Bowdoin College

Student-Athlete Handbook

2017 - 2018
MISSION STATEMENT
Athletics at Bowdoin are an integral part of the College’s educational mission. Through the pursuit of victory, student-athletes are challenged to reach the highest levels of achievement in all areas. The lessons learned through participation lead to more than wins on the playing field. Those lessons also promote success in the classroom, develop leadership qualities, encourage the acceptance of responsibility and aid students in leading more successful and fulfilling lives.

Intercollegiate competition at Bowdoin offers experiences rich with camaraderie and excitement to a broad cross section of the student body.

Contests provide an opportunity for the entire community to come together. As such, student athletes are expected to be positive representatives of the school. Polar Bear athletes take pride in their accomplishments, commitment, effort, and integrity. At Bowdoin, coaches attract quality student-athletes and serve as their mentors and teachers. They provide an environment that is goal oriented, challenging, and positive.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRACTICE AND COMPETITION SCHEDULES & ACADEMIC CONFLICTS
Athletics and other extra-curricular activities are a crucial component of the Bowdoin community. However, when conflicts between athletic participation and academic commitments arise, students are expected to place highest priority on their academic experience (it is a NCAA violation to miss class or a lab for regular season practices, team meetings, pre-game meals and out-of-season conditioning sessions). Student-athletes should be prepared to be flexible with their extra-curricular schedule. Though the College tries to schedule athletic competitions in order to minimize academic conflicts, there may be instances where travel plans conflict with the academic schedule. It is imperative that students communicate with their professors about conflicts with their class schedule at the beginning of their season. Accommodation requests for post-season competition should be communicated to professors immediately upon being made aware of our contest schedule. Faculty members are asked, but not required, to make reasonable accommodations to allow for extracurricular participation.

OUT-OF-SEASON ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES
Per NESCAC guidelines, all out-of-season athletic activity is voluntary and should not conflict with the academic schedule. Coaches and players are not permitted to take attendance or report
information regarding out-of-season activities to staff members. As such, under NESCAC guidelines, there can be no correlation between participation in off-season activity and being part of an athletic team. In the NESCAC, permissible out-of-season activities include team community service activities, educational programming including leadership, alcohol and hazing education. Students may volunteer to work in sport-based clinics for youth provided clinics are conducted when classes are not in session and clinics are conducted not more than twice in any given sport in an academic year.

**NCAA COMPLIANCE**

NCAA Banned Substances – Student-athletes will be provided with a list of banned drugs and prohibited procedures by their athletic trainer at the beginning of the academic year. Student-athletes will be subject to drug testing during post-season competition, with positive tests resulting in a loss of eligibility.

Gambling – Online gambling, soliciting or accepting wager on any intercollegiate competition (for any item) and gambling at a casino or horse track is prohibited by the NCAA and student-athletes found to have participated in gambling activities will be subject to a loss of eligibility.

Transfer Request – Students are required to complete a NCAA self-release (DIII to DIII) or receive an institutional release from Bowdoin (DIII to DI or DII) prior to contact with other institutions. Student-athletes interested in learning about the transfer process should contact our Compliance Coordinator, Liz Grote (egrote@bowdoin.edu) or Tim Ryan.

**BOWDOIN STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BSAAC)**

The mission of the BSAAC is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by protecting and nurturing the health and well-being of all student-athletes. The committee consists of representatives from each athletic program and serves as the liaison between the student-athletes and College administrators. In addition, the BSAAC promotes athletic events on campus and is actively engaged in a number of community service projects, including the NCAA’s partnership with the Special Olympics. For more information, contact Head Women’s Basketball Coach Adrienne Shibles (ashibles@bowdoin.edu).

**POLAR BRAIN ALLIANCE**

The Polar Brain Alliance is comprised of students who have been trained to assist student-athletes that have suffered a concussion and are in the process of returning to full academic and athletic participation. If a student suffers a concussion they will be provided with a list of trained students and their contact information. These students will assist with tasks ranging from assisting with communication with faculty members to retrieving lunch from the dining hall while a student is on brain rest. For more information, contact Director of Athletic Training Dan Davies (ddavies@bowdoin.edu).

**HOSTING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

Prospective students/recruits visiting during the day or overnight are to abide by all College policies. Hosts of prospective students are responsible for assuring their guests abide by the guidelines set forth in the visit consent forms the prospect has signed, and especially as it relates to alcohol. Bowdoin has a zero-tolerance policy for prospective students using alcohol.
**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Student-athletes should not post photographs, video, narrative descriptions, or other content depicting or describing themselves or teammates from any team gathering, event, or social gathering or other any other event that reflects negatively on Bowdoin College, Bowdoin Athletics, or the student-athletes’ team. Student-athletes are reminded that future employers regularly view applicants’ social media platforms before making hiring decisions.

**PEER HEALTH**

Peer Health is a group comprised of students that work to promote health and wellness on the Bowdoin campus. In addition to campus-wide programming, Peer Health works specifically with athletic teams to foster healthy team culture and facilitate discussion around a variety of health topics. Most notably, Peer Health members have conducted programming specific to body satisfaction and disordered eating, alcohol use, and issues of healthy masculinity. For more information, contact Christian Van Loenen (cvanloen@bowdoin.edu).

**HAZING**

Bowdoin defines hazing broadly to include any activity that is part of an initiation or admission into a group or is required for continued acceptance in a group that encompasses one or more of the following:

- physically or psychologically embarrasses, demeans, degrades, abuses, or endangers someone regardless of that person’s willingness to participate;
- categorizes members of the group bases upon seniority or standing or otherwise emphasizes the relative power imbalance of newer members;
- involves the consumption of alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
- removes, damages, or destroys property;
- results in the disruption of college or community activities, the educational process, or the impairment of academic performance;
- violates a college policy and/or a state law.

Bowdoin maintains a zero-tolerance policy regarding hazing, which is strictly prohibited. As such, no student, student organization, athletic team, other College-recognized group or association shall conduct, condone, aid, or participate as a witness in hazing activities, consensual or not. In addition to disciplinary action imposed by the College, students who engage in hazing could find themselves subject to criminal prosecution by legal authorities. Contact Tim Ryan with questions or concerns (tryan@bowdoin.edu).

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

Sexual Misconduct and Gender Based Violence as defined by the Student Sexual Misconduct and Gender Based Violence Policy comprise a broad range of behavior that will not be tolerated at the College. For purposes of this policy, Sexual Misconduct includes: Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Harassment, Non-Consensual Sexual Contact, and Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse. Gender Based Violence includes: Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking. Additional information regarding these terms and our policy can be found on the College’s Title IX website.

Sexual Misconduct and Gender Based Violence are serious offenses that violate College policy and state and/or federal law and may also be subject to criminal prosecution. The College encourages students to report Sexual Misconduct and Gender Based Violence promptly to local law enforcement agencies and/or the proper Bowdoin College administrators for the timely and
fair resolution of Sexual Misconduct and Gender Based Violence complaints. The College offers alternative options to address cases of alleged Sexual Misconduct and Gender Based Violence within the framework of the College’s administrative processes. The options are designed to provide prompt and fair resolution of complaints as well as an opportunity for parties to present their versions of the incident and to understand the nature of the incident and its effects on each party and the College community. Regardless of the process chosen to address cases of Sexual Misconduct and Gender Based Violence, the College will provide prompt, fair and impartial resolution of complaints. The College recognizes the importance of the availability of confidential reporting and, to that end, there are several Bowdoin community members to whom students can make Sexual Misconduct and Gender Based Violence complaints and who will not disclose identifying details of such complaints to the Title IX Coordinator. For more information or resources on this matter, contact Benje Douglas (bdouglas@bowdoin.edu) or Lisa Peterson (lpeters@bowdoin.edu).

**LGBTQ INCLUSIVITY**
Bowdoin College is specific and assertive in the protection of all community members: respect for the rights of all and for the differences among us is essential to the health of the Bowdoin community and our athletic community on campus. Consistent with the bylaws of the College, Bowdoin is in conformity with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations with respect to equal opportunity and nondiscrimination. Discrimination or harassment of others because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, age, marital status, place of birth, veteran status or against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability has no place in an intellectual community, especially within athletics at Bowdoin. The NCAA and the College have guidelines in place regarding transgender participation in inter-collegiate athletics. For more information regarding LGBTQ participation in athletics, contact Kate Stern, Associate Dean of Students for Diversity and Inclusion (kstern@bowdoin.edu), Tim Ryan, or Nicky Pearson (npearson@bowdoin.edu).

**ATHLETIC TRAINING**
Student-athletes are expected to arrive early for appointments with our athletic training staff and Orthopedics Associates (our team physician and physical therapy provider). Bowdoin and OA equipment such as crutches, braces, scooters, TEN’s units, etc. must be returned after rehabilitation is complete or the student-athlete will be charged for the associated replacement costs. If a student needs to cancel an appointment, please do so 24 hours in advance. For more information or questions, contact Dan Davies.

**EQUIPMENT**
Uniform, apparel, and other equipment is College property. Equipment and uniforms are required to be returned at the end of each athletic season. If equipment or uniforms are not returned on time, the student using the equipment will be charged twice the price of unreturned equipment due to the difficulties associated with uniform and apparel replacement (matching items, etc.). For more information, contact Chappy Nelson (cnelson@bowdoin.edu).

Bowdoin Athletics Website:  [www.goubears.com](http://www.goubears.com)
Bowdoin Athletics Twitter:  @goubears
Bowdoin Athletics Instagram:  @goubears