

**Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC)
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)**

December 2002

PART 1: BYLAWS

MASCAC SAAC Mission Statement

The mission of the MASCAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is to enhance the total student-athlete experience. The MASCAC SAAC strives to promote equitable future opportunities while protecting and enhancing the welfare and positive image of the student-athletes of the conference. The MASCAC SAAC also promotes and encourages community service by its members and its member institutions' departments of athletics.

MASCAC SAAC Guiding Principles

The MASCAC SAAC will strive for the development of a collective voice with the guidance of the following principles: ethics, athletic integrity, fairness and a respect for sport and the basic manifestations of diversity, which, shall include attention to race, culture, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language, gender and disability.

MASCAC SAAC Make-up

Each campus SAAC will pick two members to send to the MASCAC SAAC meetings and consideration should be given to the following:

- One male and one female.
- Student-Athletes should represent diversity of ideas and backgrounds on campus.
- There should be two alternates.
- Individuals should be from different sports.
- Student-Athletes should be able to attend the meetings for two years.

Responsibilities and Expectations of MASCAC SAAC Members

- Participate in meetings.
- Participate in all discussions.
- Create student voice in NCAA and MASCAC issues.
- Bring issues to the meetings so as to keep it from a “social hour”.
- Make athletics a good option for all students and keep student-athletes motivated.
- Represent conference schools in a positive manner on the field and in class.
- Commitment to make a difference.
- Help create a good reputation for athletics.
- Make it known that athletes do good things.
- Listen.
- Keep an open mind.

- Promote athletic integrity.
- Encourage others to get involved.
- Publicize.
- Participate in community service.

Operating Principles

- Each member should keep a contact list of MASCAC SAAC members.
- The MASCAC SAAC shall meet 3 times per academic year.
- MASCAC SAAC members will receive information from National SAAC members prior to each meeting.
- MASCAC SAAC members will share meeting developments with National SAAC representative after each meeting.
- A database of ideas and activities on each campus will be recorded for others to benefit.
- A MASCAC SAAC website will be created and maintained.
- Each MASCAC SAAC member is responsible to keep alternates updated and to arrange for an alternate if needed.

PART II: GOALS AND AGENDAS

Challenges and Issues facing MASCAC SAAC Members and Student-Athletes

- Learn about leadership and what the MASCAC SAAC is all about.
- Define SAAC.
- Limited budget for equipment and travel.
- Alcohol consumption during the season.
- Hazing.
- Attitudes of coaches - make them aware many get too involved in games; making it uncomfortable for the athlete.
- Inter-team communication.
- Recognition of all teams, not just the “winning” teams or the “money making” teams.
- Create more team spirit and athletic unity.
- Relay concerns from athletes to appropriate people.
- Help campus SAAC’s get started.
- Discuss homosexuality and homophobia. Help teams discuss this to enhance comfort with each other.
- Inconsistencies in enforcing rules and regulations.
- How to keep athletes interested in being members of campus SAAC’s.
- Student-Athlete expenses for conference SAAB meetings.
- Prioritize the CHAMPS/Life Skills Program.

Challenges that Student-Athlete Leaders, Student-Athlete Advisory Committees, and Division III Athletics will face in the 21st century

- Academic achievement and the balancing of athletics and academics.

“There should be a goal to have more 3.0 student-athletes. Division III student-athletes should not miss class, this should be thought about when creating schedules. The early games during post-season are difficult with classes. Athletes choose Division III to be able to focus on academics.”

- Pre-Registration for athletes.
- Budget cuts.
- Prioritize the CHAMPS/Life Skills Program.
- Gender Equity.
- Community Involvement and Support – finding the time.
- Adopt-A-Team, teams supporting teams.
- Gym time.
- Getting people INVOLVED.
- Carrying out projects and the logistics of such on a campus.
- Diversifying and having sports open to everyone on campus.
- Communication amongst athletes.
- Student-Athlete expenses.
- Scholarships for grad school (the current NCAA scholarships are not readily accessible and are hard to apply for).
- Inspiring our vision.
- Challenging images.
- Talking about sensitive subjects such as homophobia.
- Make influential people listen.
- Fundraising and the cost of athletics for athletes.

Creating Campus and Conference By Laws

- Mandate attendance beginning with the first meeting of each semester.
- Review committee make-up.
- Assign members to relay information to absent members at each meeting.
- Assign a person to record the minutes and to provide an agenda before each meeting starting with the next meeting.
- All schools should establish by-laws for their campus SAAC/SAAB.

Providing for Continuity

- Compile a MASCAC SAAC Handbook.
- Keep minutes and archives
- Record Action Plans each meeting

Sportsmanship

Let us all be able to lose gracefully and to win courteously; to accept criticism as well as praise; and last of all, to appreciate the attitude of the other fellow (person) at all times.

Dr. James Naismith
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