

*College of Mount  
Saint Vincent*



*Student Athlete  
Handbook*



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

<b><i>Section</i></b>	<b><i>Page</i></b>
Athletic Department Directory	2
Important Information	3
Welcome Letter from Director of Athletics	4
Mission Statement	5
Preamble	5
Program Overview	5
Conference Affiliation	7
The Student-Athlete	7
Eligibility Requirement	8
Transfer Students	9
Sportsmanship	9
Academic Expectations	10
Reading and Exam Days	11
Participation of Student Athletes on Athletic Teams while Student Teaching	11
Athletic Training Services	12
Athletic Training Facilities	12
Athletic Training Staff	12
Team Physicians	12
Athletic Training Coverage	12
Rehabilitation of Injured Athletes	13
Pre-participation Medical Clearance	13
Clearance for Participation	13
Insurance	13
Accident Insurance: Claims Procedure	14
Catastrophic Injury Insurance Program	14
Tryouts	14
Portal Policy	14
Equipment Room Policy	15
Alcohol and Drug Policy	15
Banned Substance List	16
Housing	16
Harassment Policy	17
Affirmative Action	17
Gambling Policy	17
College of Mount Saint Vincent Hazing Policy and Rationale	18
Student Athletic Advisory Committee	18
Team Rules	19
Student-Athlete Conduct Statement	19
Student Grievance Procedure	20
Attire and Appearance	20
Recruiting Guidelines	21
Use of Athletic Facilities	21
Sports Information/Media Relations	22
Division III Philosophy Statement	23
Conclusion	24



## Athletics Department Directory

### ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION

Director of Athletics	Steve Macias	(718) 405-3779	<a href="mailto:steve.macias@mountsaintvincent.edu">steve.macias@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
Assistant Director of Athletics/ Camps/Recruiting	Brian Nigro	(718)405-3415	<a href="mailto:brian.nigro@mountsaintvincent.edu">brian.nigro@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
Assistant Director of Athletics/ Sports Information Director	Mike Doughty	(718) 405-3413	<a href="mailto:michael.doughty@mountsaintvincent.edu">michael.doughty@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
Assistant Director of Athletics/ Operations/Facilities/SWA	Tina Prickett	(718) 405-3411	<a href="mailto:tina.prickett@muntsaintvincent.edu">tina.prickett@muntsaintvincent.edu</a>
Assistant Director of Athletics/ Head Athletic Trainer/ NCAA Compliance	Barima Yeboah	(718) 405-3238	<a href="mailto:barima.yeboah@mountsaintvincent.edu">barima.yeboah@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>

### HEAD COACHES

<b>Baseball</b>	Steve Macias	(718) 405-3417	<a href="mailto:steve.macias@mountsaintvincent.edu">steve.macias@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	Brian Nigro	(718) 405-3415	<a href="mailto:brian.nigro@mountsaintvincent.edu">brian.nigro@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	Gerald Davis	(718) 405-3414	<a href="mailto:gerald.davis@mountsaintvincent.edu">gerald.davis@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Cross Country</b>	Jabari Toure	(718)405-3792	<a href="mailto:jabari.toure@mountsaintvincent.edu">jabari.toure@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Men's Lacrosse</b>	Dan Mulholland	(718) 405-3791	<a href="mailto:dan.mulholland@mountsaintvincent.edu">dan.mulholland@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Women's Lacrosse</b>	Pat Gormley	(718) 405-3224	<a href="mailto:patrick.gormley@mountsaintvincent.edu">patrick.gormley@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Men's Soccer</b>	James Quiroga	(718) 405-3792	<a href="mailto:james.quiroga@mountsaintvincent.edu">james.quiroga@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Women's Soccer</b>	Pat Gormley	(718) 405-3794	<a href="mailto:patrick.gormley@mountsaintvincent.edu">patrick.gormley@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Softball</b>	Mary Marra	(718) 405-3793	<a href="mailto:mary.marra@mountsaintvincent.edu">mary.marra@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Women's Swimming</b>	Beth Clark	(718) 405-3793	<a href="mailto:beth.clark@mountsaintvincent.edu">beth.clark@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Men's Tennis</b>	Brian Inglis	(718) 405-3792	<a href="mailto:brian.inglis@mountsaintvincent.edu">brian.inglis@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Women's Tennis</b>	Luise Bethencourt	(718) 405-3793	<a href="mailto:luise.bethencourt@mountsaintvincent.edu">luise.bethencourt@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Men's Volleyball</b>	Tom Callahan	(718) 405-3791	<a href="mailto:tom.callahan@mountsaintvincent.edu">tom.callahan@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>
<b>Women's Volleyball</b>	Rosanna Falcher	(718) 405-3794	<a href="mailto:rosanna.falcher@mountsaintvincent.edu">rosanna.falcher@mountsaintvincent.edu</a>

**Important Information...**

Director of Athletics (Steve Macias, x3779)	(Call or email first for an appointment)
Academic Coordinator (Barima Yeboah, x3238)	Mon. – Fri. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Call first for an appointment)
Athletic Training Room Hours (x3238)	Mon.-Fri. 1:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Weekends as needed
Career Development (x3263)	Mon.- Tues. 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Wed. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.;
Compliance Officer (Barima Yeboah, x3238)	Mon. – Fri. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Call first for an appointment)
Counseling Center (x3332)	(Call first for an appointment)
Faculty Athletic Representative (TBA)	(Call first for an appointment)
Mount Saint Vincent Health Center (x3472)	Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fitness Center (Desk Sitter x3790)	Mon – Fri 8:30am – 10pm Sat – Sun 12pm – 10pm



Dear Mount Saint Vincent Student-Athlete;

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to another year of Mount Saint Vincent Athletics! On behalf of the entire Athletics staff, we hope the coming year brings to each and every one of you unparalleled success both in competition and the classroom!

For those of you new to Mount Saint Vincent Athletics, we welcome you to our Department and wish you the best of luck in your Athletic endeavors. We are coming off another successful academic year in Mount Saint Vincent Athletics history. Five of our teams advanced to the post-season, with our Men's Volleyball program winning its first ever Skyline Conference Championship and being invited to the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Tournament along with Women's Basketball and Baseball during their respective seasons.

**Off of the field, many of our student-athletes did some amazing things in the classroom as well. Sixty-nine student-athletes were Skyline Conference Scholar Athletes honorees throughout the 2008-2009 school year. Four of those student-athletes were named Skyline Scholar Athletes of the year in their respective sports. The scholar athletes of the year are determined based on highest grade point average during the semester of competition of student-athletes earning First Team All Conference accolades with a minimum GPA of 3.30. The 49 student-athletes named to the list on the winter/spring list ranked first among Skyline Schools. The Women's Lacrosse team led the way with 10 players earning scholar-athlete honors. The Skyline Conference had a total of 606 scholar-athletes earning honors during the 2008-2009 academic year. These individuals achieved a GPA of 3.30 or higher during the semester in which they competed.**

**One thing I cannot stress enough is, win or lose, the Athletics program exists to provide an opportunity that will enhance the education of our Student-Athletes, and to improve the quality of life for the Mount Saint Vincent campus community as a whole. All of us are aspiring to do this more effectively every day and with each season that passes. We are here to help you, and want to know what we can do to make your experience better. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us with your thoughts and suggestions as to how we can make Mount Saint Vincent Athletics even better!**

**Again, welcome to another exciting year of Mount Saint Vincent Athletics. We wish you nothing but the best of luck in your seasons. Go Dolphins!**

Sincerely,

Steve Macias

Director of Athletics

**Mission Statement**  
**Department of Athletics**

The mission of the College of Mount Saint Vincent Department of Athletics is to provide and operate an athletics program that encourages participation by offering a variety of athletic opportunities with equal emphasis given to all sports. The Department of Athletics believes that building relationships and respect for others will lead to team unity, cohesiveness, confidence, and better human relations that will ultimately help student-athletes become successful in their sport, as well as leaders in their chosen profession. The College's humanics philosophy allows the Department of Athletics to implement a co-curricular experience that truly emphasizes the development of the whole person in spirit, mind and body, enabling student-athletes to pursue excellence in the classroom, on the playing surfaces and in their communities.

**Preamble**

The College of Mount Saint Vincent's student-athletes are exposed through the athletics program to the College's philosophy, which is so richly imbued with a people helping directive, emphasizing humanics in the equilateral development of the whole person, in body, in mind, and in spirit.

The bi-disciplinary interaction between athletics and academic study contributes to the total development of the individual. Athletics participation for the student-athlete is heavily dependent upon an understanding and a concern for others. This regard for others leads to team unity, cohesiveness and better human relations, which are important for ultimate success. Furthermore, the coach should always demonstrate total concern for the individual, his/her total concern must include the physical and skill proficiency of the body, the intellectual, interpretive and cognitive skills of the mind and the individual and collective esprit de corps of all athletes. This equal-lateral development occurs during practice sessions and is showcased publicly during competitive athletic events. The college also believes that a quality athletics program reduces the attrition of student-athletes, enhances job placement opportunities and improves the possibility of positive alumni relationships.

**Program Overview**

The College of Mount Saint Vincent has established, and supports, a broad-based athletics program. The athletics program maximizes participation by offering a variety of athletics opportunities; there are fifteen (15) varsity sports. Equal emphasis is given to men's and women's sports; and the quality of competition is similar for all. The college supports student-athletes in their efforts to attain high levels of competitive performance and excellence by providing them with competent coaching, quality facilities, proper and safe protective equipment and appropriate competitive opportunities with student-athletes from similar institutions. While the college places a primary emphasis on in-season or traditional competition, it encourages exceptional teams and individuals to compete in post-season championships.

The operational objectives for the athletics program are as follows:

1. To embody and implement the objectives of Mount Saint Vincent as well as the administrative and operational by-laws of the Skyline Athletic Conference and the NCAA.

2. To provide quality and safe facilities for athletics competition.
3. To provide each sport with the necessary equipment this includes consideration of proper safety and protection.
4. To have funds available for professional memberships which in turn benefit the College through the :
  - a. Assignment of certified officials
  - b. Scheduling of competitive events with member institutions.
  - c. Team, individual and coach recognition on the conference, regional and national level.
5. To provide the funds necessary for the restoration and repair of protective and safety equipment, so that they meet appropriate standards for future use.
6. To have available the necessary supplies for office management, office services and the recruitment of prospective student-athletes.
7. To provide funds for contest management of each sport, which includes entry fees, transportation, meals, lodging (when necessary), certified officials for home events, operation costs for pre-season, intercession and spring break.
8. To have funds available for conference, regional and national championships, which provide for competitive opportunities with student-athletes from similar institutions.
9. To provide the labor force necessary to assist the coaches and to facilitate the administrative contest management of each event for each sport.
10. To provide travel monies for coaches to fulfill their approved professional committee commitments, improve their opportunities for selection and recognition and contribute to their professional enhancement.
11. To provide monies for the active recruitment of student-athletes consisting of travel, meals, lodging and sports related publications.
12. To make available counseling opportunities associated with the athlete's physical, social and mental well being.
13. To maintain a coaching faculty that provides quality athletic instruction and promotes a healthy interest in athletics.

The College also supports spectator opportunities for the student body. Spectator participation enables the student body to identify with the college and develop pride, a feeling of importance, better morale and loyalty. The spectators attending college athletics events are expected to provide an environment of respect, dignity and civility for the college's guests. In essence, the college believes in providing a positive, meaningful educational atmosphere for the conduct of its athletics events and behavior contrary to this intent will not be condoned. The college does not accept the use of profane and vulgar language or any form of disrespectful treatment of our guests (visiting teams, officials, etc.). When a public address system is not available, control for the above is the responsibility of the on site administrator. When a public address system is available and any evidence of inappropriate behavior has been demonstrated, the following announcement will be made by contest management personnel:

The College of Mount Saint Vincent promotes sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. The College of Mount Saint Vincent believes in providing a positive, meaningful, educational environment at its athletics events. Profanity, taunting, trash talking or any other form of disrespectful action directed toward the officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner.

Artificial noisemakers, air horns and electronic amplifiers shall not be permitted, and such instruments shall be removed from the playing and spectator areas. Only signage properly located and pre-approved by the Athletics office will be permitted at the site of an event. Bands or any component thereof shall not play while the game is in progress. The event manager shall be responsible for enforcing these provisions.

Alcoholic beverages shall not be sold or otherwise made available for public consumption at any athletics event sponsored by or administered by the College, nor shall any such beverages be brought to the site during such an event (i.e. during the period from the time access to the site is available to spectators until all patrons have left the facility or area used for competition). The sale or distribution of newspapers, handbills, candy, food, raffles, flyers, memorabilia or promotional materials at the site of a College of Mount Saint Vincent athletics event without the advance written approval of the Athletics office is prohibited.

### **Conference Affiliation**

Conference affiliation provides The College of Mount Saint Vincent with the fulfillment of the following immediate goals:

1. Scheduling of competitive events with member institutions as well as independent colleges.
2. Team, individual and coach recognition on the conference level.
3. Maximization of post-season championship opportunities for sponsored sports.
4. Focused identification which activates, motivates and enhances student-athlete performance.
5. Spectator opportunities which enable the student-body to identify with a team and the competing institutions.

### **The Student-Athlete**

Student-Athletes attend The College of Mount Saint Vincent for the primary purpose of education. Nothing should interfere with this purpose. Athletics are a part of education, requiring from the student-athlete self-discipline in organizing a study schedule and work habits which will contribute to educational success.

A student's grades should not suffer because of athletics; this can occur, however, because of the student's inability to organize properly to cope with both disciplines. At times, this organization requires a great deal of personal commitment. Consequently, the College expects student athletes to organize and discipline themselves with personal commitment so that their educational endeavors and athletics pursuits do not suffer.

Requisite to being an athlete is accepting the full responsibility of being a student. In order to have a smoothly functioning athletics program, strict adherence to the following is of vital concern:

1. Attendance at all academic and skills classes is mandatory. Failure to attend classes invariably has always reflected back on the team and its purposes. Away and home games can, at times, result in a loss of classroom time. Consequently, unnecessary skipping of class should not be the decision of choice.

2. At times, because of other commitments, your academic progress can be deterred. Whenever this occurs, your coaches expect to be notified and you are expected to accept the responsibility for seeking extra individual attention from your professors.
3. The Athletics Department expects from you the acceptance of the responsibility of notifying your professors, in writing, the dates of expected absences due to off-campus competition. This responsibility also includes the making up of any scheduled exams. As soon as you are notified in reference to a scheduled exam, you should report immediately to your professor the conflict that may exist, so that proper procedure can be taken to rectify the matter. For away games, the student-athlete is excused from class on half hour prior to departure time, it is strongly recommended that the student-athlete attend class up to the excused one half hour before departure, in the past, professors have been extremely cooperative. However, this cooperation depends upon your acceptance of the responsibilities of a student-athlete (see college attendance policy).
4. Departure for your Mount Saint Vincent trips during Spring Break should not interfere with the completion of the academic calendar.
5. Participation in any Skyline, ECAC and NCAA Championships, which may interfere with reading days or exams, must have the approval of the Director of Athletics. If approval is granted, the student-athlete will be allowed to make a voluntary decision in reference to his/her participation in this event.
6. When establishing an academic schedule the student-athlete should consider his/her involvement in athletics, but should never avoid scheduling a course of importance or interest simply to avoid conflicts with athletics participation (typical practices begin at 4:00pm).

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Under NCAA rules, all student-athletes must be full-time, matriculated students who are making satisfactory progress toward a baccalaureate degree and maintain a minimum grade point average in order to be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics. **If you are enrolled in less than a full time program, you are eligible to compete only if you are in the last term of your degree program and carrying enough credits to finish your degree.**

Mount Saint Vincent student-athletes must maintain a cumulative 2.00 grade point average while taking a minimum of 12 credits throughout each semester to remain eligible to compete in intercollegiate athletics. A student-athlete will automatically become ineligible if he or she drops below 12 credits during his or her season of competition. Student-athlete's who post a grade point average of less than 2.0 for an individual semester, although their cumulative GPA is 2.0 or greater, may also lose their eligibility.

Furthermore, all Mount Saint Vincent student-athletes will not be allowed to participate in athletic practices or contests until they have been cleared by the Head Athletic Trainer, Sports Information Director and NCAA Compliance Officer. Clearance by the Head Athletic Trainer requires the submission of an updated Medical (school physical) Form to the Mount Saint Vincent school nurse for freshmen and updated athletic physical form to Head Athletic Trainer. Upperclassmen turn in an updated physical form to the Head Athletic Trainer. All students must complete all necessary paperwork regarding insurance and medical history (Athlete Packet) and return completed form to Head Athletic Trainer. Clearance by the Sports Information

Director requires the completion of all information paperwork for use on the Mount Saint Vincent Athletics website. Clearance by the Compliance Office occurs when the student-athlete attends the NCAA Compliance seminar prior to the first day of competition. All NCAA paperwork must be filled out signed and kept on file in the athletic office.

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS:**

A student who has not previously participated in intercollegiate athletics and transfers from a two-year or four-year college to Mount Saint Vincent shall be immediately eligible to compete if NCAA regulations as stated in other sections of this handbook have been met. In addition, a transfer student must be in good academic standing as defined by the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

If a transfer student has participated in intercollegiate athletics at a previous institution, in order to participate immediately at Mount Saint Vincent, the student must be academically eligible had he or she remained at the institution. In addition, such a student must meet all NCAA regulations as outlined in this handbook and be in good academic standing as defined by the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

All transfer students should make their status known to the coach of said sport. In addition, transfer students should meet with the Director of Athletics for a review of the NCAA regulations as they relate to the individual's situation.

### **Sportsmanship**

The athletics program at College of Mount Saint Vincent is committed to good sportsmanship and developing healthy environments for competition. We believe the opportunity to represent College of Mount Saint Vincent is a privilege, which is accompanied by the responsibility to behave with dignity and class on and off the field. Student-athletes representing College of Mount Saint Vincent are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner to represent the highest level of honor and observe the tenets of good sportsmanship, honesty, fairness, dignity, civility, and respect.

The College of Mount Saint Vincent does not condone unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a student-athlete, coach, administrator or any individual associated with the College.

### **Good Sportsmanship Includes:**

- Observing and supporting the rules of sport
- Promoting the spirit, as well as the letter of the rules
- Placing fairness as a goal in all competition
- Taking personal responsibility for high standards of play
- Showing civility toward competitors, coaches and officials
- Commending good effort by teammates, opponents, and officials
- Playing cleanly while playing hard
- Showing maturity and integrity in conduct on and off the field of play
- Being a gracious winner and accepting defeat gracefully

### **Unsportsmanlike Behavior:**

- Fighting
- Ejection
- Spitting
- Use of obscene gestures, profanity or provocative language (including racist, sexual or homophobic and bigoted remarks)
- Taunting and baiting opponents
- Threats or other intimidating actions
- Inappropriate celebrations with the intent to demean opponents
- Intentional incitement of others toward abusive or violent action
- Disrespectful attitude towards opponents
- Disrespectful attitude towards coaches
- Disrespectful attitude towards officials

### **Academic Expectations**

To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must meet all College of Mount Saint Vincent academic policies/regulations, along with the following criteria:

1. **Full time status-** At the time of competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours. Should a student-athlete fall below 12 semester hours, he/she will become immediately ineligible for practice and competition. A waiver of the minimum full-time enrollment requirement may be granted for a student enrolled in the final term of the baccalaureate program. A student-athlete that drops or withdraws from a class must notify his/ her coach and the compliance officer immediately. Graduate student-athletes need to be enrolled for a minimum of 9 credits to be eligible.
2. **Good academic standing-** All students must achieve the following minimum Grade Point Averages after the attempting of completion of credits  

<b>(1.75)</b>	<b>0-36.5 credit hours</b>
<b>(1.85)</b>	<b>37-69.5 credit hours</b>
<b>(1.95)</b>	<b>70-99.5 credit hours</b>
<b>(2.0)</b>	<b>100+ credit hours</b>

**\*A student placed on academic probation will be ineligible to practice or compete with the team. In addition, ineligible student-athletes are not permitted to serve as team manager.**
3. **Satisfactory academic progress-**At the conclusion of an academic year, a review will be conducted to determine whether the student-athlete has met satisfactory academic progress standards. A student is making Satisfactory Academic Progress when he/she passes at least 24 semester hours during the academic year (September through August) and meets or exceeds the cumulative GPA established for his/her graduation class designation. This does not include intersession and summer school. If a student-athlete is repeating a course, he/she may not count the credit toward his/her 24 credits if he/she has already received credit for the course. The College encourages student-athletes to graduate within a traditional four-year period. However, a student may represent the institution while enrolled as a graduate or professional student or while enrolled and seeking a second

- baccalaureate degree at the same institution. Student-athletes may use the NCAA 10-semester rule to complete their four season of eligibility. However, the athletics department must be notified in advance, prior to the start of the next succeeding academic year. If a student-athlete is planning to miss a season of competition and consequently return to school for a fifth year, he/she shall notify, in writing, the athletics department of this plan. There must be sound academic reasons for the student-athlete to make the decision not to participate in a season of competition. According to NCAA rules, a student athlete has used a season of eligibility if he/she participates (practices or competes) during or after the first contest in the regular season.
4. A student-athlete may apply for a hardship waiver, and thereby be granted an additional year of eligibility, if the student-athlete had an injury or illness in the first half of the traditional season and competed in less than one third of the team's schedule. If the student-athlete returns to competition after the first half of the traditional season. And is re-injured in the second half of the traditional season, the student-athlete is not eligible for a hardship waiver. To apply for a hardship waiver, the student must submit an application to the Athletic Department's Compliance Officer.

### **Reading and Exam Days**

The following is the policy regarding competition during exam and reading days:

1. Any Skyline Conference or NCAA Championship event which may interfere with a final exam or reading day period must be approved by the Director of Athletics.
2. All student-athletes should be given the opportunity to decide whether or not they can **ACADEMICALLY AFFORD** to miss a reading or final exam and then sign a statement indicating such. They must also make the necessary arrangements ahead of time with all professors prior to departing or competing.
3. The coach may not mandate that any student-athlete participate in championship competition.

### **Participation of Student-Athletes on Athletic Teams While Student Teaching**

It is recommended that a student-athlete NOT participate on an intercollegiate athletic team during the semester of his/her practicum. The practicum experience is very demanding, as it consists of an entire semester of full-time student teaching.

By prior arrangement with the Coordinator of Teacher Preparation and Certification or Academic Department, the practicum student-athlete may be allowed to practice and compete if this involvement is not in any way in conflict with the total practicum experience. All requests must be made in WRITING to the Coordinator of Teacher Preparation and Certification or Academic Department PRIOR TO the start of the practicum.

In order to meet the expected minimum number of clock hours at the practicum site, the student-athlete must work out a satisfactory arrangement with the Coordinator of Teacher Preparation and Certification. The final agreed upon arrangements must be documented and on file in the Teacher Preparation and Certification Office.

The Coordinator of Teacher Preparation and Certification in consultation with the Athletics Director reserves the right to deny a particular arrangement requested by a student-athlete, or to

revoke an arrangement made, if it is determined that this arrangement is interfering with the successful completion of the practicum experience.

### **College of Mount Saint Vincent Athletic Training Services**

Research and experience confirm that participation in intercollegiate athletics places participants at risk of injury (ies). Athletes competing at College of Mount Saint Vincent are no different and are likely to be injured while participating. College of Mount Saint Vincent employs an athletic training staff who works closely with Hudson Valley Bone and Joint Surgeons and the Student Health Center staff. Responsibilities of the athletic training staff include implementing an athletic health care program with the objective of:

1. Minimizing athletics injuries
2. Evaluating and managing athletic injuries
3. Rehabilitating injured athletes and establishing readiness to return to participation

Quality athletic health care requires the cooperation and communication between the athletes, coaches, physicians and athletic training staff.

The following is an overview of the Athletic Health Care/Athletic Training Services at the College of Mount Saint Vincent:

#### **Athletic Training Facilities:**

College of Mount Saint Vincent maintains one athletic training room located in Hayes Athletic Center on the court level. Hayes athletic training room is utilized for all sport seasons. Hours are based on practice and contest schedules. Pre and post contest services and all rehabilitation services are provided in the Hayes Athletic Training room.

#### **Athletic Training Staff:**

The College of Mount Saint Vincent has full-time and part-time Certified Athletic Trainer's and New York State Licensed Athletic Trainers. In addition, they are assisted by CPR, AED and First Aid Certified undergraduate student workers. These Athletic health care professionals implement the athletic training objectives and services. The certified athletic training staff also supervises the students involved in the health care of College of Mount Saint Vincent student-athletes.

#### **Team Physicians:**

The College of Mount Saint Vincent has an orthopedic practice group of physicians to service student-athletes. There are orthopedic physicians and an orthopedic surgeon who bi-monthly visit the intercollegiate athletic training room's orthopedic clinics and cover events as indicated. The athletic training staff will arrange for APPOINTMENTS with the physician(s) at the intercollegiate athletic training room or physician's office as needed.

#### **Athletic Training Coverage:**

Students and Certified Athletic Trainers are assigned to all risk activities including coverage of practices and home contests. Certified Athletic Trainers and students travel with the varsity men's lacrosse team. When a student is traveling with a team, College of Mount Saint Vincent will notify the

hosting institution that a certified athletic trainer will not be present. In this instance the hosting institution's certified athletic trainer will assist the team/student as needed.

### **Rehabilitation of Injured Athletes:**

The rehabilitation of injured athletes takes place in the Hayes Athletic Training Room during posted hours. All treatments require an appointment. Treatment cannot be initiated without a physician prescription. The physician can be one of the college physicians or the athlete's own physician.

### **Pre-Participation Medical Clearance:**

All athletes must have a certificate of good health to begin the season. This certificate of good health is provided after the student-athlete completes the pre-season clearance process.

It is vital that the student-athlete complete the health questions and history accurately. As part of the medical clearance procedure the athlete must complete all athletic training forms provided to him/her by his/her head coach. Once these forms are completed, they will be reviewed by the Athletic Training Staff.

### **Clearance for participation (following restriction for injury/illness):**

An athlete who has been restricted by a physician from participation because of injury or illness must be cleared in writing by a physician before returning to participation. The clearance can be provided by the original physician or one of the school physicians.

The Athletic Training Staff reserves the right to restrict an athlete's participation even with medical clearance, if in their professional opinion, the athlete remains at risk of further injury or re-injury. Final clearance is the decision of the Certified Athletic Training Staff with consultation of team physician if necessary.

### **MRSA:**

**The Athletic Training department would like to remind all student-athletes that the risk of developing a staph infection or MRSA-Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Infection is increasing and there are many ways to avoid developing this infection:**

- Maintaining good hygiene and avoiding contact with drainage from skin lesions are the best methods for prevention. Proper prevention and management recommendation may include:
  - Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer routinely.
  - Encourage immediate showering following activity.
  - Avoid whirlpools or common tubs while open wounds, scrapes or scratches are present.
  - Avoid sharing towels, razors and daily athletic gear.
  - Properly wash athletic gear and towels after each use
  - Maintain clean facilities and equipment.
  - Inform or refer to appropriate health care personnel for all active skin lesions and lesions that do not respond to initial therapy.
  - Administer or seek proper first aid.
  - Care and cover skin lesions appropriately before participation.

### **Insurance**

The College of Mount Saint Vincent maintains an excess accident insurance for all student-athletes. The benefits provided under the terms of the policy are payable in excess of any other valid and collectible insurance that may be in place as to the insured student. Any charges in excess of the limits of other insurance are covered subject to the limitations contained in the plan. Because of the

limited nature of the accident insurance, students are expected to maintain their own in-state insurance.

In addition, the College provides a catastrophic injury insurance program for all student-athletes. The benefits are comprehensive and a current benefit summary is available in the athletics office.

**Accident Insurance: Claims Procedure:**

The following procedure will be used for insurance claims

1. Obtain a claim form from the department of athletics.
2. Complete the student statement section of the form
3. Bring the claim form to the athletic training room for verification and signature by the athletic trainer.
4. Attach any bill you have to the claim form and mail everything to the address indicated on the form. The bill must have a balance not paid by the primary insurance carrier. If primary insurance denied payment, enclose a copy of the denial letter with the claim form.

If you are insured by another company, you must first submit all bills to that company. At this time, just the claim form should be submitted to the school insurance company at the address indicated. When you (or your parents) receive explanation of benefits (E.O.B.'s) from your insurance company, mail them to the address indicated on the insurance claim form.

**Catastrophic Injury Insurance Program:**

When a catastrophic injury occurs, a college representative must contact the catastrophic injury help line as soon as possible. The actual reporting procedure is available in both the Athletics office and the purchasing office.

**TRYOUTS:**

While the Head Coach of each individual varsity program will determine the nature and timing of tryouts for their teams, it is the wish of the Athletics Department at the College of Mount Saint Vincent that each program will offer open tryouts to all full-time Mount Saint Vincent Undergraduate Students who are academically and medically eligible for competition. Tryouts **are not mandatory** and if held they will be announced via flyers and/or campus-wide e-mail distribution.

Please note that for Fall Varsity sports, tryouts (if necessary) will take place during the first week of school. Tryouts for Winter and Spring Sports will take place as announced.

**Portal Policy**

The college of Mount Saint Vincent adheres to a portal to portal policy whereby student-athletes, coaches and staff, will be transported as a team to and from all scheduled intercollegiate events.

The following procedure will be used when an exception to the policy is sought:

1. All student-athletes, member of the coaching staff, team manager or trainer traveling in private automobiles must execute the automobile waiver of liability, covenant not to sue, release, indemnity and hold harmless agreement which can be obtained from the athletics department or head coach.
  - a. Student-athlete, member of the coaching staff, team manager, or trainer is under 21 year of age must sign the above waiver which shall include the signature of a parent or legal guardian.
  - b. A student-athlete, member of the coaching staff, team manager, or trainer is 21 years or older must secure and sign the above waiver but do not need a parent or legal guardians signature.

**NOTE: If after an event a student-athlete, member of the coaching staff, team manager, or trainer wishes to travel home with parents, a legal guardian, or a friend the student athlete must submit a written permission slip. Written permission must be from a parent or legal guardian and be given to the coach in charge of the sport prior to return to the college.**

### **Equipment Room Policies**

Student-Athletes checking out gear for their team's season must complete a contract with an equipment room staff member. All gear issued to the student-athlete will be recorded on the contract. Once recorded, this gear becomes the responsibility of the student-athlete until all the item(s) is/are "checked in" on the contract by an equipment room staff member. All equipment must be turned in within one week of the season's end or there will be a non-refundable \$25.00 late charge. Failure to return issued equipment will lead to a charge for the item to be replaced. The student-athlete will be charged double the replacement cost of the item. This charge will appear on the student-athlete's account.

### **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

The athletics department at the College of Mount Saint Vincent does not condone the use of performance enhancement substances, alcohol, tobacco or other drugs by any student-athletes. Consumption of alcohol or other drugs by student-athletes is prohibited in connection with any team function. An official team function, for purposes of this policy, is defined as any activity, which is held at the direction of, or under the supervision of the team's coaching staff or the college's athletics department.

The athletics department prohibits the purchase of alcohol or other drugs to be used by any prospective student-athlete or their hosts while they are visiting the college. Regardless of whether the student host has reached the legal drinking age, the purchase of alcohol for consumption by a person under the legal drinking age is a violation of state law and college policy.

A student-athlete who consumes alcohol or other drugs will be held accountable for any alcohol or other drug related incident in which he/she is involved. In such cases, the student-athlete is subject to college, athletics department and/or team disciplinary actions for violations of team expectations in accordance with the following schedule:

Regardless of legal implications, if a student-athlete is involved in an alcohol or other drug related incident where there is a violation of the College of Mount Saint Vincent policy, a notice of violation will be forwarded to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students and the Athletics Director. In addition to college disciplinary action which may be imposed by the Office

of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, the head coach of that team and the Athletics Director will determine if the circumstances warrant suspension of the student-athlete from practice and/or game competition. It is possible that the student-athlete will be suspended from practice and competition until he/she has initiated involvement in, and shown satisfactory progress in, an alcohol or other drug use/abuse program at the discretion of the coach and Athletics Director and/or the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students. In order to rejoin or continue with the team, the student-athlete may be required to provide evidence of this counseling to the Athletics Director. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be advised of the nature of the incidents in accordance with the family educational rights and privacy act.

In addition to the foregoing, the following is a list of guidelines, which will generally be followed by the athletics department with respect to the alcohol and other drug policy.

1. The first offense will be reviewed by the coach with a written report submitted to the athletics director.
2. The second offense will result in immediate suspension from practice and competition until the incident is reviewed, and a decision is rendered, by the coach and the athletic director. The head coach of the team and the athletics director supervising the program will determine if the circumstances warrant suspension of the student-athlete from practice and/or game competition.
3. The third offense may require that the student-athlete be suspended from practice and competition until he/she has initiated involvement in, and shown satisfactory progress in, an alcohol or other drug use/abuse program. In order to rejoin or continue with the team, the student-athlete must provide written documentation of this counseling to the athletic director.

**NCAA Banned Substance List:**

available at

[http://www.ncaa.org/portal/legislation\\_and\\_governance/eligibility\\_and\\_recruiting/drug\\_testing.html](http://www.ncaa.org/portal/legislation_and_governance/eligibility_and_recruiting/drug_testing.html)

All student athletes are required to disclose any medication and supplements that they are currently taking especially prescription drugs, to the Athletic Training staff. Documentation is needed for those students taking any drugs related to ADD and ADHD, please speak to an Athletic Training staff member if you have any questions.

**\*\*\*\*\* Before consuming any nutritional/dietary supplement product, review the product and its label with your athletics department staff. Dietary supplements are not well regulated and may cause a positive drug test result. Any product containing a dietary supplement ingredient is taken at your own risk. \*\*\*\*\***

Any student who needs counseling and treatment will be referred to the Counseling Center (All information will be kept private).

**HOUSING:**

Student-Athletes are responsible for meeting their own housing needs during the academic year. If an athletic program is required to remain in campus housing during an official college break, arrangements will be made by the Athletics Department for housing of the affected Student-Athletes, and information on the housing arrangement will be provided by the Head Coach. **Do not assume housing arrangements for breaks**

**have been made unless you are notified by both a member of the Athletics Department Staff and/or the Mount Saint Vincent Residence Life Department.**

Please note that neither Head Coaches nor any other members of the Mount Saint Vincent Athletics Staff are empowered to assist a Student-Athlete with their housing situation during the academic year. All Mount Saint Vincent Student-Athletes must undergo the process for housing selection undertaken by every other Mount Saint Vincent student.

### **Harassment Policy**

The following is a synopsis of the College of Mount Saint Vincent's harassment policy, which is contained in the student handbook. Students are expected to review the student handbook in detail, as harassment will not be tolerated.

**Harassment** is defined as verbal or physical conduct interfering with an individual's performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work, education or living environment. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, slurs, verbal or physical conduct. The college prohibits harassment of any kind based on, but not limited to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age or disability.

**Sexual harassment** is defined as sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a condition of the individual's employment or academic work, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individuals, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, academic, athletic or living environment.

All types of harassment which hinder access to employment or education services, opportunities, or programs are covered by this policy. Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Affirmative Action**

Affirmative action at the College of Mount Saint Vincent refers to objective, measurable steps taken to ensure equal opportunity. Any positive, aggressive measures taken to assure equal access to opportunity and aimed at eliminating discrimination or which is intended to remedy past effects of discrimination is affirmative action.

Any students who are unable, because of religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, work requirements, or athletics contest on a particular day shall be excused from any such commitments. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result.

### **Gambling Policy**

The Athletics department does not condone the participation of any student-athlete in organized gambling. In accordance with NCAA regulations, student-athletes, staff members of a member conference, and staff members of the athletics department shall not knowingly:

1. Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition.
2. Solicit a bet with respect to any intercollegiate team.
3. Accept a bet with respect to any team representing the institution.
4. Participate in any gambling activity, the subject of which involves intercollegiate or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method.

All violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action by the college.

### **College of Mount Saint Vincent Hazing Policy and Rationale**

#### **Policy Rationale**

The College of Mount Saint Vincent is first and foremost an educational institution. Its hazing prevention policies, and response procedures for hazing incidents, must grow from and embody the institution's mission. Education on hazing will be available through the athletic department.

Membership in clubs, organizations, and other college-affiliated groups can increase leadership and service potential; provide athletic, recreational, intellectual and spiritual opportunities; and otherwise contribute positively to personal and social development of our students. Where membership is linked with involvement in hazing activities, the educational purpose of the endeavor is compromised and safety of students is endangered. Hazing is therefore prohibited by college policy.

#### **Policy Statement and Definition**

Hazing is prohibited under New York general Laws. "Hazing" means any act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with others, against a student(s) in connection with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization that is affiliated with an educational institution; and that is intended, or should reasonably be expected to have the effect of humiliating, intimidating, or demeaning the student(s) or endangering the mental or physical health of a student(s). Hazing also included soliciting, directing, aiding or otherwise participating actively or passively in such acts. Hazing occurs regardless of the consent or willingness of persons to participate in the activity. Hazing is prohibited no matter if it occurs on or off campus.

"Hazing" does not include any activity or conduct that furthers legitimate, curricular or co-curricular, program goals, provided that (1) the goals are approved by the college; and (2) the activity or conduct furthers the goals in a manner that is appropriate, contemplated by the college. For examples of non-hazing activities please contact the athletic department or student affairs.

#### **Hazing Penalties**

Those who organize, participate in, or fail to report a hazing incident are subject to punishment according to New York General Laws and will face college disciplinary actions for violating college policy.

**To report a hazing incident, immediately contact campus security, the athletic department or student affairs.**

### **Student Athletic Advisory Council**

The Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC) shall have the responsibility of communicating, reviewing and advising the athletic department on any concern, which directly or indirectly affects the welfare of their academic or athletic involvement. The council shall meet at least once each month. However, any council member can call for a special meeting. A scheduled or special meeting of the SAAC will be convened by the Assistant Director of Athletics. The Assistant Director of Athletic will have the responsibility of informing the captains (or a designated team member) of matters which influence their athletics participation.

### **TEAM RULES:**

Student-Athletes are responsible for complying with the team rules of their sport, as well as with the NCAA, College of Mount Saint Vincent, and Athletic Department rules. Violations of team rules may affect your status as a Student-Athlete at the Mount.

Team rules are available from your coaching staff. Different sports emphasize different concerns, but all cover some aspects of player appearance, training curfews and conduct.

### **Student-Athlete Conduct Statement**

In addition to the behavioral standards expected of all Mount Saint Vincent students, and in consonance with the college's humanics philosophy, student-athletes are further monitored by the coach for their respective athletic team's expectations, rules and regulations (collectively the "team expectations"), which will be distributed by the coach of each team. The student-athlete will be required to sign a statement indicating that he/she has received and read the team expectations and agrees to abide by them.

Student-athletes are expected to strictly adhere to team expectations and further to refrain from misconduct, which includes those violations expressed in the student handbook, college policies and/or municipal, state or federal laws, further, misconduct also includes game ejections, fighting, taunting, "trash-talking", profane and vulgar language, inappropriate "celebrations", hazing and disrespectful attitudes towards coaches, opponents, teammates, spectators and/or officials.

Violation of the above may be handled at the discretion of the respective coach, which may include suspension from athletics (including practice and competition) and a report to the director of athletics and/or to the office of the vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

Misconduct, on or off campus, leading to suspension from athletics (including practice and competition) by the coach must be immediately reported in writing by the coach to the director of athletics. However, misconduct occurring during southern trips, spring break or extended time periods away from campus can lead to immediate suspension by the coach. In such cases, the head coach must notify, by telephone, the director of athletics regarding the suspension and immediately upon return to campus will report, in writing, the incident leading to the suspension.

Notwithstanding further disciplinary action which may be taken by the office of the vice president for student affairs and dean of students, if a coach recommends to the director of athletics that a student-athlete be suspended from athletics, then the student shall be provided a right to a

hearing before the “Grievance Committee” (as hereinafter defined), if the issue cannot be resolved with the coach. The hearing shall be convened by the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) upon receipt of a written request for a hearing, delivered by the student-athlete to the FAR within forty eight (48) hours of the student’s receipt of written correspondence from the coach.

Further, in connection with the NCAA bylaws, section 23.2.4.3, the college has made a commitment for the fair treatment of student-athletes. In this regard, the college has established a grievance procedure for all student-athletes, which will include the following:

### **Student Grievance Procedure**

Purpose: to provide a method of grievance for a student-athlete disagreement with a coach about his/her dismissal/suspension from the team\*.

Procedure:

1. Student athlete appeals to his/her coach in writing within 48 hours of dismissal/suspension.
2. Coach responds to student-athlete in writing within 48 hours of receiving written appeal. Coach and student-athlete attempt to resolve dispute.
3. If no resolution is reached with the coach, the student-athlete may submit a written appeal to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) within 48 hours of receiving written notice from the coach. The FAR will notify the membership of the appeal and convene a meeting as soon as possible.
4. The hearing committee shall consist of the FAR, two coaches and two student-athletes (the “Grievance Committee”). The student-athlete will select one coach and one student-athlete. The NCAA Faculty Representative will select the other coach and other student-athlete. The student-athlete will notify the FAR as to their selections. If any constituent member has a conflict of interests, that member will be replaced. Once the FAR receives this information and the hearing committee is appropriately in place, he/she will convene a hearing.
5. Both coach and student-athlete may make oral presentations to the Grievance Committee. They will appear independently before the committee to make their presentations. After deliberation, the Grievance Committee will make a recommendation to the Director of Athletics.
6. After receiving the recommendation from the Grievance Committee and meeting with both parties the Director of Athletics will make a complete review of the appeal and make a final recommendation.

\*This appeal does not apply during the team selection process.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students may take independent action against a student if it believes that a violation of the College of Mount Saint Vincent Code of Conduct has occurred.

### **Attire and appearance**

The following is the policy concerning dress and appearance:

1. Proper attire must be worn to all athletics events representing the College. For example, jeans, cut-offs, tee-shirts, tank tops, or sandal type footwear are not permissible.

2. Appropriate dress must be worn to classes and while on the campus of the college.
3. A clean, neat, acceptable and presentable appearance must be met, in reference to shave for men, hair-cuts for men and women.
4. The competitive uniform issued by the college must be worn without exception. All visible garments worn under the uniform must conform to the same color of the competitive uniform. The only exception to this would be the gray tee-shirts issued by the college. However, if one competitor wears a gray undershirt, this must be the undergarment worn by all participating athletes. Caps and visors not issued by the college are permissible in tennis, golf and track (running events). However, they must be the same color as the competitive uniform.
5. The warm-ups issued by the college must be worn without exception by all players on the team. Any other visible garment must be the same color as the warm-up.
6. The competitive issuance (uniform, warm-ups, and travel bags) is to be used for competition only.

### **Recruiting Guidelines**

The following is the recruiting policy. All student-athletes who assist in recruiting must strictly adhere to the following:

1. An overnight recruit contract must be signed by host, recruit and coach prior to recruits stay over. The overnight contract is to be kept on file with the athletics recruiting coordinator.
2. To conduct oneself in a responsible manner at all times.
3. To be a representative of the college and the athletic program.
4. To ensure that the prospect is not taken any place where there are drugs or alcohol.
5. To be concerned about the safety and welfare of the recruit. This includes comfort, food, sleeping quarters and staying with the prospect.
6. To take the prospect to academic classes, talk with professors and fellow college students.
7. To be creative in planning a fun, comfortable atmosphere, i.e. gym, game room and racquetball courts.
8. To discuss and plan activities with the head coach prior to all recruit visitations. The coach should be available for suggestions.
9. To call the head coach immediately if a problem arises with a prospect. For example: the prospect insists on going off campus with friends not associated with your team; or an emergency arises with the prospect or with the student host. The issue of liability is a major concern. Please note you may be personally liable for the welfare of any recruit brought onto the campus.
10. If a personal vehicle is used for off campus activities, be advised the owner's insurance is responsible for all coverage. In this regard, student hosts agree to execute the college's waiver of liability, covenant not to sue, release, indemnity and hold harmless agreement as the student hosts hereby agree to defend, indemnify and hold the college harmless from any and all claims, damages or other actions related to any type of automobile accident, including personal injury, property damage or death.

### USE OF ATHLETICS FACILITIES:

Over the last year, the Mount Saint Vincent Athletics Department has taken enormous strides to improve our Athletics facilities. It is our hope that every member of the Mount community will utilize our facilities to the fullest in order to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, and to gain a release from the daily rigors of college life. It is also our hope that every Mount Student-Athlete will utilize our facilities to maximize their preparation for competition. Every member of the Mount Saint Vincent community who wishes to use our facilities must abide by the following policies:

1. A valid Mount Saint Vincent Identification must be presented in order to use our Athletics facilities. No exceptions!
2. Proper attire must be worn at all times while using the Mount Athletics facilities. Shirts and sneakers must be worn at all times. No jeans.
3. Machines must be wiped down after use and all weights must be re-racked.
4. Any foul and abusive language is strictly prohibited.
5. There will be no public music played in any Mount Saint Vincent Athletics facility, the exception being the Public Address System prior to home contests. All radios, CD players, and other music-playing devices **must** have head-phones.
6. If there is a wait for any piece of equipment or facility (i.e. Basketball Court), there will be a 30-minute time limit for use. Please note that using the Basketball Court for full-court play is strictly on an availability basis. If there are people waiting to use the Court, all Basketball activities must be used for half-court play and/or shoot-a-rounds, only.
7. Team use of our Athletics facilities is to occur exclusively during approved practice times. During all other times, the Athletics facilities are reserved for public use or for Mount Saint Vincent Intramural activities.
8. **Outside guests are not permitted** to use our facilities at any time. No exceptions!
9. Use of the Mount Saint Vincent Athletics facilities is a privilege, not a right. Failure to comply with these policies may result in a revocation of this privilege.

**The Mount Saint Vincent Athletics Facilities are open during the following times:**

Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM – 10pm Saturday: Noon – 10 PM Sunday: Noon – 10pm

### **SPORTS INFORMATION/MEDIA RELATIONS:**

Contact between media and the athletic department is coordinated by the Sports Information Director (SID). The SID works closely with media, coaches, and athletes to provide accurate coverage and public recognition for athletes and athletic programs. Through the office of the Sports Information Director, brochures and press releases are produced, photography is maintained, and team/individual statistics are compiled and reported to the press, NCAA, Skyline Conference, NECVA and ECAC. To support the work of the Sports Information Director, each year student-athletes must complete a sports information data form in order to be cleared to participate in Mount Saint Vincent Athletics.

**\*\*Interview requests and/or comments requested by the media from coaches and/or student-athletes shall be arranged through the SID. Should a student-athlete be contacted by a member of the media at home or in a setting other than the contest or practice site, refer the media person to the SID prior to making a comment. In any case, given the implications of public comment on the student-athlete, team, athletic program and the College of Mount Saint Vincent, thoughtfulness should be exhibited prior to making any public statement.\*\***

### **DIVISION III PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:**

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 program. They seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student athlete's athletic 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 athletic staff.

To achieve this end, Division III institutions:

- a) Place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators and place greater emphasis on the integral constituency (students, alumni, institutional personnel) than on the general public and its entertainment needs;
- b) Award no athletically related financial aid to any student;
- c) Encourage the development of sportsmanship and positive societal attitudes in all constituents, including student-athletes, coaches, administrative personnel and spectators;
- d) Encourage participation by maximizing the number and variety of athletics opportunities for their students;
- e) Assure that the actions of coaches and administrators exhibit fairness, openness and honesty in their relationships with student-athletics;
- f) Assure that athletics participants are not treated differently from other members of the student body;

- g) Assure that athletics programs support the institution's educational mission by financing, staffing, and controlling the programs through the same general procedures as other departments of the institution;
- h) Provide equitable athletics opportunities for males and females and give equal emphasis to men's and women's sports;
- i) Give primary emphasis to regional in-season competition and conference championships;
- j) Support student-athletes in their efforts to reach high levels of athletics performance, which may include opportunities for participation in national championships, by providing all teams with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities.

The purpose of the NCAA is to assist its members in developing the basis for consistent, equitable competition while minimizing infringement on the freedom of individual institutions to determine their own special objectives and programs. The above statement articulates principles that represent a commitment to Division III membership and shall serve as a guide for the preparation of legislation by the division and for planning and implementation of programs by institutions and conferences.

#### Conclusion

A copy of these athletics department guidelines will be kept on file with the athletics department. Moreover, students have access to these guidelines online at <http://www.mountsaintvincent.edu/47.htm> and are responsible for adhering to them. Please direct questions to Barima Anyane-Yeboah, Assistant Director of Athletics (718) 405-3238 or [barima.yeboah@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:barima.yeboah@mountsaintvincent.edu).

