

The University of Rhode Island

Recommendations of the Athletics Advisory Board on Sections of the University Manual on Final Examinations and Athletics Events

December 2, 2011

At its 2 December meeting, the Athletics Advisory Board voted unanimously to recommend changing University Manual sections 8.51.31 – 8.51.32, regarding scheduling during the Final Exam period.

The board began considering these changes more than a year ago because of concern for ambiguities in the current legislation. Action was put on hold while the Athletic Department developed – for the first time, we believe – a written policy on scheduling focused on reducing missed class time. The AAB endorsed that policy in November.

The next step is the one proposed here, updating the legislation. Because of the extent of the proposed changes and a reorganization of material, we have not used the existing two sections to show deletions, additions and wording changes. Instead, We are presenting the AAB's proposal, which has three sections. (See existing sections in Appendix.)

The Athletics Advisory Board recommends replacing existing sections 8.51.30-31 with the following three sections:

8.51.30 Final Examinations and Athletic Events. The University of Rhode Island shall not schedule intercollegiate athletic contests and compulsory practice sessions for the Reading Day(s) and Final Exam Days, except that home contests or contests requiring local travel may be scheduled for non-exam Saturdays or Sundays.

8.51.31 Participation in *conference-scheduled* competitions, *conference* championships, and *NCAA* championships is permitted on the Reading Day(s) and Final Exam Days. The Athletics Advisory Board must be notified in advance on a timely basis when such participation will occur and what the off-campus travel requirements will be.

8.51.32 Participation in *special* tournaments or other *major* athletic competitions not controlled through University scheduling that occur, or require off-campus travel, on the Reading Day(s) and Final Exam Days require approval of the University President **if recommended** by the Athletics Advisory Board. A request for such participation shall be forwarded in a timely manner to the Board for its consideration. If the Board agrees to recommend that the

President waive the provisions of section 8.51.30, then the Board shall also provide the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with appropriate documentation and explanation for making the recommendation. The explanation to the Executive Committee should be forwarded simultaneously with the recommendation to the President. The President shall inform the Athletics Director, the Athletics Advisory Board Chair and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee of his/her decision within 48 hours of receipt of the recommendation.



APPENDIX
Existing sections of the University Manual

8.51.30 Final Examinations and Athletic Events. Intercollegiate athletic contests at the University of Rhode Island shall not be scheduled so as to require travel or competition during either the final exam period, on designated reading days, or on Sunday of the intra-exam weekend. Games may be scheduled on Saturday of an intra-exam period weekend provided it is not a designated exam day and that all off-campus travel, if necessary, is limited to that day. Compulsory practice sessions shall not be scheduled on designated reading days, final exam days, or Sunday of the intra-exam period weekend.

8.51.31 No waiver shall be required for participation in conference-scheduled competitions, conference championships, and NCAA championships; however, the Athletics Advisory Board must be notified in advance on a timely basis when such participation, or associated off-campus travel, is scheduled to occur during the final exam period, on designated reading days, or on Sunday of the intra-exam period weekend. Issues regarding special tournaments and other major athletic competitions not controlled through University scheduling that occur, or require associated off-campus travel, during the final exam period, on designated reading days, or on Sunday of the intra-exam period weekend shall be forwarded to the Athletics Advisory Board for their recommendation to waive the above policy and permit participation. In the event that the Athletics Advisory Board agrees to issue a request to the President to waive the provisions of sections 8.51.30-31, then the Board shall also provide the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with appropriate documentation and explanation as to its reasons for making the request. The explanation to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee should be forwarded simultaneously with the request to the President. The board's recommendation shall be forwarded to the University President for final action.