

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
Student-Athlete Advisory Council at
Eastern Illinois University

Adopted on April 23rd, 2020, and most recently revised on April 29th, 2020.

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this student organization shall be the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University is to represent the student athletes on campus by addressing the issues affecting our education and athletic performance. It is our goal to enhance the athletic experience through active participation in policymaking and community outreach while delivering academic support to our athletes.

Tradition: Uphold the traditions of the University and value the significance and privilege of being a PANTHER!

Leadership: Lead the way in the classroom, on the field, and in life.

Communication: Act as a vehicle to promote communication between the student-athletes and administration, coaches, and student body.

Integration: Enhance the representation of the SAAC in the University in order to develop the image of student-athletes and advance the relationship between student-athletes and the campus community.

ARTICLE III

COMPLIANCE

Section 1. The Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University is a “registered” student organization at Eastern Illinois University and agrees to adhere to all local, state, and federal regulations, university policies, and Student Life Office procedures as set forth in the *EIU Registered Student Organizations and Advisor Handbook*.

Section 2. The Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University may establish Standing Rules to govern administrative and procedural matters (such as time and location of meetings, etc.). Standing Rules shall not conflict with these Constitution and bylaws. Standing Rules may be adopted, amended, or temporarily suspended by a majority vote present at a student organization meeting where a quorum is present (advance notice is not required).

Section 3. The rules contained in the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority for the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University student organization and shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

Section 4. Guided by ethics, integrity, fairness, and a respect for diversity, we, as the Student-Athlete Advisory Council will attend committee meetings fully prepared to represent the student-athletes of our respected teams honestly and fairly. The executive board and faculty administrator will have power to enforce said rules.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University shall be open to those regularly enrolled Eastern Illinois University students who participate on an athletic team. Membership of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council will consist of one member from each varsity team.

Section 2. Each academic year, coaches from various sports will be asked to select one individual to represent their respective teams on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council. Consistency of membership is strongly encouraged, and

coaches should replace individuals that are either graduating, have exhausted all eligibility, or have exhibited behavior not consistent with representation of their team.

Section 3. Members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University will attend all meetings and functions of the Committee as they are mandatory (communicate reasonable absences to staff administrator prior to said meetings). The committee will meet monthly, with a provision for additional meetings as needed. Student-Athlete Advisory Council members will serve as a liaison for his/her individual team by communicating to teammates and coach(s) on a monthly basis

Section 4. Each Student-Athlete Advisory Council member is required to complete the above duties and responsibilities. Attendance is recorded and repercussions may be taken if representatives fail to follow through.

Section 5. As Panther Student-Athletes of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, members **pledge to pursue excellence in the classroom and in competition, hold each other to the highest standards of sportsmanship, demonstrate strong character and accountability for the council's conduct, take pride in Eastern Illinois University, honor and uphold the traditions of what it means to be a Panther, appreciate the privilege of wearing blue and grey, support fellow student-athletes in their pursuit of excellence, be a positive role model for the community, and LEAD WITH INTEGRITY IN ALL OF YOUR ACTIONS.**

ARTICLE V

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. The Executive Officers of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and OVC Representatives.

Section 2. Powers and Duties of Executive Officers

- a. The President shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the organization, shall preside at all meetings of the organization, and shall prepare the agenda for meetings in coordination with the Student-Athlete Advisory Council advisor. The President shall be the official spokesperson of the organization, representing the policies, views, and opinions of the organization in its relations with the campus and community at large. The President and the advisor shall appoint all committees and committee chairs.
- b. The Vice President shall preside at organization meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall perform and coordinate all special events, projects and projects, and assume the position of the President if the position becomes vacant.
- c. The Secretary shall take minutes at all meetings of the organization, keep these on file, and submit required copies to all organization members. The Secretary shall be responsible for all organization correspondence and shall keep copies thereof on file. The Secretary shall maintain membership records for the organization.
- d. The Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Representatives shall attend conference meetings and participate in on conference teleconference phone calls, while also reporting said topics and news back to the University committee.

Section 3. Qualifications necessary to hold office in the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University are as follows: the Student Life Office at Eastern Illinois University RSO policies require that to be “eligible” to hold executive office, candidates must be in good academic, good

disciplinary standing, and regularly enrolled students at Eastern Illinois University.

Student Life Office at Eastern Illinois University RSO policies require that ALL of the Executive Officers maintain a minimum overall 2.0 cumulative grade point average or higher each term and must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the university. The Executive Officers must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (9 credit hours for graduate students) each semester while holding an executive position.

ARTICLE VI

SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1.

The President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University are elected at the end of the academic calendar year. Elections are held at the end of the spring semester and shall take place at a regularly scheduled meeting of the student organization at which a quorum is present. At least one week's notice shall be provided for any meeting at which an election is to be held.

Section 2.

Nominations for Executive Officers shall be made at the regular meeting immediately preceding the elections. Nominations may also be made from the floor immediately prior to the election for each office. Members may nominate themselves for an office.

Section 3.

Members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University will vote at the end of each academic calendar year at the last regular meeting and present a speech about how the candidate would be best fit for office.

Section 4.

The Executive Officers of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University shall be nominated and elected in this order: the President, Vice President, and Secretary.

- Section 5.** Executive Officers shall be elected by majority vote. *(If no candidate receives a majority vote, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. In the event of a tie, there shall be a revote. If the result of the revote is still a tie, the election shall be decided by...)*
- Section 6.** Votes shall be cast by secret ballot; however, when there is only one candidate for an office, a motion may be made to elect the candidate by acclamation.
- Section 7.** Executive Officers shall assume office at the beginning of the academic calendar year in the fall semester and shall serve for the entire calendar year until the end of the spring semester.
- Section 8.** Executive Officers may be recalled or removed from office for cause. To initiate a recall election or removal from office, a petition signed by two-thirds of the total members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council must be submitted at a regular meeting and a review for grounds for recall vote or removal from office shall be taken at the next regular meeting. The Executive Officer subject to recall or removal shall be given written notice of the grounds for recall or removal at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at which the recall or removal vote will be held and shall be given an opportunity to provide a verbal or written defense. A two-thirds vote is required to remove an Executive Officer.
- Section 9.** If the position of President becomes vacant as the result of resignation, ineligibility, or recall, the Vice President shall assume the office of President. Vacancies in any other elected office shall be filled by an election held at the next regular meeting where the vacancy was announced. Nominations may be made at the meeting where the vacancy is announced, and nominations may also be made from the floor at the time of the election.

The President may appoint an interim officer to fill the vacancy until the election is held.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

- Section 1.** Regular meetings shall be scheduled at the beginning of each month during the academic year.
- Section 2.** Special meetings may be called by the Advisor, President, or a majority of the Executive Committee. All student-members must be given a minimum of 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting time.
- Section 3.** Business cannot be conducted unless a quorum of the student membership is present. A quorum for the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University organization is defined as a majority of the voting membership.
- Section 4.** Student Members must be present to vote. Absentee or proxy voting is not permitted.
- Section 5.** In order to vote a student member must be in good standing. Each member, including the Executive Members, must maintain a grade point average of 2.0, maintain eligibility according to Eastern Illinois University Panther Athletics and the National College Athletics Association (NCAA), and be in good disciplinary standing with the NCAA and the University.

ARTICLE VIII

ADVISORS

- Section 1.** The Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University shall appoint the Director of Academic Support Services as the EIU faculty member to serve as the university advisor to the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University as required by Eastern Illinois University. The advisor shall fulfill the responsibilities specified in the *EIU Registered Student Organizations & Advisors Handbook*. Advisors shall serve on an academic year basis or until their successor has been elected.

Section 2. The Advisor of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University shall establish guidelines and criteria for termination of an Executive Member and a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University.

ARTICLE IX

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES OF MEMBERS

Section 1. When a student member believes that another student member in the Student-Athlete Advisory Council at Eastern Illinois University has engaged in conduct that is detrimental to the organization, a written charge may be filed with any one of the following: the Executive Committee, Student Standards Board, or Student Accountability and Support. The Executive Committee, Judicial Board, and Student Accountability and Support shall review the charges and may conduct a preliminary investigation if deemed appropriate. If the preliminary investigation concludes that misconduct appears to have occurred, the Executive Committee and the Student Accountability and Support office shall conduct a hearing on the matter. The member alleged to have engaged in the misconduct shall be given at least 72 hours' notice of the hearing and be given an opportunity to present a defense. By a majority vote, the Executive Committee and the Student Accountability and Support office shall determine whether misconduct occurred. If it determines that misconduct did occur, the Executive Committee and the Student Accountability and Support office shall prepare to report to the student membership of its findings and recommended sanctions, which may include expulsion, suspension, or lesser sanction(s) including, but not limited to, a reprimand, removal from the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, a fine or corrective remedies.

Section 2. The student membership shall review the hearing report in executive session, and the student member accused of misconduct shall have an opportunity to rebut the information in the report. After providing a

statement to the student membership, the student member accused of misconduct shall leave the room for the remainder of the deliberations.

Section 3. The student membership shall vote first on whether the member has engaged in misconduct. If by a two-thirds vote, the student membership determines that misconduct has occurred, the student membership shall then by a two-thirds vote, determine appropriate sanction(s). The accused student member shall be immediately notified of the outcome.

Section 4. By a two-thirds vote, the student membership may reinstate a student member who has been suspended or expelled.

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