



CLUB SPORT HANDBOOK

APPROVED BY

**Recreational Sports & Fitness, the Department of Athletics & Recreation
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Washington, District of Columbia**

2021-2022

Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	5
PURPOSE OF THE CLUB SPORT PROGRAM	5
DEFINITION OF A CLUB SPORT	5
ROLE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....	6
CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS	6
CLUB GEAR AND EQUIPMENT	7
CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS.....	7
SAFETY PROCEDURES.....	7
COVID-19 GUIDANCE	8
ELIGIBILITY.....	8
Membership.....	8
Certification of Eligibility for Competition	9
CLUB STATUS.....	9
Conditional Membership	9
Criteria	9
Full Membership	10
Criteria	10
Maintaining Full Membership.....	10
BECOMING A SPONSORED CLUB SPORT	11
PARTICIPATION IN CLUB SPORT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	11
COACH ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY.....	12
Securing a Coach/Instructor	12
Coach/Instructor Conduct.....	12
THE PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL.....	13
Duties	13
Membership.....	13
CLUB SPORT RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS	14
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT	14
Individual Accountability.....	14
DISCIPLINE PROCESS	14
APPEAL PROCESS.....	16
THE CLUB SPORT OFFICE.....	17

Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics	17
Mailing Address.....	17
Telephone Procedures	17
Typing and Duplication Services	17
FACILITY RESERVATIONS	17
Expectations When Using University Facilities	18
CLUB FINANCES.....	18
Funding	18
Dues	19
Appropriate and Inappropriate Expenditures for University Funds	19
Returned Checks	19
Fundraising.....	19
Donations.....	19
Sales of Goods or Services	20
Sponsoring Sales/Marketing Groups on to Campus	20
Special Events/Raffles	20
THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION PROCESS	20
General Information	20
Completing the Budget Request Form.....	21
Timeline.....	21
PURCHASING PROCEDURES	22
Purchase Order	22
Credit Card	22
Pre-Payment	22
Disbursement Request.....	23
AUDIT OF CLUB ACCOUNT	23
EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE	23
Approved Logos	23
Uniforms	24
Inventory.....	24
Laundry Services	24
TRAVEL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES	24
Approvals	24

Travel Roster/Itinerary Forms.....	24
Alcoholic Beverages/Illegal Substances	25
Reimbursement	25
Methods of Travel.....	25
Personal Vehicle.....	25
Enterprise Rental Vehicles	26
Enterprise On-Campus Minivan	26
FREE2MOVE Rental.....	26
Airline Tickets.....	26
Charter Bus	27
Driver’s Information.....	27
Lodging.....	27
Food	27
PUBLICITY	27
Web Pages.....	28
Posting Fliers, Posters, and Publicity Materials in Jacobs Fitness Center.....	28
Posting Fliers, Posters, and Publicity Materials on Campus	28
VIRTUAL MEETINGS	29

INTRODUCTION

The Club Sports program is sponsored by Recreational Sports and Fitness, a Department of Athletics and Recreation unit, and consists of all recognized clubs. The Club Sport program compliments the University's intercollegiate athletic programs, intramural activities, physical education class offerings, and fitness center programs. The Club Sports Program is administered by the Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness, who offers professional guidance to each club. Each club is formed, developed, governed, and administered by the student membership of that club working in conjunction with the Club Sports Office. The key to success with this program is student leadership, interest, participation, and involvement. Club Sports are governed by the rules and regulations established for all recognized student organizations on the American University campus and by those established by the Office of Recreational Sports and Fitness.

This handbook has been prepared to assist clubs in the administration of their program. The officers of each club are required to become familiar with this handbook. Situations involving Club Sports business, or any activities not covered in this handbook should be referred directly to the Club Sports office. Information in this handbook is subject to change. New policies, procedures or additions/changes to existing policies or procedures made due to unforeseen circumstances during the academic year shall be deemed official even though not printed in this publication. These additions/changes will be available on the Club Sports website and distributed through e-mail to the Club presidents.

PURPOSE OF THE CLUB SPORT PROGRAM

The Club Sports Program promotes student participation in various physical and athletic activities. It gives students opportunities to engage in the activity of their choice at various skill levels. Club Sports contributes to the development of student leadership and provides a common bond between individuals. While the Office of Recreational Sports and Fitness assists in the development and growth of Club Sports, the program's emphasis is on student leadership and involvement. The success of Club Sports is dependent upon student interest, involvement, and financial responsibility.

DEFINITION OF A CLUB SPORT

A *Club Sport* is defined as a registered student organization that exists to promote and develop an interest in a particular sport or physical activity with competition against other higher education institutions. Club Sports are strictly voluntary. Involvement in a Club Sport enhances the student's college experience and contributes to the student's overall education. American University officially sponsors club Sports through the Office of Recreational Sports and Fitness. Sponsorship requires supervision and assumption of responsibility for all Club actions and activities.

ROLE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics serves primarily as an advisor and resource person for Club Sports leaders and assists student representatives with Club business. It is the Assistant Director's responsibility to monitor Club activities to ensure all University procedures are being followed, to assist Clubs in implementing sound safety practices, to manage Club funds per university fiscal policy to facilitate club activities and to ensure the policies and procedures are followed. The Assistant Director will allow Clubs as much freedom to operate as possible, provided they operate within the regulations and guidelines herein. The director shall have the ability to make decisions on items not explicitly covered in this manual with the consultation of the Director of Recreational Sports & Fitness.

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

The responsibilities listed below should be considered guidelines and not a complete listing of the representative's duties. Anything pertaining to the relationship between the Club and the Office of Recreational Sports and Fitness is the responsibility of the student representative. Each Club should appoint or designate a responsible student representative to perform the following duties:

1. Assure that all club members have personal health insurance and submit a copy of their insurance card to the Club Sports Office or upload their insurance card to the Club Sports website.
2. Develop and maintain an accurate membership roster at the beginning of each semester and submit it to the Club Sports Office. Changes to the roster should be updated throughout the semester as needed.
3. Inform Club members of policies, expectations, emergency procedures, and other regulations that must be followed. Monitor all Club events, assuring that all policies and procedures are followed.
4. Due to COVID-19, all meetings with the Assistant Director will be conducted virtually to approve all travel, publications, equipment, gear designs, and other Club business.
5. Required forms should be submitted entirely and promptly.
6. Ensure that the Club continues to remain in good financial standing.
7. Report any injury at any Club event to the Club Sports Office within 24 hours at auclubsports@gmail.com or 202-885-3053.
8. Submit a Semester-in-Review report to the Club Sports Office at the end of each semester, articulating tournaments/competitions participated in and any achievements or notable competitive performances.
9. Maintain complete inventory records of Club equipment and update the Club's inventory when requested by the Club Sports Office. Inventories must include all items purchased by American University.
10. Every Club must submit a current copy of the Club's constitution at the beginning of the Fall Semester to the Club Sports Office and update the constitution for approval by the membership as needed.
11. AU requires all club athletes to wear masks during practice, events, and tournaments. This includes all events that do not require a mask. AU mask rules and regulations still apply to traveling teams competing outside of the AU campus.

CLUB GEAR AND EQUIPMENT

Any team uniforms, equipment's and gear can be purchased with a university discount through BSN Sports. If interested, please email auclubsports@gmail.com with any purchases and the office will guide you through your purchase.

For Equipment:

https://www.bsnsports.com/catalogs_bsn/2021_BSN_Equipment_Spring/mobile/index.html

For Team Uniforms:

https://www.bsnsports.com/vendor_catalogs/SS22_Team/

CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS

All clubs must have their officer terms run from May 15th until May 14th of the following year. Suppose any officer plans on studying abroad or is otherwise absent for any less than the entire academic year; a co-board member must be assigned to the same position to serve concurrently with the same officer.

(For example, if Clawed Eagleson runs to be President of their Club, but will study abroad in the Spring of the academic year, a Co-President must be elected to serve alongside Talon for the Fall semester and execute duties during the Spring).

Club elections will be completed no later than April 15th for the upcoming year. Each club's constitution will set their own election procedures. Each club must have a:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Safety officer
- Captain (optional)
- Social Media Officer (optional)

The Safety Officer must be CPR and AED certified. Training will be provided by American University free of charge. No individual can hold more than one of these offices concurrently.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

To provide a safe and positive recreational experience for all participants, it is necessary to anticipate situations to prevent accidents and injuries. It is strongly recommended that every Club Sport develop, implement and practice the following safety policies:

1. Club Sport officers, Club members, coaches, and instructors should emphasize safety during all Club-related activities.
2. Encourage all Club members to have a **physical examination prior to participation**. The national associations governing some sports offer supplemental accident and liability insurance for members. Check to see if your activity provides or offers this type of coverage.

3. Review the Club's emergency procedures with the Club Sport Office.
4. Inspect fields and facilities prior to every practice session, game, or special event. Report unsafe conditions to the proper managing authority. **Do not use facilities or equipment if they appear unsafe.**
5. Have at least two members certified in First Aid and CPR available at Club practices, games, and events.
6. Submit an injury report for injuries that occur to Club members during Club events or practices. **These reports must be submitted to the Club Sport Office within 24 hours after the occurrence.** Injury Report form is available in the Club Sport Office or online.
7. Swim Tests: All club members involved in an aquatic activity should pass a swimming test prior to becoming accepted into the Club. Arrangements for pool time for testing and suggestions for the appropriate swim test to be administered should be discussed with the Club Sport Office. The following Clubs must conduct swim tests: Crew, Sailing, and Water Polo.
8. Each Club should have their American University-issued first aid kit available during all practices and events. These University-issued first aid kits will be loaned to each at the start of the year. First aid kits will be returned to the Club Sports office at the end of each academic year. Clubs will be billed for any lost first aid kits or materials

American University and the Office of Recreational Sports and Fitness cannot be responsible for any injury or property loss incurred by participants while involved in any Recreational Sports program.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

The safety and security of AU Club Sports remains our paramount priority, and the safeguards in this plan are designed to mitigate the risk to members of the AU Club Sports Athletes of contracting COVID-19 and transmitting it to others. For further information on American University safety guidelines for COVID-19, please visit AU Forward Health and Safety Plan.

https://www.american.edu/coronavirus/upload/aufoward_fall2021_healthandsafetyplan.pdf

ELIGIBILITY

All guidelines governing the Club Sport Program are written to protect the rights and safety of each participant and are designed to provide fair and equal opportunity for all persons eligible to participate in Club activities.

Membership

1. All currently enrolled American University students must be given the opportunity each semester to join a Sport Club. Members must recognize that only a certain number can realistically engage in competition. Only **student** members of a Club may hold an office in the Club and vote on Club matters. Some Clubs may have participation restrictions due to conference and/or league affiliation.

2. Members of the faculty/staff may apply for affiliate Club membership. Faculty/Staff Club affiliate members may **not** hold an office within the Club or **vote** on Club matters or in elections.
3. Each member and coach (including affiliate members) of a Club Sport must complete a Membership packet, submit a copy of their current medical insurance card (both must be on file with the Club Sport office), pay club dues, and be listed on the Club's membership roster before he/she is recognized as an official member of the Club Sport.
4. Athletic scholarships are not awarded by the Office of Recreational Sports and Fitness for Club Sport participation.
5. Intercollegiate athletes are eligible for membership in a Club Sport without restrictions due to intercollegiate team affiliation except by any regulations set by the NCAA and/or the varsity team.

Certification of Eligibility for Competition

1. All Club Sport teams must abide by Conference, Regional, State, NIRSA or NCAA rules and regulations in competition that has such guidelines.
2. Teams competing in NIRSA Sport Club tournaments must meet the eligibility requirements set forth by NIRSA. These requirements can be picked up in the Club Sports Office.
3. Club teams desiring to enter competition may be required to obtain certificates of eligibility from the University before entries are accepted. Individual Club members should request certification in person at the Registrar's Office, located in the Asbury building Room 200. Please allow up to three weeks for the certification process to be completed.

CLUB STATUS

The Club Sport program is structured with two tiers of Club membership status:

- Conditional Membership
- Full Membership

Conditional Membership

The conditional tier is designated for Clubs in their first year of organization within the Club Sport program. Conditional Clubs will have one year to demonstrate stability in terms of Club administration, student interest, and support in terms of having the appropriate number of active Club members. **Financial assistance from the Office of Recreational Sports and Fitness is NOT available for conditional Clubs.** Upon successful completion of conditional status, a Club will automatically be elevated to the Full level.

Criteria

- Ability to maintain a membership of at least 10 (or the minimum number required by the activity) active student members
- Demonstrate effective Club leadership
- Complete financial self-support

Full Membership

The full tier is designated for all Clubs not under the conditional tier. Clubs submitting a budget proposal according to the guidelines set forth in the Budget Appropriation section will be able to receive some funding.

Criteria

- Demonstrated effective Club leadership for one year or longer
- Primarily self-supporting organization with most funding raised by the Club
- Demonstrated commitment to Recreational Sports and Fitness and American University by following prescribed policy and procedures.

Maintaining Full Membership

In addition to the criteria listed above, a Club's continued Full Membership status depends on the purpose, goals, and longevity of the Club. The Club Sport Office will review each Club's status at the end of each spring semester.

To retain sponsorship, the following general requirements must have been met:

1. Student interest in the Club was demonstrated by a membership of either (1) seven active members, or (2) the minimum number of members (over 7) needed to participate in the activity.
2. The Club is actively participating in tournaments or part of a league. Clubs that do not compete within the academic year will be dropped to conditional status for one year. During the 'conditional year' the club must compete locally or regionally (will not be eligible for national tournaments) to regain full membership.
3. Clubs that are inactive for two years will lose accrued funding
4. The Club was represented at all meetings.
5. The Club's purpose and activity continued to be consistent with the Office of Recreational Sports and Fitness' purpose and philosophy.
6. University and Club Sport guidelines as outlined in this manual were followed.
7. Clubs must collect at least \$25 in dues from each active member each semester and deposited into the Club bank account.
8. An accurate inventory of equipment was maintained and kept on file in the Club Sport Office.
9. All Club equipment was maintained, issued, accounted for and stored adequately.
10. The Club Sport Office continues to have the necessary resources to supervise the Club and its activities.
11. All appropriate forms were filed as directed at the specified time during the year.

BECOMING A SPONSORED CLUB SPORT

Any group of students with a collective interest in a sport or activity can start a new Club Sport. The process for doing so is outlined in the steps below. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns with the process, please feel free to contact the Club Sports Office for assistance.

1. Ensure that students are willing to serve as “Officers” for the Club. Officers are the main leadership of the Club. The required officers are President, Safety Officer and Treasurer.
2. Recruit interested athletes by promoting and conducting an informational meeting on campus.
3. The new Club will be required to collect dues from each member of at least \$25 to cover any start-up costs for the club.
4. The new Club will be required to meet monthly with the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics to discuss the progress and status of the Club.
5. The Club will be under evaluation for an entire year in regard to meeting attendance, paperwork compliance, and following of policies and procedures.
6. Clubs serving their 1-year Conditional Period are not eligible to receive funding.

PARTICIPATION IN CLUB SPORT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

American University is an institutional member of NIRSA, Leaders in Collegiate Recreation. NIRSA conducts national championship events for Club Sports. If NIRSA is conducting a national championship in a particular activity, the Club Sports office will only support a Club Sport’s participation at the NIRSA event. **A Club Sport may not represent American University at a non-NIRSA sponsored national championship unless there is no championship in that activity conducted by the NIRSA.** The NIRSA currently conducts championships in Flag Football, Basketball, Soccer, and Tennis.

Clubs competing in national championships will incur the cost of the Assistant Director or other University official to serve a chaperone to the event. Clubs are required to contact the Assistant Director at the beginning of the season to discuss plans to participate in national tournaments.

Only Clubs with Full Membership status are eligible to participate in national tournaments.

COACH ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Securing a Coach/Instructor

If a Club wants to use the services of a coach/instructor, prior to the semester the prospective coach/instructor must complete the following forms:

1. Professional Service Agreement (paid coaches)
2. Volunteer Coach's Agreement (non-paid coaches)
3. Participant Registration Form
4. Waiver Form
5. Proof of Medical Insurance (both sides)
6. Copy of Driver's License (both sides)

Coaches will not be permitted to participate in any club activities until the above forms are received.

The coach or instructor is neither an employee of the Department of Athletics and Recreation nor American University.

Coach/Instructor Conduct

Although coaches/instructors are not employees of the University, they will be expected to adhere to all University policies including sexual harassment. Club's Executive Boards are allowed to terminate coaches for conduct violations at the Club's discretion.

Responsibilities

1. Each coach must complete a participant registration form, waiver form and submit a copy of their driver's license and current medical insurance card.
2. It is recommended that all coaches possess personal medical and liability insurance.
3. The coach must be aware of and follow **all** University and departmental procedures relative to the Club Sport program.
4. The coach should restrict his/her contributions to coaching and **refrain from activities involved in the Club's management**. A Club Sport is first and foremost a student organization and, as such, **the student representative (not the coach) must serve as the liaison between the Club and the Club Sport Staff**. The philosophy and key to the success of the Club Sport program has been the continued emphasis placed on student leadership and participation.
5. Club business matters (hosting tournaments, submitting forms, equipment requests) must be handled by the student members with the coach serving in an advisory capacity. Club activities and events should be a team effort and not left solely to the coach or student representatives.

6. Participation in the Club Sport Program is completely voluntary; therefore monetary rewards or scholarships shall not be promised or given to any member or prospective member by the coach.
7. Coaches must help ensure good sportsmanship at all times. Individuals must always conduct themselves in a manner that does not detract from the reputation of the University. This includes behavior in game situations, contact with other teams and even interaction with staff. When involved in off-campus events or when traveling, be aware that the Club is still representing the University.
8. Coaches should refrain from making appointments with Athletics and Recreation Department staff without first informing the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics. Coaches should refrain from contacting the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics without first talking to the club president.
9. The Club Sport staff has the right and obligation to protect the Club, and if, in the staff's opinion, the coach is not working in the best interests of the Club, the coach will be relieved of his/her coaching duties.
10. Coaches must be recommended by Club members and must submit a new information form each academic year in order to coach. **Continuation of coaching status is not automatic.**

THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

The American University Club Sport President's Council is a student advisory group that assists in the Club Sport Office in administering the Club Sport program.

Duties

1. Serve as an appeal board and rule on Club appeals regarding decisions made by the Club Sport staff.
2. Make recommendations regarding revisions to the Club Sport Manual for the following year.
3. Make recommendations, offer advice and assist in the decision-making process in other matters when requested to do so by the Club Sport staff.

Membership

1. The Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics, the Director of Recreational Sports & Fitness and all Club Presidents.
2. The Directors will be non-voting on the council but may take part in discussion.
3. The Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics or his/her delegate will serve as chairperson for regular meetings. For appeals, the chair will be rotated among student members.
4. Club Presidents may designate a representative from their Club to serve in their place.
5. In cases of tie votes in regular meetings, the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics or their delegate will vote to break the tie.

CLUB SPORT RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Each Club Sport has the obligation to have the approval of the Club Sport Office prior to acting on items, issues, or ideas that are not covered in this handbook. If a Club chooses to act independently, they risk losing sponsorship. **Club social events are not sponsored by Recreational Sports and Fitness and must NOT be advertised as part of the Club's official activities.**

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The basic concept underlying the University's code of conduct is that students, by enrolling in the University, assume an obligation to conduct themselves and their organizations in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution. Individuals must always conduct themselves in a manner that does not detract from the reputation of the University. This includes behavior in game situations as well as contact with other teams and event staff. When involved in off-campus events or when traveling, be aware that the Club is still representing the University and bound by the Student Code of Conduct.

Individual Accountability

Students will abide by tenets of the Student Code of Conduct, Club Sports Policies and Procedures, and the constitution of the club. Any violation of the aforementioned documents will result in disciplinary action. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be handled by the Dean of Students Office, Club policies by the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics, and club constitutions by the Executive Board. Appeals of the Executive Board will be heard by the president of the club and elevated to the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics if necessary.

DISCIPLINE PROCESS

Violation of or non-compliance with university policies, campus regulations, Club Sport procedures, or standards of conduct may result in loss of membership or other disciplinary action against the Club Sport involved. The discipline process has been developed to assist Club leaders in correcting mistakes that have caused problems for the Club and the University.

Minor Infractions (examples would be non-attendance at meetings or failure to submit required forms on time)

1. First Infraction – if the violation is the Club's first during the current academic year, and the Club is not on probation from violations committed the previous year, the following steps are taken:

The Club is placed on probation for a designated period or until the Club corrects the situation. The Club Sport staff will notify the Club stating:

- a. The reason for the probation
- b. The length of the probationary period

The possible consequences the Club will face if additional infractions occur 2. Two or more Minor Infractions.

- a. The Club's funds may be frozen and/or a part of the Club's allocation may be forfeited.
- b. The Club Sport staff may take any action deemed appropriate, including determining the amount of allocation forfeited by the Club.
- c. The Club is notified in writing.
- d. The Club is notified of their right to appeal.

Major Infractions (these include Club actions that are outside of acceptable standards of conduct or are in violation of the Club Sport or University's rules, guidelines or Code of Conduct)

1. Examples of major infractions include, but are not limited to, the following situations:
 - a. Displaying conduct that is incompatible with the University's function as an educational institution and the purpose of the Club Sport program (i.e., unsportsmanlike conduct toward officials or opponents or disruptive behavior on trips).
 - b. Misusing Club funds and/or abusive use of Club funds.
 - c. Allowing ineligible individuals to participate in Club activities.
 - d. Compromising the safety of club members while traveling.
 - e. Transporting and/or consuming alcohol or illegal substances while on official club trips.
2. For all major infractions:
 - a. Student Conduct will be involved and will abide to their process and policies.
 - b. A meeting with the Club officers and the Club Sport staff is scheduled.
 - c. Input from appropriate administrators and staff members is solicited when appropriate.
 - d. The Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics and/or the Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness determine(s) the disciplinary action to be taken.
 - e. The Club is notified in writing of the decision and is advised of their right to appeal the decision.

Disciplinary Actions

Possible disciplinary actions that may be taken against a Club for infractions include:

1. Probation
2. Frozen funds
3. Loss of funding
4. Loss of travel privileges
5. Loss of Club sponsorship

Notification of disciplinary action is placed in the Club's mailbox in the Club Sport office. In the case of extreme misconduct, clubs and/or individuals will be referred to Student Conflict and Conflict Resolution Office.

APPEAL PROCESS

The appeal process exists to ensure that all disciplinary actions taken against club organizations are equitable. The person/council to whom a disciplinary decision is appealed will review the previous decision and rule on its appropriateness given the infraction(s) committed. With the concept of equity in mind, be forewarned that appeal of a disciplinary decision that seems extreme to the Club could result in an even stiffer penalty being levied by the person/council who hears the appeal. To file an appeal, follow the appropriate steps listed below:

1. Decisions of the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics on minor infractions may be appealed to the President's Council by following these procedures:
 - a. Written notification from the Club representative to the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics indicating the Club's reason for the appeal and any circumstances related to the situation that caused the infraction must be submitted within (72) seventy-two hours after the notification is placed in the Club's mailbox and by e-mail to the Club president.
 - b. A hearing will be scheduled with the Executive Council. Copies of the Club's appeal statement will be distributed to the Board members. Upon hearing the case, the Council will uphold, reject or modify the Director's decision.
 - c. Decisions by the Executive Council are final except in cases where the Club's sponsorship is in question or any other major infraction at the discretion of the Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness.
2. Decisions regarding loss of sponsorship or major infractions may be appealed to the Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness as outlined below:
 - a. Written notification from the Club representative to the Director of Recreational Sports or his/her delegate indicating the Club's reason for the appeal and any circumstances related to the situation that caused the infraction must be submitted within (72) seventy-two hours after the notification is placed in the Club's mailbox and by e-mail to the Club president.
 - b. The Director of Recreational Sports & Fitness may choose to hear the appeal or deny the request.
 - c. If the Director chooses to hear the appeal, then a meeting will be scheduled in order to present an oral appeal to the Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness.
 - d. The decision of the Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness is final.

THE CLUB SPORT OFFICE

Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics

The Assistant Director will provide assistance in planning the Club's activities and scheduling competitions with other universities' Club Sports and teams. Prior approval of Club activities including travel, events, publicity, budget expenditures and facility reservations is required. The Director is available for consultation regarding any aspect of your organization. If the Director cannot assist the Club, the Club will be referred to an office that can. **The responsibility to seek assistance of the Director is that of the student representatives.** Club representatives should schedule an appointment with the Director to assure needed attention is provided. Call or e-mail at least 24 hours in advance to make an appointment.

Mailing Address

Attn: Club Sports Director (Dwayne Wilkerson)
Sports Center G-03
4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Telephone Procedures

Long distance phone calls concerning a Club's business (competition, equipment order, etc.) can be made in the Club Sport office. The Club Sport staff will assist in placing the calls for the Club.

Typing and Duplication Services

Typing and duplication services are available through the Club Sports office. All requested work must be approved by the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics and at least five working days' notice should be given. The services will be done if the work schedule of staff allows time and if the original copy is well written and legible. Clubs may request duplication services from the Club Sport office. The availability of this service is based upon copier load and amount to be copied. Clubs will be allotted a fixed amount of white paper for duplication each academic year. Once a Club has used its allocation, it may purchase paper to use in the process and bring into the Club Sports office or the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics will charge the club at a rate equal to the cost of the paper per copy.

FACILITY RESERVATIONS

Club Sports may request the use of Recreational Sports facilities for activities. **Requests must be made through the Club Sport Office and approved by the Director through coordination with the Director of Facilities and Operations.** Clubs must alert (via email) the Club Sports office as far in advance as possible to improve the likelihood of available space. All facilities are shared with Athletics and the Department of Health & Fitness which makes availability somewhat limited. It usually takes one to two weeks before a facility reservation request can be confirmed or denied. Dates will be set aside for Club competition on campus. Clubs will be notified of the dates and number of times that are available to them prior to each semester. Clubs wanting to reserve meeting space in other spaces on campus should use the room reservation process through the University portal.

Expectations When Using University Facilities

Any time a Club has reserved a facility, it must be used. If the Club cancels a practice, game, or any reservation, the Club representative must contact the Club Sport staff at least 24 hours before the reservation is in effect. Failure to use a reserved area jeopardizes the Club's ability to reserve facilities for future use. Clubs are responsible for set-up and cleanup of all sites. Clubs are not allowed to have amplified sound at any outdoor sporting event on campus without prior approval by the Director of Facilities and Operations. Misuse of equipment and facilities (including not using reserved space, and/or neglect in following facility-use procedures) as well as inappropriate conduct and actions while participating in any Club Sport related activity, will jeopardize the Club's continued sponsorship as a Club Sport. **Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any Athletic facility. It is the Club's responsibility to monitor all Club events (including the actions of spectators) to assure that alcoholic beverages are not on site. Games may be delayed until the problem is corrected or may be canceled if the situation is not addressed.**

Any Club hosting an event on campus may be required to have a Club Sport Supervisor to be onsite during the match. This supervisor will be responsible for making sure that Clubs follow proper Club and University procedures. Clubs may be required to cover the cost of having a Club Sports Supervisor at their contests.

CLUB FINANCES

Funding

Because Club Sports receive limited funding from the University, each Club Sport is required to develop a revenue plan to fund operations. Club Sport funds must be used for the benefit of the entire group. Revenue for Club Sports will normally come from the following sources:

1. Membership dues
2. Fundraising activities
3. Budget allocation from the Club Sports office
4. Donations from individuals and corporations

All fund-raising activities (whether on or off-campus) require specific prior approval from the Club Sports office.

Each club has their own account through the University. The account is capable of withdraws and deposits. **Clubs may not have personal checking or savings accounts off-campus. Clubs are not permitted to obtain accounts outside the university to include PayPal, online accounts, etc. Clubs found in violation of this policy could result in the freezing of club funds.**

Clubs seeking financial assistance from Recreational Sports and Fitness must submit a budget request to the Club Sport office. The Club Sport office is allocated a budget each year. From this budget the funds are divided among the Clubs using the budget appropriation process. The fiscal year runs from May to April. Requests for each fiscal year are due in early spring. Additional

requests may be made at any time during the year, but there is no guarantee that funding will be available for the Club after the February deadline. Any team dues, donations, fundraising, or other income can be deposited into this account. Any remaining funds will carry over to the next fiscal year.

Dues

Each club is required to collect at least \$25 per member per semester. These funds are to be deposited to the Club's bank account via the Club Sports Office. Clubs will outline in the constitution a schedule for dues payment. Participants in noncompliance of club dues will be immediately suspended from participation. Participants could incur an academic hold on their account for noncompliance of club dues. Please note that once club dues are paid, there are no refunds given.

Appropriate and Inappropriate Expenditures for University Funds

All expenditures for Club Sports must have **prior approval** of the Club Sport Office. **Clubs not receiving prior approval will not be reimbursed from Club funds to cover costs.** Possible expenditures for a Club are equipment, travel, officials, entry fees, dues, t shirts, coach's stipends, and uniforms. **Funds may not be used for social events.**

Returned Checks

Any Club Sport submitting a check that is returned for any reason will be charged a \$25 returned check fee, as well as the money being deducted from their account. In order to resubmit that money, the Club must submit the original amount and the \$25 returned check fee separately in cash.

Fundraising

All fundraising must be approved by the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics prior to the fundraiser. All clubs must reach their team fundraising goal each semester. Clubs must fundraise 60% of their allocation per academic year. Each club will be required to conduct 2 fundraisers per semester and 5 for the academic year. Failure to comply with this policy can result in loss of Full Membership privileges for the next year and a loss in funding.

Donations

Clubs are encouraged to conduct donation campaigns to alumni, businesses, or entities not associated with American University. Clubs are not permitted to solicit door-to-door or conduct mail campaigns to residents in the any community. The office of development works in connection with the Assistant Director to draft donation letters for clubs to use. Clubs interested in participating in a donation campaign are encouraged to meet with the Assistant Director.

Clubs should use the following information as guidelines for fundraising on campus. This information is taken from the Student Activities handbook:

Online Donation

Anyone can donate to a specific club sport or the Recreational Sports and Fitness department through an online link here:

https://giving.american.edu/page/27479/donate/1?_ga=2.72125013.792366274.1631124214-994366981.1531856108

To donate to a specific club sport, make sure you select “Funds I Choose” to give to specific teams.

Sales of Goods or Services

This includes car washes, bake sales (items from a licensed kitchen only), candy sales, etc. A housecleaning or odd job service is acceptable. If you plan to sell any sort of product on campus, you will need to submit a Vending Approval Form to the Club Sports office. This form should be turned in at least 3 weeks prior to when you would like to sell the items.

This approval form ensures that you are not selling an item already available on campus or violating any campus contracts.

Sponsoring Sales/Marketing Groups on to Campus

Student groups may sponsor an outside vendor to come to campus in order to sell items or market their products. If groups do this, they can receive either a portion of their profits while on campus, or part of the fee charged for the outside vendor to market their products or services on campus. In order to do this, you will need to submit a Vending Approval Form to the Club Sports office. Again, these forms must be submitted three weeks prior to when you would like the vendor to come to campus. The vendors cannot conflict with any contracts the university already has, nor can they sell items already available on campus. If you have any questions, contact the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics.

Special Events/Raffles

We recommend that you meet with the Club Sports office before trying innovative fund raisers, so that your group can investigate any potential pitfalls before proceeding. Many ideas may require a D.C. Government license. A drawing or other random method of distributing prizes may be used for fund-raising only if it is possible to obtain a chance without purchasing a ticket. If the only way to win a prize is by purchasing a chance, then this is gambling and is prohibited unless a permit is obtained from the DC Lottery and Charitable Games Control Board. Work with the Club Sports office to obtain the permit.

THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION PROCESS

General Information

Budget requests are for the following academic year. Budget allocations are made from best projections of the club’s current and ongoing activity as well as anticipated competition. If major changes are expected in the future, indicate why. Attach as much supporting documentation as is feasible. Make requests self-explanatory. Each Club’s previous year budget request is available for review.

Completing the Budget Request Form

1. **Club Operating Expenses:** List expenses associated with the daily operation of the Club. Include expenses incurred in recruiting new members, communicating with the membership, publicity and any other costs associated with maintaining the Club.
2. **Competition Expenses:** Include all expenses to participate in these contests, such as League/Association dues, officials/judges' costs and facility rental fees.
3. **Travel Expenses:** Calculate transportation to and from the site (vehicle rental, airfare, fuel, mileage, and lodging). **Do not** include meals. Listed below is some useful travel information. Please remember to account for the cost of gas and gas mileage when traveling.
4. **Equipment:** List any equipment the Club would like to purchase for general Club use. This list should not include any "personal equipment" such as t-shirts or shoes. Please also indicate the life expectancy of this equipment. Any equipment purchased with University funds becomes the property of the Department of Recreational Sports and Fitness for the Club's use.
5. **Dues:** How many members are expected? What amount of dues will the Club charge? Will this be a yearly charge or a charge per semester?
6. **Donations:** Does the Club plan on soliciting donations? If so, list all estimated donations both corporate and private along with how they will be solicited.
7. **Corporate Support:** List all potential corporate support, including cash donations, equipment or discounts the Club expects to solicit next year. Include the company's address and contact person.
8. **Fundraising:** List all potential fundraisers including expected expenses and revenue.

Timeline

1. Each club submits a budget request to the Club Sport Office. Budget requests will be submitted in early spring.
2. Each request is reviewed and analyzed by the President's Council to determine each Club's adjusted request. A presentation is scheduled mid-Spring Semester with the President's Council for each Club submitting a budget request. At that meeting, the Club will make an oral presentation of their budget for the upcoming year. Inappropriate and unjustified expenditures will be deducted from the original request.
3. The President's Council will use the following criteria in determining the recommended funding level:
 - a. Number of participants and dues charged
 - b. Fundraising activities
 - c. Costs associated with the Club
 - d. Anticipated needs
4. The recommended funding levels will then be forwarded to the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics who, in consultation with the Director of Recreational Sports and Fitness, will make the final budget allocations using above recommendations and criteria. The Club will then be notified of their allocation for the upcoming year.

PURCHASING PROCEDURES

If the Club desires to purchase equipment, arrange a meeting with the Director to seek approval and process the order. All purchases **must first receive approval of the Club Sports assistant director. Do not purchase any item before meeting with the assistant director to have proper purchasing procedures outlined.** It takes time to process purchase orders; seek approval well ahead of the date an item is need. There are several ways in which goods/services can be purchased. **All equipment purchases become the property of American University.**

Purchase Order

To obtain goods/services through a purchase order the following steps must be used:

1. Complete a Purchase Request form including the Club treasurer's signature.
2. Attach the price quote including the vendor's name, date, items requested with serial/model number, and amount of purchase (all new vendors must submit a W-9 form).
3. Submit the form to the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics.
4. A purchasing request will be created.
5. A purchase order will then be sent to the vendor from the University.
6. The product will then be shipped to the Club Sport office and the Club will be notified upon arrival.

Credit Card

A University credit card may be used to purchase goods/services with a total cost under \$500 or when traveling to cover travel expenses. The use of credit cards is limited and secured in the order in which completed paperwork is received.

1. Complete a Credit Card Request Form including treasurer's signature.
2. Attach the price quote including the vendor's name, date, items requested with serial/model number, and amount of purchase if not for travel expenses.
3. Submit the form to the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics.
4. Collect all receipts that total \$50 and over and complete the Credit Card Use form.
5. Submit the Credit Card Use form as well as all original receipts by noon on the first business day upon completion of use.

Pre-Payment

Pre-Payment is used to purchase goods/services for which payment is needed prior to receiving them.

1. Complete a Purchase Request form including the Club treasurer's signature.
2. Attach the price quote including the vendor's name, date, items requested with serial/model number, and amount of purchase (all new vendors must submit a W-9 form).
3. Submit the form to the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics.
4. A purchasing request will be created.

5. A check will be mailed to the vendor directly from the University.
6. The product will then be shipped to the Club Sport office and the Club will be notified upon arrival.

Disbursement Request

Disbursement requests are used to reimburse Club members for club-related costs over \$20.

1. Complete the disbursement request form including the Club treasurer's signature.
2. Attach all original receipts taped to a sheet of paper.
3. Submit the form within 14 days to the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics.
4. Check will be mailed to Club member within 3-4 weeks.

All requests for reimbursement must be submitted within fourteen (14) days of the purchase/trip, or it will not be reimbursed. Failure to submit the proper form will delay in the reimbursement process.

AUDIT OF CLUB ACCOUNT

During each academic year, each Club Sport may be audited by the Club Sports Office to ensure that proper paperwork is being maintained. Club treasurers will be notified in writing one week prior to the meeting. At that meeting, the treasurer will be required to submit all financial paperwork and documents showing the accounting of the Club's finance through the current fiscal year.

EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE

All equipment should be kept in good working order. Any unsafe equipment should be reported (returned, if possible) to the Club Sport office immediately.

Limited storage space is provided for Clubs to store their equipment. All equipment stored at the university over the summer must be picked up by a club representative on the first day of classes at the beginning of the Fall Semester.

Approved Logos

Club Sports as part of the unit of Recreational Sports & Fitness in the department of Athletics & Recreation only has access to the logos below, upon request these files can be sent to team leadership. Unique logos can be used in very special circumstances but must first approved by the Assistant Director.



Uniforms

Clubs may purchase uniforms to be worn during competitions. All uniforms become property of American University Recreational Sports & Fitness. Uniforms may only use the approved secondary logos of the department of Athletics & Recreation. Clubs may use their name on the uniforms however the text must read 'Club' on the uniform. Many clubs use their name under the approved logos for their uniforms. The Assistant Director has final authority as it relates to all club uniform procedure.

Inventory

An equipment inventory form for each Club is kept on file in the Club Sport office. The Club Sport staff will monitor the equipment inventory list. The Club representative is expected to conduct a thorough, hands-on inventory and complete the inventory form at the end of each spring semester. This includes jerseys, balls, pads, boats, and motors, etc.

Laundry Services

There is no mechanism for club laundry to be done. All clubs are responsible for laundering their uniforms.

TRAVEL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

The Club Sport staff will assist Clubs with their travel plans. Club members must receive approval **prior** to departure and have sufficient funds to cover travel expenses prior to the trip. All clubs must make travel arrangements through the Club Sports Office. Clubs failing to make travel arrangements through the Club Sports Office will not be allowed to use University funds for the trip along disciplinary action being taken. Club Sports will be using DSE Event Center to plan trips, an online travel platform. The platform will provide all necessary documentation for travel online.

Approvals

The Club Sport staff must approve **ALL** travel whether the Club intends to use University funds or not.

Travel Roster/Itinerary Forms

Travel Roster/Itinerary Forms for any trip must be completed and filed in the Club Sport online portal 48 hours prior to departure or on the Thursday prior to departure for weekend trips, whichever is earlier. The Club will not be eligible to receive University funding for the trip and sanctions may be taken against the Club for unauthorized travel.

Alcoholic Beverages/Illegal Substances

The transportation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are prohibited while traveling on university-sponsored Club Sport trips. Failure to abide by this policy will jeopardize the Club's sponsorship status. Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to university disciplinary action through the department of Public Safety, Student Conduct & Conflict Services, and the Dean of Students.

Reimbursement

To receive reimbursement for travel from the Club's account, original receipts must be submitted to the Club Sport Office upon return. An original receipt is one on the company's letterhead with the correct date clearly indicated and the billing amount itemized and clearly stated. Detailed screenshots of personal bank statements showing the charge are also acceptable.

Upon return, the Club representative will fill out the appropriate paperwork for members to be reimbursed. For reimbursements to be valid charges must be \$20 or larger. These procedures can be found in the Purchases section. **Disbursement requests generally take between 14 and 21 days.**

Methods of Travel

Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, travel options are limited for all club teams. The current method of travels is:

- Personal Vehicles
- Metro
- Rideshare (Uber / Lyft)
- Enterprise Rentals
- Free2Move

Personal Vehicle

If a Club wishes to travel by vehicle (personal or rental) the following requirements must be met:

1. Each driver must have a copy of their driver's license and automobile insurance on file with the Club Sports office prior to travel.
2. Each driver must be certified through the Risk Management certification program. The following safety policies must be followed when traveling by vehicle:
3. All travelers **MUST** wear seat belts or other approved safety restraint devices required by law while the vehicle is in operation.
4. Passengers should help keep drivers alert and watch for signs of drowsiness.
5. Drivers must adhere to the posted speed limits and must obey all traffic laws and regulations.
6. A designated club member will serve as the navigator. The navigator will sit in the front passenger seat and will remain awake throughout his/her duty as navigator.
7. Drivers are forbidden from using a cellular phone for any purpose while operating the vehicle.

8. Drivers are responsible for determining that no objects in the vehicle obstruct rear or side views.
9. Driving between the hours of 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and 6:00 a.m. is strongly discouraged except in an emergency.
10. The following regulations concerning the balance of driving, sleeping, and breaks should be followed:
 - a. For every 4 hours of driving, drivers must take a 20-minute break.
 - b. For every 12 hours of driving, drivers must take a least a 4-hour rest period.
 - c. Alternate drivers must be provided, on file, and certified for trips expected to take more than eight hours.

Enterprise Rental Vehicles

The Athletic Department has a special agreement with Enterprise Car Rental to provide a discount for any department rentals. To rent a vehicle for Club use, the Club must provide the following details submitted in writing by e-mail to the Assistant Director at least a week prior to travel. The information needed will be the:

- date and time of departure
- number of vehicles
- type of vehicles
- driver names and ages
- date of return

Enterprise On-Campus Minivan

The Club Sports Office has 1 long term Enterprise minivan available for club travels. Club Sports will prioritize this rental for longer overnight trips. If your team is interested, feel free to email auclubsports@gmail.com.

FREE2MOVE Rental

AU Club Sports has a partnership with Free2Move to offer club teams an alternative mode of transportation. AU Club Sports will pay for all small cars and mid-size SUV trips. Follow these steps to rent out a Free2Move vehicle:

1. Download the Free2Move app
2. Create a Free2Move account (drivers need to be 18+)
3. Only reserve a Free2Move 30 minutes in advanced. You cannot reserve earlier.
4. Make sure to check the \$1 insurance. (Club Sports will cover the insurance. Fail to check the insurance box will risk a \$500 deductible which will be paid out of pocket)
5. After your trip, you will immediately receive an invoice from Free2Move. Immediately send a copy (or screenshot all invoice content) to auclubsports@gmail.com

Airline Tickets

The Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Aquatics will aid Clubs in securing airline tickets for travel. Clubs wishing to travel by air must begin the process at least twelve weeks prior to travel.

Charter Bus

The Athletic Department has a special agreement with Scenic America Bus Company to provide a discounted rate for bus rentals associated with the Athletic Department. Buses are available in 31, 48, and 57 passenger capacities. To secure a bus for Club use, the Club must submit in writing the following details to the Director at least 8 weeks prior to travel. The information needed will be the size of bus, date and time of departure, destination, and date and time of return. The fee for the bus includes all costs except gratuity for the driver.

Driver's Information

All drivers requesting to drive for any club sports activity must submit the following to the Club Sports Office:

1. Copy of valid driver's license
2. Complete a Driver's Privileges form
3. Complete a Motor Vehicle Record Verification Disclosure form

Lodging

When staying in hotels/motels, clubs are expected to accommodate four (2) to a room. Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, rooms that have:

2 Twin Beds = 2 athletes

1 Queen/King Bed = 2 athletes

Exceptions: when male/female ratios make this impossible or when coaches travel with the Club, they may have a separate room.

Food

Clubs will not be reimbursed for team dinners while traveling. Participants must be prepared to incur the cost of food while traveling with the club. Items directly related to athletic competition (sports drinks, protein bars, water, etc.) do not apply to this policy.

PUBLICITY

All promotional materials (including entry forms) require the approval of the Club Sports office prior to printing and duplication. Club social events are not sponsored by Recreational Sports and Fitness and must not be advertised as part of the official activities. All approved promotional materials must include the approved stamp.

Web Pages

All Clubs **MUST** maintain a Club social media presence. The following is the minimum expectations:

1. Must be updated by the first week of each semester.
2. Must provide representative's contact name and e-mail for prospective members.
3. Must give an overview of the Club and its activities.
4. Must provide the current practice schedule with location and times.
5. Must provide the current competition schedule with location and time (if applicable).
6. Must have a statement on the front page stating the "Club sponsored by the Department of Athletics and Recreation at American University" and provide a link to www.american.edu/recfit or the Recreational Sports and Fitness logo that links to the site.

Pictures must be relative to the sport or activity of the club. DO NOT post pictures of parties or social occasions.

Posting Fliers, Posters, and Publicity Materials in Jacobs Fitness Center

Limited bulletin board space is available in Jacobs Fitness Center to display Club posters, pictures, flyers, and other information. Check with the Club Sport staff for permission to have materials posted in the facility.

Posting Fliers, Posters, and Publicity Materials on Campus

For posting materials on campus the following guidelines must be followed:

All Club posters, pictures, flyers, and other information must be approved by the Club Sport Staff prior to duplication and posting. All items are to be posted only on bulletin boards. Materials may not be posted on a bulletin board administered by a department unless approved by that department. All posted material must specify in English the date, time, and location of the event as well as the name of the Club. Posted material should not cover any publicity posted for other events. However, outdated information may be removed to make space for current information. Posted materials are to be affixed with tacks or staples. Posted materials may not advertise alcohol, drugs, gambling, or anything else that would be in violation of university policies, either through language or artwork. The Club is responsible for taking down all posted material upon completion of its event.

For more information about posting on campus contact Student Activities in the Mary Graydon Center 271 or 202-885-3390. For information on posting in Residence Halls contact Housing and Dining Services, Anderson 1st Floor 202-885-3370.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Due to COVID-19, all meetings regarding club sports will be conducted over zoom with the Assistant Director. To schedule a virtual meeting, please email dwaynew@american.edu or auclubsports@gmail.com the following template:

- Clearly state reason for meeting
- Preferred meeting times in normal business hours (M-F 9:00am to 5:00pm)
- Drop in office hours will be communicated in Duber Hall Fitness Center for large group settings (team meetings).

Please wait for an email confirmation to confirm your meeting. The coming fall semester will most likely be virtual for all club sports meetings. We do apologize in advance for any inconvenience.