



SMITH COLLEGE STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SAAC CONSTITUTION

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee(SAAC) is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity for all student-athletes; protecting student-athlete welfare; and fostering a positive student-athlete image, while maintaining the tenants of the Division III philosophy. (www.ncaa.org)

DIVISION III PHILOSOPHY

Colleges and universities in Division III place highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and on the successful completion of all students' academic programs. They seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's athletics activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete's educational experience. They also seek to establish and maintain an environment that values cultural diversity and gender equity among their student-athletes and athletics staff. (www.ncaa.org)

PURPOSE OF SMITH SAAC:

1. To give student-athletes a voice in determining the rules, regulations and polices that affect student-athletes' lives on campus and within the NCAA governance structure.
2. To promote effective communication among the Smith College athletic community including but not limited to: varsity athletes, coaches, administrators, faculty, and the surrounding Smith community.
3. To promote a positive student-athlete image through involvement in the community.
4. To design and provide programs that will encourage academic achievement, good health and nutrition, social responsibility, and general awareness.
5. To promote communication and support among all athletes in athletic programs at Smith.

I. **MEMBERSHIP** - representatives are chosen with an effort to increase diversity and establish continuity within SAAC.

A. *Varsity Team Representatives*

1. Two SAAC representatives shall be elected for a one-year term by each varsity team at Smith College.
2. One representative must be a first-year or sophomore, the other must have had at least one year experience serving as a SAAC representative (prior to the current year) at the time of election. If the team is unable to come up with representatives that fit the criteria, the SAAC Executive Board will approve selections on a case-by-case basis.
3. Each team will elect one alternate who will serve as a voting representative at meetings when a representative is unable to attend.
4. Selections are held at each teams' discretion and elected representatives' names must be given to the secretary by March 31st of each year. Newly elected representatives will start their term at the last meeting of each school year.
5. Team representatives are open to everyone on the teams, including captains and will serve as voting members.

B. *Coach Representative*

1. One varsity coach shall be elected by the executive board at the beginning of each year and will serve as a non-voting member.
2. Coach representative shall serve as a liaison between coaches and athletes.

C. *Advisors*

1. The advisors of SAAC shall be selected by the executive board with the approval of the Athletics Director.
2. The advisors shall be an advocate for student-athletes in supporting the ideas of SAAC while serving as non-voting members.
3. The advisors shall work with other administrators and coaches to get the student-athlete voice acknowledged and heard.

4. The advisors shall act as a sounding board for the committee to help better articulate its concerns, ensuring a safe environment for discussing all types of issues.
5. The advisors shall educate the student-athletes on NCAA rules and governance structure, while providing administrative support by securing resources needed by the committee.

D. Athletics Association Representative

1. At the end of each year, the Athletics Association shall elect one of its members to be a voting member of SAAC.
2. AA representative shall be a liaison between SAAC and the athletics association as well as the SGA.

II. EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. Selection

1. At the end of each year, the representatives of SAAC shall elect the executive board that will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Conference Representative, and Athletics Association Liaison.

B. Roles

1. President - The President shall preside over all meetings, attend conference SAAC, delegate duties, and call for a vote when warranted.
2. Vice President - The Vice President shall act as the chairperson in the absence of the President, attend conference SAAC, and oversee subcommittees that form as a response to the needs of the SAAC.
3. Secretary - The Secretary shall record all minutes of the committee's meetings and is in charge of keeping track of attendance.
4. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall keep track of an annual budget, be in charge of all fundraising, and report all expenses at each meeting.
5. Athletics Association Liaison - The AA liaison shall attend all meetings with AA, establish a constant dialogue with AA about SAAC

and report any issues concerning student-athlete welfare.

6. Conference Representative – The Conference SAAC Representative shall attend all Conference SAAC meetings and serve as a liaison between the NEWMAC Conference SAAC and the Smith SAAC.

III. MEETINGS

A. Frequency

1. Meetings shall be held during lunch once a month, and are to be attended by all representatives.
2. Subcommittees will have additional meetings as needed, and will be called by the committee.

B. Attendance

1. Attendance is mandatory for all members. The Executive Board and the Advisors must receive written excuses 3 days prior to a meeting.
2. Attendance will be recorded and reported to coaches and SAAC members. Repeated unexcused absences will result in the selection of a new representative.
3. When a team representative cannot be present, the team's alternate must be present.

C. Voting Procedure

1. 51% of SAAC will suffice for a quorum, a full quorum of members must be present in order to vote.
2. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of 51% of the members present.
3. This constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the total membership of the committee.