



# Overview of the Athletics Compliance Program



## BLUEPRINT

In an effort to maintain full compliance with NCAA and ACC legislation, as well as meet its obligation to the principle of Institutional Control, Virginia Tech has developed the following blueprint for its Athletics Compliance Program:

- ◆ Develop and implement operating systems designed to meet applicable NCAA regulations.
- ◆ Clearly articulate the policies and procedures which comprise these systems.
- ◆ Delineate the responsibilities of those individuals impacted by these systems.
- ◆ Educate the involved constituencies regarding relevant regulations.
- ◆ Monitor the performance and success of the operating systems to ensure that the goal of full compliance is constantly pursued.
- ◆ Prioritize, enhance and fine-tune the systems, policies, and procedures, whenever necessary to maximize effectiveness and efficiency.

## EXTERNAL REVIEW

Additionally, so that the effectiveness of these systems, policies, and procedures will not be measured solely by the athletics department, Virginia Tech has committed itself to an extensive program of external review. This review process provides an opportunity for the inclusion of individuals outside the athletics department in the evaluation of the compliance program and the formulation of compliance-related goals. This program consists of:

- ◆ Annual Review by the University’s Office of Internal Audit, focusing on the major components of athletics compliance (recruiting, eligibility, financial aid, rules education) on a four-year cycle. This report is forwarded to the Board of Visitors and the Office of Management Services.
- ◆ Annual review by the University Athletics Committee (Compliance Subcommittee). This report is forwarded to the President, Provost, and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies.
- ◆ Compliance reviews conducted by the ACC staff once every four years.

## INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL

To help ensure the proper level of Institutional Control, we have established partnerships with key University offices external to the athletics department, including the:

- ◆ Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (*Liaisons: entire staff*)
- ◆ Registrar’s Office (*Liaison: Clyde Cridlin*)
- ◆ Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid (*Liaisons: Dawn Brown and Stephanie Breeding*)
- ◆ Office of Admissions (*Liaisons: Mildred Johnson and Loretta Wilburn*)
- ◆ Bursar’s Office (*Liaisons: Evelyn Ratcliffe and Nina Wilburn*)

Each of these partnerships relies on the work of designated liaisons, who are educated regarding those NCAA rules and regulations which are relevant to their area of responsibility

## TEAM CONCEPT

Utilizing a Team Concept, individuals with compliance-related duties in the same general area have been identified as members of a specific “team”. Team members combine efforts and share information in order to tackle various compliance-related issues and tasks:

- ◆ Eligibility Certification Team
- ◆ Financial Aid Team
- ◆ Recruiting Team
- ◆ External Team

These teams work together on behalf of the University -- in many cases across departmental lines -- to help Virginia Tech meet its goal of full compliance, and to remain true to its compliance slogan: “Virginia Tech Athletics.... Winning the RIGHT Way!”

## STAFF

The Virginia Tech Athletics Compliance Program is coordinated by Associate AD Tim Parker, and approved by the Director of Athletics and the Faculty Athletics Representative. The Compliance Team includes: Director of Compliance Bert Locklin, Assistant Director for Athletics Eligibility and Financial Aid Heather LaFon, Assistant Director of Athletics Compliance Vickie Sarfo-Kantanka and Bridget Brugger McSorley.