostanolone	oxandrolone

androstenedione	fluoxymesterone
oxymesterone	bolasterone
mesterolone	oxymetholone
boldenone	methandienone
stanozolol	clenbuterol
methenolone	stenbolone
clostebol	methyltestosterone
testosterone (T/EPI-T Ratio) ²	
dehydrochlormethyl-testosterone	
nandrolone	trenbolone
dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA)	
norandrostenediol	tribulus terrestris
norandrostenedione	and related compounds

Nutrition Supplements, Name Brands:

Ephedrine	Ma Huang
Guarana	Yohimbie
Ripped Fuel	Mega Ripped
Diet Fuel	Hydroxy Ripped
ECA Stack	Metabolife
Metabolift	Metabosurge
Xenadrine	Thermadrene
Pro-Orange	Ultimate Orange
No Doze	Gas-N-Go
Trim-Phen	Male Chroma Diet
Ultra Vita-man	Cobra
Male Response	Viper

Street Drugs:

Heroin	THC
Cocaine	Marijuana (Tetrahydrocannabinol)
LSD	Ecstasy
Opium	Bennies

Peptide Hormones and Analogues:

Choronic gonadotrophin (HCG)
 Corticotrophin (ACTH)
 Growth hormone (HGH)

Diuretics:

Acetazolamide
 Bendroflumethiazide
 Hydroflumethiazide
 Methyclothiazide

For more information on NCAA banned substances, refer to these web sites: www.NCAA.org; www.drugfreesport.com, or www.USantidoping.org.

MVSU regulations prohibit the possession, consumption, distribution, or sale of alcoholic beverages (as defined by state law) on campus. The use, possession, manufacture, processing, distribution or sale of any drug or controlled substance except as expressly permitted by law is also prohibited.

Use of alcoholic beverages off-campus by anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited. Use of alcoholic beverages before and after competitions and practices is prohibited. Student athletes over 21 are strongly encouraged not to use alcoholic beverages.

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER SERVICES

The MVSU Student Health Center provides comprehensive health services to meet the medical and psychological needs of students, faculty and staff of the University. Staffing includes one physician, two certified family nurse practitioners and a medical assistant. Scheduled appointments are available for your convenience, yet, walk-ins are welcome. The hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. until noon Friday.

Services provided in the Student Health Center include:

- FREE screenings like blood pressure, percent body fat, weight, height, skin cancer, asthma, mental health, fitness status, and nutrition intake.
- FREE health information on many health and wellness topics like stress management, tobacco prevention and cessation, sexually transmitted diseases, sports nutrition, eating disorders, weight management, cancer prevention, and heart healthy living.
- Assess/diagnose health care problems, obtain medical histories, perform physical examinations, and order and interpret diagnostic studies such as lab work and X-rays.
- Treat both minor and acute illnesses as well as diabetes, high blood pressure, migraines, and confidential gynecological services. Nurse practitioners prescribe medication and consult with physicians and other health care providers as needed.
- Allergy injections can be given.
- Administer immunizations such as flu shots, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, Meningococcal, MMR, and TB skin tests.
- Promote healthy living through patient education and counseling .

CHARLES LACKEY RECREATION CENTER AND HPER FITNESS CENTER

Named in honor of long time university employee Charles Lackey, the one-level Charles Lackey Recreation Center is located on the southeast corner of the MVSU campus. The center has a wide variety of strength, cardiovascular and flexibility conditioning opportunities for MVSU

students, faculty and staff. There is a multi-purpose gymnasium with one basketball/volleyball court. In addition, there is one racquetball/handball court.

The HPER Fitness Center is located in the Harrison Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex, which is located next to the Charles Lackey Recreation Center. The Fitness Center includes a strength and conditioning room and an aerobics/dance floor for every level of fitness abilities and athletic performance.

The hours of operation vary some by season, but the Charles Lackey Recreation Center and HPER Fitness Center are typically open seven days a week.

HPER Fitness Center Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Friday: 5:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - 8 p.m.

To gain access to the HPER Fitness Center, patrons must check in at the customer service desk with a valid MVSU ID card before using the workout areas.

Proper workout attire is necessary when working out. Blue jeans and sandals are not allowed in the workout areas. Footwear must be athletic in nature, soft-soled and non-marking. Patrons must wear a t-shirt, tank top or sports bra while using the working areas.

When working out in the weight room, collars are required on the barbells during lifting exercises. Request a spotter when performing free-weight exercises. After completing workout lifts and exercises, all workout equipment (i.e. dumb bells, weight plates, mats, etc.) need to be put back in their storage area.

No one under age 18 is allowed in the strength and cardio-conditioning rooms or use any of the exercise equipment.

HPER Fitness Center personnel are available to assist patrons with information and guidelines on how to get started, equipment demonstrations, a personal workout plan and on-going individual support and instruction. Inquire at the customer service desk for more information.

Please do not argue or debate any safety points with the staff; be cooperative and considerate with other patrons. Policies and procedures are in place to promote a safe and healthy environment for everyone to enjoy.

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

MVSU supports those wishing to practice their faith and/or experience spiritual growth in a number of ways. The Student Affairs Office and the Student Activities Office offer many services and programs. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is usually active on campus and there are several bible study/fellowship groups that are open for our student-athletes. To get more information on any of these activities contact the Student Affairs Office or the Student Activities Office.

COMPREHENSIVE AND PERSONAL COUNSELING SERVICES

The University operates a professionally staffed counseling service that provides assessment, evaluation, and assistance and referral regarding personal problems such as depression, anxiety, relationship issues, substance abuse and eating disorders. Any student can schedule an appointment by calling the Counseling Services at 254-3830. The athletics department enjoys a very good relationship with this center. If you would feel more comfortable, you may contact the Office of the Vice-President for Student Affairs for information about their services. All conversations of this nature are held confidential. Your privacy will be respected, as with all students. No one in the Athletics Department will be advised of your relationship with the center unless requested by you.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

The Department of Athletics presents numerous awards at its annual Awards Banquet. Among the special awards given are:

- **Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year**
Criteria: These awards are given to the upperclassmen student-athletes with the highest grade point averages.
- **Male and Female Athletes of the Year**
Criteria: These awards are presented to the top male and female student-athletes who have demonstrated sportsmanship and achieved great athletic success.
- **Coda Sanders Award**
Criteria: This award is presented to a student-athlete who exemplifies a solid athletic performance, academic success and demonstrated community and extracurricular involvement.
- **Michael Archie Inspiration Award**
Criteria: This award is presented to a student-athlete, coach or athletic staff member who, despite tremendous odds or handicaps, has inspired others in similar situations to persevere in spite of those circumstances.
- **Athletic Supporter Award**
Criteria: This award is presented to a non-athletics staff or faculty member who has assisted the athletics program in an exemplary manner during the academic year.

ATHLETICS UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

A proud moment for most of our student-athletes is the first day they get to put on an MVSU uniform. Being a part of our program should make you proud. Every time you compete in an MVSU uniform you represent yourself, the athletics department, the institution and all alumni of MVSU. It is an honor and a privilege to be a member of the Delta Devils' and Devilettes' family.

It is no small task ordering and maintaining uniforms and equipment for our 18 athletic teams. We attempt to maintain our teams in the best equipment possible given our fiscal limitations. Each sport's equipment managers make every effort to keep all of our gear in the best condition possible. It is important that you take care of the equipment that you are issued and that you follow the procedures that have been established.

MVSU has two equipment/laundry facilities. One is located in the Devils' Den and the other in the Charles Lackey Recreation Center. The facility in the Charles Lackey Recreation Center accommodates all sports. Only team-related items can be laundered in the facilities and only by the team's designated manager or coach.

At the end of each sport's season, the coaching staff of each sport is responsible for gathering and returning all equipment property associated with MVSU athletics. The players are to return any issued gear to their respective coaches at this time. Those who do not return items will be notified along with the head coach.

Players are responsible for any and all MVSU issued gear (practice and game). Alterations to uniforms are to be done by the equipment staff only, or with the equipment manager's and coach's expressed written permission. If a player does not return all items issued to him/her, he/she will be billed a replacement cost for the items. The equipment personnel will give a list of items not returned to the athletics director and the head coach who, in turn, will make a decision as to the payment procedure.

Our locker room facilities are limited in size, so please help by keeping the locker rooms clean and as neat as possible. It may be necessary for some teams during the season to share a locker room. If during the day a player needs to get into their team's locker room, they must consult with their respective head coach.

All equipment will be inventoried at the end of each team's season. The equipment personnel will abide by all athletics department and NCAA rules.

NEW STUDENT HOUSING POLICY

Effective with the 2004-05 academic year, all full-time students who are under the age of 21 and have completed fewer than 30 semester hours are required to live on campus for one academic year (two semesters), or for one semester and two summer terms. All students who are on full scholarship are required to live on campus regardless of classification. Although it is required that all freshmen and full scholarship recipients live on campus, certain exceptions may apply. Consideration for exemption will be given to students meeting the following conditions:

- < Students who live within a 30-mile radius of the campus;
- < Married students; and
- < Students who are custodial parents of children