Student-Athlete Attendance

Is there a special attendance policy for student-athletes? SJFC does not have a universal attendance policy. However, all professors must notify students of the attendance policy for their courses, in writing (e.g., syllabi, Bb). Student-athletes must follow the same attendance policy as the other students in the class. To be clear, student-athletes are not automatically excused from class or given special exceptions for games or practices.

What if a student-athlete does miss class because of a game or practice? Student-athletes are told explicitly that it is their responsibility to speak with professors about missing class. If they are out of class for any reason they must work proactively to make up classwork and to turn in assignments on time, and recognize that some work may not be able to be made up outside of the original class period. This information is also communicated to the student-athletes and faculty in an email that comes from Coach Rob Kramer every semester.

What if a student-athlete does not notify the professor/instructor regarding a missed class due to a game or practice? Professors/instructors should make their attendance policy clear and remain consistent in its application for all students. Any misstep on the part of a student-athlete should be addressed as an educational opportunity. New student-athletes are learning how to negotiate the balance between academics and athletics. Some will push the boundaries, but many adhere to these recommendations flawlessly. It's important that we deal with each situation case by case and not stereotype based on sport involvement.

What if there is a question or concern about a student-athlete? If there are any concerns about the communication, attendance or academic vs. athletics conflicts, please contact Dr. Katie Burakowski, Faculty Athletics Representative (see information below). Please reach out to her to get help with strategies and approaches for working with student-athletes or if there are circumstances that are unclear.

Katharine A. Burakowski, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sport Management
Faculty Athletics Representative
585-385-7389
kburakowski@sjfc.edu