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|  | THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA | REVISED 07/15/18 |
| Student-Athletic Pregnancy Policy | |

The University of West Alabama’s (“UWA”) Department of Athletics abides by applicable law and the applicable policies of the NCAA, the GSC, NIRA, UWA and any applicable insurance carrier of UWA. At all times, this policy will be construed in accordance with existing law and policies. Concerning pregnancy, the following is in effect:

1. UWA’s Department of Athletics, its coaches, athletic trainers, team physicians and staff will, within applicable rules, provide appropriate support to any student-athlete who becomes pregnant and assist the student-athlete in finding medical care and obtaining any counseling or other care conducive to the student-athlete’s health and welfare.
2. UWA complies with Title IX and does not discriminate on the basis of pregnancy. The Department of Athletics will allow a leave of absence for pregnancy as long as medically necessary and will reinstate the student-athlete for athletic participation once medically cleared by a team physician, chosen by UWA.
3. The NCAA and UWA classify pregnancy in the same category as temporary illness or injury. Pregnancy is not an athletically related illness or injury. All regulations which pertain to illness or injury with regards to eligibility therefore pertain to pregnancy.
4. For health and safety of the student-athletic and the fetus, the student-athlete is strongly encouraged to notify the team physician, head coach or athletic trainer of her pregnancy or suspected pregnancy, particularly if the student-athlete is participating in practices, competition, or any activities which may pose a health or safety risk. At all times, the student-athlete assumes the risk to herself or her fetus.
5. As with other injuries or illnesses, and consistent with NCAA by law 15.5.4.3 a student-athlete’s athletic scholarship will not be reduced or canceled during the granting year of the award because of pregnancy. Consistent with NCAA bylaw 15.5.4.1(d), if a pregnant student-athlete voluntarily withdraws from the team, UWA may reduce or cancel the student-athlete’s athletic scholarship during the term of the award. As such, a pregnant student-athlete should not voluntarily withdraw immediately. Rather, the pregnant student-athlete should be counseled on the issues related to pregnancy, eligibility extension and financial aid before making this decision.
6. If the student-athlete is pregnant and participating in practices, competition, or any activities which may pose a health or safety risk, the student-athlete must be under the care of a licensed medical physician.
7. UWA and its insurance carrier do not cover expenses associated with pregnancy related care. If the student-athlete has purchased student health insurance or other individual coverage, the student-athlete should consult with his/her carrier for information regarding available coverage. If the student-athlete does not have insurance, UWA and/or team physicians will attempt to assist the student-athlete in securing local medical care for uninsured patients.
8. The team physician, chosen by UWA, has ultimate authority to determine whether or not a student-athlete who is pregnant or recuperating from pregnancy is medically cleared to participate in practice and/or competition. The team physician will consult with the student-athlete’s attending physician as needed.
9. UWA will abide by the recommendations of the attending physician and the team physician regarding participation during and following pregnancy, but assumes no responsibility for complications which may result from continued participation in athletics. The student-athlete will participate at her own risk to herself and the fetus, and will not be allowed to participate, even at her own risk, if disqualified by a medical physician.
10. NCAA rules (bylaw 14.2.2.2) allows the member institution to approve a two-semester extension of the 10-semester period of eligibility for a female student-athlete for reason of pregnancy.
11. Support services, such as counseling, are available to student-athletes during and following pregnancy through UWA and UWA’s Counseling Center. The athletic training and sport medicine staff and/or team physician can assist in identifying such services.

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| I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hereby verify that I have read, acknowledge **(PLEASE PRINT)** (First) (Middle) (Last)  and understand the above UWA Student-Athletic Pregnancy Policy and with my signature agree to abide accordingly. |
| DATE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ATHLETE’S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| WITNESS SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |