

## **Classroom Attendance Policy for Student-Athletes at Mississippi State University** (Revised, 08/07/2008)

It is assumed that every student at Mississippi State University has a goal of graduation. That is the goal of the Athletic Department for each student-athlete who participates in one of its programs. Class attendance is an important factor to achieving that goal. The following policy relates to class attendance for student-athletes at Mississippi State University. Teams may choose a more restrictive policy but the consequences of missing classes as stated in this policy statement are to be considered minimum. More restrictive policies must be communicated to teams at the beginning of the school year.

### **Excused Absences**

Excused absences are defined by the University (MSU Policy 1209, Approved 9/18/2003) as:

Participation in an authorized university activity.

Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.

Illness of a dependent family member.

Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.

Religious holy day.

Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.

Required participation in military duties.

Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school, which cannot be rescheduled.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the professor in advance of the absence. A more restrictive attendance policy in a particular course governs that course and supercedes this policy regarding all students in that course.

### **Consequences for Classroom Absences**

After the **4<sup>th</sup>** unexcused absence in a course, the following action will occur:  
Suspension from the next competitive contest.

After the **8<sup>th</sup>** unexcused absence in a course, the following action shall occur:  
Suspension from the next competitive contest.

After the **10<sup>th</sup>** unexcused absence, the following action shall occur:  
Suspension from all remaining competitive contests in that semester.

If the unexcused absences occur in an off-season semester, the above suspensions will be applied in the next competitive semester with the exception being that suspension from all remaining

contests in that semester be suspension from 25% of the competitive contests in the next competitive semester.

If the University mid-term grade reports indicate that a student-athlete has three unexcused absences, the student athlete will receive written notification that the next unexcused absence will result in a suspension from the next competitive contest.

If a grade report (mid-term or final) indicates a student has between four and seven unexcused absences, the student-athlete will receive written notification that they will be suspended from the next competitive contest in that semester

If a grade report (mid-term or final) indicates a student has eight or more unexcused absences, the student-athlete will receive written notification that they will be suspended from the next two competitive contests in that semester.

If a grade report (mid-term or final) indicates a student has ten or more unexcused absences, the student-athlete will receive written notification that they will be suspended from the all remaining competitive contests in that semester.

### **Monitoring Class Attendance**

The following methods may be used to monitor class attendance:

- Class checks
- Electronic correspondence with professors
- Telephone calls to professors
- Personal visits with professors
- University Mid-term and final grade reports

Absences will be reported to the Head Coach of the student-athlete and it is the responsibility of the Head Coach to make the student-athlete aware of attendance problems. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) unexcused absence in a course will result in written notification to the student-athlete, Head Coach, Faculty Athletic Representative, and the Athletic Director. The 10<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence will result in similar notification. Class absences will be confirmed with the professor by the Faculty Athletic Representative before any penalty occurs.

### **Appeal Process**

A student-athlete has 3 scholastic days, excluding travel days for competition, from the time of notification to present proof of attendance to the Associate Athletic Director of Student Services. The Associate Athletic Director of Student Services and the Faculty Athletic Representative will review the appeal and make a decision.

### **Modification of Suspension**

The Athletic Director, upon the recommendation of the Associate Athletic Director of Student Services and the Faculty Athletic Representative, may modify a suspension based on the following criteria:

- The student's course grade
- The student's overall cumulative grade point average
- The student's progress towards a degree.