

LSU Alexandria
Generals Athletics
Student-Athlete Handbook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
PREFACE	2
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY	2
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS	3
ATHLETIC PERSONAL	3
LSU ALEXANDRIA ATHLETICS HISTORY	4
NATIONAL AFFILIATION	5
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE	6
ATTENDANCE POLICY	6
REQUIRED STUDY SESSIONS/TUTORING	6
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY	7
ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS, ETC.	7
STUDENT CONDUCT	7
ALCOHOL AND CONTROLLED POLICY	8
NAIA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM	8
DRUG TESTING	9
ATHLETIC INSURANCE	9
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE	10
PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS	10
TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL	10
SPORTSMANSHIP	10
CONDITIONS OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS	10
ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	11
TEAM TRAVEL	11
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	12
GENDER EQUITY	12
HAZING	12
MISSED CLASSES	12
ON-CAMPUS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	13
CONCLUSION	13

PREFACE

This publication will aid in the daily performance of obligations and should be used in conjunction with the LSU Alexandria Student Handbook in resolving questions or situations that may arise.

This publication will be updated each year, more frequently if needed. All student-athletes are encouraged to submit to the Athletic Department any items and/or revisions that are deemed necessary for this manual.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The LSU Alexandria Athletic Department is committed first and foremost to the health and well being of all of its student-athletes. The academic progress of each student-athlete is the focal point of the coaches and administrators, with the ultimate goal being to help all student-athletes earn their undergraduate degrees.

Personal growth of each student-athlete is the next priority of the Athletic Department. The LSU Alexandria athletics program strives to develop character, integrity, and leadership skills in all student-athletes. The University's student-athletes will develop a good sportsmanship mentality, which will play a vital role in their maturation process into productive adult citizens.

Finally, LSU Alexandria strives to give every student-athlete the opportunity to compete athletically at a competitive level. This will be accomplished through excellent coaching, resources, facilities, and sports association affiliation.

Mission Statement

Consistent with the University's mission, the Athletic Department will strive for excellence by offering students quality programs to develop meaningful standards of scholarship, leadership, community service, and sportsmanship within the educational and social environment of the University.

Purpose Statement

It is the purpose of the Athletic Department to create and maintain a first class intercollegiate athletic program in order to assist the University in recruiting, retaining, and educating students in a way that enables the University to meet the educational needs of Central Louisiana.

Vision Statement

The Athletic Department will strive to become the "model" small college athletic program.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Welcome to an exciting year at LSU Alexandria. As a student-athlete at LSU Alexandria, you will play an important role in creating a tradition of excellence in our athletic programs. The Athletic Department

has selected you to be a part of our program because we believe you have the maturity to achieve a healthy balance between your academic and athletic obligations.

It is my wish that through your participation as a student-athlete, your college experience at LSU Alexandria will fulfill your personal, academic, and athletic goals. Everyone in the Athletics Department is interested in seeing you succeed and stands ready to support you so that your college experience is enjoyable and rewarding. It is our expectation that you will take responsibility for your own behavior, because we strongly believe that a personal commitment to integrity and self-governance is essential in order for you to succeed as a student-athlete at LSU Alexandria.

This handbook has been prepared as a reference for you to answer questions you may have and to detail important rules and regulations you must follow. Its primary purpose is to give you an overview of the requirements you must fulfill in order to continue to attend the University and participate as a student-athlete. This handbook is also designed to help you prioritize and blend your responsibilities as a student and as an athlete. I hope you will thoroughly familiarize yourself with the material covered and keep it to refer to later.

If I, or any member of the Athletic Department staff, can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact us. I look forward to our year together.

Sincerely,



Dan Purvis
Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach

ATHLETIC PERSONAL

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LSU ALEXANDRIA ATHLETICS HISTORY

During the summer of 2003, LSUA made the transformation from a two-year community college to a four-year university. Following the change to four-year status, the University decided to pursue the creation of an intercollegiate athletics program.

Once student interest was evaluated, the University approached Student Government (SG) with a proposal for starting baseball and softball teams. After consulting with SG, it was decided to take the proposal to the students in the form of a student referendum to be conducted during the fall of 2004. In the referendum, the proposal for funding the athletic program through a Student Athletic Fee passed with over a 2/3 majority. Following the referendum, SG wrote a resolution supporting the University's efforts.

The University, with the student referendum and the SG resolution, requested that the LSU Board of Supervisors approve the proposal for funding baseball and softball. The LSU Board of Supervisors approved the proposal during their May 2005 board meeting and the Student Athletic Fee went into effect with the fall 2006 semester.

Final approval was granted to LSUA by the LSU Board of Supervisors during their February 2006 board meeting and the Louisiana Board of Regents during their March 2006 board meeting for the implementation of baseball and fast-pitch softball teams for the 2006-07 academic year. At their meetings, both boards also approved the University's request to amend the 2006-07 Capital Outlay Budget Request to include the construction of a baseball/softball complex on campus.

LSUA applied for membership with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) during the spring of 2006 and was recognized as a provisional member at the NAIA National Convention in June of 2006. This provisional status would be lifted, and LSUA was granted full membership for its inaugural year (2007-08 academic year).

During the spring of 2006, a University committee was charged with selecting a nickname for the University. This committee selected the "Generals" as the official nickname for the athletics program. This selection was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors at their July 2006 board meeting.

LSUA selected Mr. Dan Purvis as the first Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach during the fall of 2006. Coach Purvis began his duties as Athletic Director in January of 2007. The University also hired Ms. Casey Goodman as its first Head Softball Coach in May of 2008. Coach Goodman joined the Athletic Department staff in June of that same year.

The men's baseball and the women's softball teams began practices during the fall of 2007. Both teams began competition in their inaugural seasons during the spring of 2008. The softball team practiced and played its home games on field 5 of the Bringhurst Softball Complex. The baseball team practiced at Cheatham Field and played its home games at Bringhurst Field.

During the late fall of 2007 and early spring of 2008, dirt work began on LSUA's baseball/softball complex. The Louisiana National Guard, under the leadership of Major General Bennett Landreneau, moved approximately 100,000 cubic yards of dirt from what is now known as Guard Lake, to raise the ground elevation to the level required for construction. More than 40 soldiers participated in this groundwork, which was a MOS-related training operation for the National Guard. Bids on the baseball/softball complex were received during the summer of 2008 and construction on the facility started during the fall of 2008.

LSUA gained its first conference affiliation in the fall of 2008. Both the baseball and softball teams were recognized as members of the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.). In LSUA's first two seasons in the A.I.I. (2009-10), both teams participated in their respective conference tournaments.

Construction was completed on the baseball/softball complex during the summer of 2009. The complex consisted of a concessions/bathroom building, home and visitor dugouts, scoreboards, chain link fencing, brick/netted backstops, and sprinkler systems. During the fall of 2009, bleachers from the recently demolished Alex Box Stadium, on the campus of LSU, were relocated to LSUA.

Mr. McKewn Dannelly was named LSUA's second Head Softball Coach in February of 2010.

Phase one of a parking complex located between the baseball/softball complex and the Fitness Center was completed in May of 2011. Further phases will be added in the over the next few years.

NATIONAL AFFILIATION

LSU Alexandria is a member of the Association of Independent Institutions (All) inside of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

The purpose of the NAIA is to promote the education and development of students through intercollegiate athletic participation. Member institutions, although varied and diverse, share a common commitment to high standards and to the principle that participation in athletics serves as an integral part of the total educational process.

The NAIA embraces the concept of the student and recognizes the importance of the individuality of each member institution, the value of the conference and regional structure, and the benefits of membership in a national association.

The NAIA supports gender equity. Gender equity is an atmosphere and reality where fair distribution of overall athletic opportunity and resources, proportionate to enrollment, are available to women and men, and where no student-athlete, coach or athletics administrator is discriminated against in any way in the athletics program. That is to say, an athletics program is gender-equitable when the men's sports program would be pleased to accept as its own the overall participation opportunities and resources currently allocated to the women's sports program and vice versa.

The NAIA has 50,000 student-athletes participating at nearly 300 member colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Divided into 14 regions, the NAIA offers 23 championships in 13 sports.

Since 1937, the NAIA has continued a long tradition of pushing the envelope and making a positive difference in the lives of students, coaches and parents. The Champions of Character program is the latest cutting-edge addition to the NAIA's proud history of innovation.

Through Champions of Character, the NAIA seeks to create an environment in which every student-athlete, coach, official, and spectator are committed to the true spirit of competition through the five core values: respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership, and sportsmanship.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Your primary concern should be your academic achievement, your cognitive development, and the completion of your college degree. Athletics enhances your college experience but your degree will provide you with a substantive benefit throughout your life.

The following tips will help you excel in the class room:

- Always go to class. If you miss a class for a trip or competitive event, be sure that you arrange for someone in the class to take notes and collect handouts for you.
- Read everything assigned for your class and do all assignments on time.
- Ask questions of your instructors and individuals in your class.
- Do not plan to “cram” for exams.
- Plan to spend 2 hours of reading and studying for every hour of class... if you have 15 hours of class you should spend about 30 hours a week reading, reviewing, and doing assignments.
- Go to supplemental instruction sessions if your class has them and you wish additional help.
- Utilize the math, science, and writing centers. They have tutors who can assist you with your questions/needs.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You should be aware that a professor may drop you for non-attendance. If you are dropped from a class, this may affect your eligibility. Class attendance correlates well with academic achievement. As a rule, you should attend all classes unless you are out of town on an official University activity.

At the start of the semester, share your competitive schedule with your professors and let them know that you will be missing classes on specific dates. Your coach should hand you additional information to share with your professors, specifically departure and return dates. Share these with your professors as well as the schedule.

You should remind your professors when you will be out of town and make arrangements to turn in work or take exams early or upon return from the trip. The decision concerning when work is to be completed (early or late) will be left up to the professor.

Problems concerning make-up work with specific professors should be reported to the Athletic Director, Head Coach, and/or Faculty Athletics Representative.

NOTE: You cannot miss classes for practices at any time. You may be excused to participate in pre-game/warm-up activities.

REQUIRED STUDY SESSIONS/TUTORING

As a general rule, the athletic administration opposes required tutoring. Tutoring is however necessary for some individuals to make satisfactory progress academically.

Athletes who have athletic scholarship awards should be aware that they must achieve and maintain a cumulative LSU Alexandria GPA of 2.00 in order to receive and/or retain subsequent athletic scholarship awards.

Your coach may require you to attend a study hall. This is your coach's prerogative.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Student-Athletes should understand what academic dishonesty is and avoid engaging in it. When athletes are caught in acts of plagiarism, they bring dishonor to themselves and to their team.

Academic dishonesty includes giving, receiving, or using unauthorized aid on any academic work.

Plagiarism is the most common form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism includes:

- Copying of language, structure, or ideas of another and claiming it to be your own.
- Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgment.
- Having any other person or organization prepare the paper and then submitting it as one's own work. This includes purchasing papers on the Internet.

Athletes should be aware that the penalties for plagiarism may be as severe as failing an assignment or exam, failing a course, or expulsion from the University. The Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs determines the punishment in cases of academic dishonesty. Your coach may add additional punishment if you are guilty of academic dishonesty.

More information concerning academic dishonesty as well as the consequences is outlined in the LSU Alexandria Student Handbook.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS, ETC.

Athletes should be made aware that they are financially responsible for their equipment, supplies, and uniforms.

At the end of the season you will be expected to turn in the items that were issued to you. A hold will be placed upon their records if everything is not returned in good condition. The hold will be removed once the items are returned in good condition or have been paid for.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Student-athletes are expected to act in a responsible manner while attending LSU Alexandria and representing the University in our athletic program. It is the policy of the Athletic Department to investigate the criminal arrest of all student-athletes. In such a case, the student-athlete will be placed on athletic suspension pending a hearing to determine if eligibility for athletic competition and/or scholarship awards will continue. The Athletic Director, the Faculty Athletics Representative, and the student-athlete's Head Coach will participate in the hearing. The decision of the Athletic Director following the hearing shall not be subject to appeal. Consequences may include a warning, suspension, denial of athletic scholarships, or denial of further athletic participation.

It is the policy of the Athletic Department to investigate all Code of Student Conduct violations as outlined in the LSU Alexandria Student Handbook. In such a case, the student-athlete will be placed on athletic suspension pending the completion of a student conduct hearing conducted by the University's

Student Conduct Committee. Following the student conduct hearing, the Athletic Director will convene a hearing to determine if any additional athletic sanctions are warranted. The Athletic Director, the Faculty Athletics Representative, and the student-athlete's Head Coach will participate in the hearing. The decision of the Athletic Director following the hearing shall not be subject to appeal. Consequences may include a warning, suspension, denial of athletic scholarships, or denial of further athletic participation.

ALCOHOL AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POLICY

The use of illegal drugs for recreation or performance enhancement and the use of alcohol on campus and the use of alcohol by minors are illegal acts. The use of alcohol and drugs exposes individuals to a multitude of health risks.

The individual coach will have the right to remove an athlete from his or her team at any time. The guidelines presented below are to be considered the minimum punishment for abuse of alcohol or controlled substances.

You should also be aware that the use of any substance banned by the NAIA may result in the loss of your NAIA eligibility.

- Following a first infraction, the athlete will be required to notify their parents and will serve a week suspension from games and practices.
- After a second infraction, the athlete will be referred to the University counseling center and will be prohibited from participating in athletics for one season. All athletic scholarship awards will be revoked during the time of probation.
- After a period of two years, an athlete's second offense shall be considered the first offense.
- A third infraction will lead to a ban from all athletic competition at LSU Alexandria. An appointment with a University counselor will be made for the athlete. All athletic scholarship awards will be revoked.

If alcohol or drugs are used on a University trip, the athlete will be immediately removed from the team and will be banned from further athletic competition. Any athletic scholarship awards will be revoked.

NAIA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

The NAIA is dedicated to promoting and preserving the integrity of athletics for the benefit and welfare of student-athletes. Consistent with that goal, the NAIA is concerned about and resolved to support definitive actions designed to assist student-athletes striving to cope with escalating substance abuse problems in our society. These substance abuses center on drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and smokeless tobacco.

Substance abuse is a major societal problem which demands the attention of all segments of society, in particular the education community. The magnitude of the problem compels this Association (NAIA) to accept the responsibility to provide leadership in educating student-athletes who may be using or may be under pressure to use these substances.

While maintaining institutional autonomy and individual institutional control, the NAIA is committed to establishing and monitoring requirements which will have a positive impact upon the substance abuse problem as it relates to athletics and, more specifically, to student-athletes. Through this national policy on substance abuse the NAIA desires to communicate a concise message to student-athletes and to other concerned segments of society. The NAIA is committed to facing the issue of substance abuse among student-athletes in a positive, forceful and straightforward manner. We are determined to bring all available educational resources to bear upon the issue in a caring, yet definitive mode.

Substance Abuse Policy on Postseason Competition:

Any NAIA student suspended for substance abuse by a national or international sports governing body, or by any amateur sports governing body, shall not be allowed to participate in any NAIA-approved postseason competition during the imposed period of suspension.

Alcohol and Tobacco Products:

The use of alcohol, tobacco, or tobacco products is not permitted by participants, coaches, cheerleaders, trainers, game administrators, or officials in the playing areas during all NAIA sanctioned competition and practices for such competition. The institution's coaching staff, event games committee, administrator, or host site coordinator (as applicable) shall enforce this policy through the following steps:

On the first offense, the individual(s) shall receive an official warning. A second offense will cause expulsion from the game, tournament or event.

DRUG TESTING

All student-athletes identified with either the baseball or softball teams will be subject to unannounced drug testing. Testing may occur on- or off-campus at any time, including the preseason, during the regular academic year, and during the summer.

ATHLETIC INSURANCE

LSU Alexandria provides a secondary accident medical coverage insurance policy on all student-athletes, student-trainers, student-coaches, or student-managers for athletically-related injuries. For further information about the potential insurance coverage provided through LSU Alexandria, please contact the Athletic Director.

Please note that LSU Alexandria assumes no responsibility whatsoever for any non athletic expenses and we require that the student have coverage through a primary health insurer to avoid possible, significant out-of-pocket expenses in the event of an injury. All participants will be asked to supply their insurance information.

The NAIA's Catastrophic Injury Insurance Program covers student-athletes who are catastrophically injured while participating in a covered intercollegiate athletic activity (subject to all policy terms and conditions).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

If you are injured or ill, it is your responsibility to report the problem to the trainer or coach as soon as possible. It is also your responsibility to attend arranged treatment sessions and to follow the directions of the trainer or physician as prescribed.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Athletes are required to have physicals before they participate in any practices. A date will be set up for the physicals to be given by the athletic trainer. The department will cover the cost of the physical on the specified day for your team. If you do not choose to be there on the assigned date, you will be responsible for obtaining a physical at your own cost. Each athlete must have his physical prior to any participation as a LSU Alexandria athlete. This includes taking part in any organized practice activities or physical training as a team member.

TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

If you want to transfer to another school, you may request a release. Another coach may not contact you or discuss a transfer without first obtaining written permission from the Athletic Director. To begin the transfer process, first consult with your coach and then contact the Athletic Director.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The LSU Alexandria Athletic Department and NAIA hold expectations for student athletes regarding sportsmanship. The following are some guidelines for sporting behavior during athletic events:

- Athletes may not strike or physically abuse any official, opposing coach, player or spectator. In cases where such attacks occur, there will be a hearing to gather the facts in the case and the athlete should anticipate serving a suspension or possible expulsion from the athletics program.
- Athletes should avoid intentionally inciting participants or the crowd.
- Athletes should avoid the use of profanity, vulgarity, or taunts.
- Athletes should avoid making obscene gestures to fans, opponents, or officials.
- Athletes should not publicly criticize any game official

Acts resulting in complaints from opposing administrators, game officials, LSU Alexandria, or NAIA officials may result in disciplinary action such as reprimand or suspension from competition.

CONDITIONS OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

I understand that to qualify for this athletic scholarship, I **must**:

- Fulfill the admissions requirements of LSU Alexandria.
- Meet and maintain the eligibility requirements for athletic participation and financial aid established by the NAIA, appropriate athletic conference, and/or LSU Alexandria.
- Meet the athletic and academic expectations, including all ethical conduct provisions, as presented by your coach and/or the LSU Alexandria Athletic Department.

I am aware that the amount of my athletic scholarship **may** be immediately reduced or canceled during the period of this award if:

- I become ineligible for intercollegiate competition (e.g., by carrying less than 12 credit hours per academic term)
- I miss an excessive number of classes without an excuse.
- I give false information on my Admission Application, Athletic Scholarship Agreement, or other financial aid application forms.
- I engage in serious misconduct that brings disciplinary action from LSU Alexandria and/or the Athletic Department.
- I voluntarily withdraw from this sport for personal reasons regardless of whether or not the first date of the competition in my sport has taken place.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- The student must be identified and enrolled in a minimum of 12 institutional credit hours at the time of participation, or, if the participation takes place between terms, the student must have been identified with the institution the term immediately before the date of participation.
- The student must have accumulated a minimum of nine (9) institutional credit hours prior to identification for the second term of attendance.
- After completion of the second semester term of attendance and from then on, a student must have accumulated a minimum of 24 institutional credit hours in the two immediately previous terms of attendance. No more than 12 institutional credit hours earned during summers and/or during non-terms may be applied to meet the 24 institutional credit-hour requirement.
- The student must be making normal progress toward a recognized baccalaureate degree and maintain the minimum grade point average as defined by the institution and the NAIA.
- Upon reaching junior academic standing, a student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale. The 2.000 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or higher must be certified each grading period in which the student wishes to compete after junior academic standing is reached.
- To participate a second season in a sport, all students must have accumulated at least 24 semester institutional credit hours.
- To participate the third season in a sport, all students must have accumulated at least 48 semester institutional credit hours.
- To participate the fourth season in a sport, all students must have accumulated at least 72 semester institutional credit hours, at least 48 semester hours of which must be in general education and/or in the student's major field of study.
- To participate in a third and/or fourth season in a sport, all students must have and maintain a total cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 on a 4.000 scale. The GPA for students with continuing identification at your institution shall be calculated according to the official institutional policy for all students.

TEAM TRAVEL

The Athletic Department will not pay for incidental charges that the student-athletes may incur (i.e., telephone calls, room service, movie/game rental, etc.).

In the event that a student-athlete wants to stay in a city with family and/or friends after a game/match (and the head coach will permit it), the head coach may allow the student-athlete to stay but must have the approval from the parents/guardians either before the trip or after the game/match. If a parent/guardian cannot be contacted, then the student-athlete must return to campus with the rest of the traveling party.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of LSU Alexandria to provide an environment that is free from sexual harassment because such conduct seriously undermines the atmosphere of trust and respect that is essential to a healthy work and academic environment. No employee or student (either male or female) should be subject to unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtures or conduct, either verbal or physical.

This policy applies to all members of the University community including faculty, staff, and students. Members of the University community who are subjected to sexual harassment are encouraged to report their complaints promptly. Persons who violate this sexual harassment policy shall be subject to disciplinary action that may include but is not limited to: written warning, demotion, transfer, suspension, or dismissal. Persons accused of violating this policy shall be accorded due process of the law.

GENDER EQUITY

LSU Alexandria's Athletic Department is committed to the spirit of and adherence to Title IX and all issues related to gender equity. The Department will strive to maintain the focus of equality, participation, and diversity in all sports programs, scholarship funding, and facility renovation and construction. Any questions regarding LSU Alexandria's commitment to gender equity should be directed to the Athletic Director and/or the Human Resource Management department.

HAZING

The LSU Alexandria Athletic Department has a "no-tolerance" policy toward this practice. If detected, all athletic staff members have the responsibility to report any hazing occurrences immediately to the Athletic Director. There is no place in LSU Alexandria's athletic program for this practice and it will not be tolerated.

MISSED CLASSES

It is important for the student-athletes and the professors to understand that there will be times that classes are missed due to athletic contests. The members of the coaching staff will do everything possible to keep missed class time to a minimum, especially during the off season. The coaching staff will also provide student-athletes with a schedule of travel dates and times to provide to their professors so that the professors will have advance notice of when the student-athlete will be out of class and also so that assignments can be turned in early if needed. It is vitally important to remember to keep the professors and instructors informed of when you will be out of class for athletic reasons.

At no time is a student-athlete to miss class for practice.

ON-CAMPUS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The LSU Alexandria's Athletic Department encourages student-athletes to take part in as many on-campus extra-curricular activities as time and schedules allow. The University offers many opportunities to increase the student-athlete's awareness of the world around them by allowing them to take part in service projects, intramural sports, clubs, and other organizations. The Athletic Department is in full support of any student-athlete joining a student organization with the understanding that academic and athletic responsibilities always take precedence over other events. It is also encouraged, and permissible, for a team to go out into the community and provide some sort of program or service at a local school or church.

CONCLUSION

Any questions or comments regarding the contents within the LSU Alexandria Student-Athlete Handbook should be directed to your head coach or the Athletic Director for clarification.