Information for Recruited Student-Athletes Presentation Transcription

John Krimmel (JK), Slide 1: Hi everyone my name is John Krimmel, I am the Associate AD for Student Athlete Leadership Development here at Saint Francis University. Thank you for joining us for the Recruited Student Athlete Session, part of our summer orientation and academic registration. You'll be hearing from myself and two others, also joining me is a Shane Tay, our Assistant AD for Compliance and Sarah Ross, our associate Director for Student Athlete Development and Academic Services.

JK, Slide 2: First, we just want to talk about a couple of things, there are the ways to keep in touch with the things that are going on here at Saint Francis. You can always follow along on our website sfuathletics.com, the northeast conference website, also NEC front row, which is a free platform that you can use to watch your son or daughter compete throughout the year. We do have two teams that don't compete in the Northeast Conference: that's our Women's Water Polo team and also our Men's Volleyball team. So, you can follow along on the website, you can follow along on social media, and we will keep in touch throughout the year. But first, today, you'll hear from us relative to some things round compliance, academic support, student-athlete leadership and development, and at the end of this presentation you'll see all of our contact information. So, if you have questions, feel free to reach out to us, but I'm going to turn it over right off the bat to Shane Tay, our Assistant AD for Compliance, to talk about the wonderful world of compliance.

Shane Tay (ST), Slide 3 & 4: Buckle up everybody! Alright, so we're going to go over some basic initial eligibility requirements. Coming into college, you're going to want to make sure you have theses taken care of before you step foot on campus. That way, we get you here and everything is smooth sailing – we would get you out on the field, you're eligible, and you're good to go. So, the very first thing, pretty much everything regarding your initial eligibility runs through the NCAA Eligibility Center; hopefully all of you have heard of the NCAA Eligibility Center. Hopefully you're all registered with the Eligibility Center at this point, but if for some reason you are not yet registered, I want to just make sure you follow these steps listed here on the screen. So, it's just very important to take care of this. I do want to emphasize that this is for NCAA sports only. If you are a member of the cheerleading squad, the dance team, or the band, and listening to this, please note, that this would not be applicable to you. Any other student-athletes who are coming in hopefully you've already taken care of this, but if not, all of these instructions will get you registered with the Eligibility Center. Take care of this as soon as possible.

ST, Slide 5: With the NCAA and the Eligibility Center, here are two different eligibility decisions that they're looking to make for you: the first is your academic eligibility decision and the second is your amateurism decision. So, let's talk about your academic eligible decision first. The NCAA, when they're looking at your initial eligibility from an academic perspective, is looking for you to hit the following four requirements: 1- you graduate from high school, 2- that you complete required core courses, which I will go over the next slide, 3- you earn a minimum GPA in these core classes that then 4 - corresponds with your SAT or ACT test score on what the NCAA calls their sliding scale, which we will get into in just a little bit as well.
ST, Slide 6: First, with those NCAA core course requirements, the NCAA is looking for you to earn 16 core credits in the categories listed on the screen in front of you. One important thing to note, the NCAA is not looking at your grades in phys ed, home ec, or photography; all those fun classes, unfortunately, they will not impact your NCAA eligibility status. Your core GPA, the GPA the NCAA is going to use to determine your eligibility status, is based solely on these 16 core courses listed here. Another thing the note with these 16 core classes, at least 10 of them must be completed prior to the start of your senior year, with seven of those 10 being English math or science courses.

ST, Slide 7: Some more things with the core course requirements. All of those core courses have to be completed during your high school career, so from your 9th grade through your 12th grade year, with just a couple of exceptions. You could take a class during your middle school careers, 7th or 8th grade years, maybe an Algebra 1 or Spanish 1 that your high school awarded credit for, the NCAA will use that for your core course GPA. In addition, if you graduate high school on time, so you graduate in the spring or the summer of 2020 but you need to retake a class or you’re short one English credit, you could take one additional class after you graduate high school and use that to kind of boost your core course GPA or to get you to those NCAA minimum requirements for core courses.

ST, Slide 8: Once the NCAA calculates your GPA based on those 16 core courses, they will then try to determine your eligibility status based on the sliding scale that's on the right hand side of this screen. They will take your core course GPA and look to see if it meets the corresponding SAT or ACT test score. This whole sliding scale is designed to give you two chances to be eligible. You can see on the right here, if you have a 3.5 GPA, you only need a 420 SAT or a 39 ACT sum in order to be eligible; that's pretty easy to hit. On the flip side, if you had a 2.3 GPA, you need a slightly higher test for you would need a 900 SAT or 75 sum ACT score. The NCAA is giving you two chances to be eligible here. That 2.3 GPA is a very important number to know. 2.3 is the minimum GPA that a student athlete can have to be eligible for competition in their freshman year. If you are below a 2.3, but above a 2.0, you have the ability to be eligible for practice and to receive your athletic scholarship during your freshman year, but you still have to hit that sliding scale requirement with the test score that corresponds with your GPA. The last thing I want to note with this sliding scale is that the SAT scores are based on what we call the “old SAT.” Prior to 2016, the SAT was a little more challenging, a little more rigorous I guess you can say, and then the NCAA released a new version of the SAT in 2017 where scores were averaging about 80 points higher on the new SAT. So, when you are looking at this sliding scale, the SAT scores here are based on the old SAT. If you were to earn a score on the new SAT, which is pretty much everybody listening here, you typically have to subtract about 80 points from that score and then use that new number to then determine where your GPA lies on this sliding scale.

ST, Slide 9: Once the NCAA compiles all of this information, they will have all the information necessary to make your academic eligibility decision. There are three possible outcomes for that decision: the first is that you’re a Final Qualifier, you have met all requirements with the core courses in the sliding scale. That means that you are eligible to practice, you’re eligible to compete, and you’re eligible to receive athletic scholarship during your freshman year. Flip side of that is a Final Non-Qualifier. This means that you are not meeting one or more of those initial eligibility requirements. That means during your first year, those first 2 semesters of full-time enrollment at a Division I or Division II institution, you could not practice, you could not compete, and you could not receive your athletic scholarship. Third option is an Academic Red
ST, Slide 10: So, in response to the current COVID-19 situation the NCAA recognized that there were some student athletes that were just either unable to complete an SAT or ACT test due to the multiple test cancellations, or who had their senior years very negatively impacted by the move to online courses/the move to a pass/fail rating system. Because of that, the NCAA granted what they called the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver, where this is only available for prospective student-athletes who will graduate in the spring or the summer of 2020. But, if you are a student-athlete in that situation, as long as you have a minimum 2.3 GPA and 10 core classes earned prior to the start of your senior year, with least seven of the classes being English, math, or science, the NCAA will give you this COVID-19 automatic waiver to make you a de facto, final qualifier. You do not need an SAT or ACT test score and your senior year grades will not impact this status at all. It is strictly based on those 10 core classes earned prior to the start of your senior year. One thing to note with this automatic waiver, if you are given this automatic waiver, your profile will be listed as a Final Non-Qualifier with the COVID-19 Automatic waiver as a tag on it. Why they do that, it's just a formality with the NCAA system, but you should not be worried at all if you see that Final Non-Qualifier status because your COVID-19 Automatic Waiver overrides that status and makes you a Final Qualifier in the eyes of the NCAA.

ST, Slide 11: We talked about the Academic Eligible Decision. Let's talk about the Amateurism Eligible Decision. It's going to come from the NCAA Eligibility Center. In order to be eligible for Division I or Division II athletics, you have to adhere to the principles of amateurism, which means you could not be professionalized in your sport. When you registered with the Eligibility Center, they asked you a variety of questions: if you've ever taken money to play sports, if you ever had an agent, have you earned prize money in your sport, all of these things at the NCAA is looking at to determine if you were still an amateur in your sport. Once you answer all those questions, you're pretty much done, but there is one final step you need to complete and that is you need to go back into your profile and request your Final Amateurism Certification sometime after April 1st of your senior year. If you created your eligibility center account in your junior year, you still need to log back in and all you are doing is just verifying your answers haven't changed, indicating whatever you answered when you first registered is the same as what you are answering right now. If that's the case, you log in, there's a big red button that says request final amateurism certification, you click it, and it takes about 30 seconds to get through that process. Then the NCAA will determine your amateur status within the next 24 to 48 hours. This is not typically something that is an issue for Saint Francis University student-athletes, we don't have very many amateurism issues, but this is something you will need to take care of before you get here for fall classes.

ST, Slide 12: Some final things you want to make sure you're going to take care of before you get here for either preseason practices or fall classes in August: final transcripts, so even if you receive that COVID-19 automatic waiver, where they're just looking at your freshman through junior grades to determine your eligibility status, you still need to send in your final transcript with proof of graduations to the NCAA Eligibility Center. This is something that should come directly from your high school, it's not something that you just send a copy of your diploma, it is
we always encouraged athletes to make sure that they're speaking with their professors to let notifications when teams are traveling and missing classes monitor all students on campus the direction of Center for want to make sure that it has no eligibility implications myself is the change of major or the declaration of double major forms to be signed off on by Sarah period of time throughout the semester jeopardize their eligibility always want to make sure students rather than later W it made available to p between our office and the coaching office we're monitorin eligibility by the teams we work with our office you will have an advisors within theJK, Slide 14: provide you with any information that you need posted for you them your coaches your status as a Final Qualifier, Final Non-Qualifier, whatever, is going to come to you from your coaches. If you have any questions about where you're at, you can always reach out to them, but as John mentioned before, at the end of the slideshow our contact information will be posted for you. You can certainly reach out to me directly and I would be more than happy to provide you with any information that you need. With that, over John so we could talk about sort of the academic side of things.

JK, Slide 13: Thank you, Shane.
JK, Slide 14: From an academic perspective, Sarah Ross and I are both the main academic advisors within the Athletics Department. The easiest way to describe what we do is that all of you will have an academic advisor within your major, but you also have an academic advisor in our office. Either Sarah or myself right now, we are the two main academic advisors. We split the teams we work with. The things that we're monitoring are continuing eligibility standards set by the NCAA, which I'll talk about here shortly. Shane touched on some of the initial eligibility requirements, and then when you get here, it's continuing eligibility, in terms of what we're monitoring. Our office is in constant communication with faculty, they know why our office is here. If someone is not going to class, not turning in assignments, struggling in class, they know to reach out to Sarah or myself. One of the things Sarah and I will do with all freshmen is required academic meetings at the beginning of the year. For some student athletes, we will continue to meet with them throughout their freshman year and maybe in future years as well. Some of the things that we do: progress reports, we send out progress reports two times a semester to check in on how student-athletes are doing. They are something that is shared between our office and the coaching staffs. Also, we get midterm grades. Midterm grades are made available to parents freshmen year, they do send midterm grades home. We also make them available to our coaches here on campus. Dropout Detective is a new program that we use, it allows us to see into the gradebook on Canvas, the platform that we use here at Saint Francis. We can see how a student athlete is doing, so if there are concerns, we can address them sooner rather than later. During the first 7 days of the semester, students can add and drop classes. We always want to make sure students stay above full-time status, so not to do anything to jeopardize their eligibility. Later in the semester, students have the withdraw deadline, which is a period of time throughout the semester when students can withdraw from a class, but that needs to be signed off on by Sarah or myself. Another thing that needs to be signed off on by Sarah or myself is the change of major or the declaration of double major forms, or triple major. We just want to make sure that it has no eligibility implications. We also work very closely with the Center for Academic Success, which is the main advising retention center here on campus, under the direction of Dr. Renee Bernard. They help us to monitor our student-athletes and they help to monitor all students on campus. Something else that we do from our office is we send out email notifications when teams are traveling and missing classes. Those are all excused absences, but we always encouraged athletes to make sure that they're speaking with their professors to let
them know they can make up the work when they get back or possibly get the work done before they head out on the road.  

**JK, Slide 15:** One of the unique programs that we have here at Saint Francis is our Faculty Athletics Mentors program. Each one of our teams will select a member of the faculty to serve as a resource, as a mentor, throughout the academic year. This helps to strengthen the relationship between academics and athletics. All of our teams have a Team Chaplin, but all of our teams will also have a Faculty Athletics Mentor.  

**JK, Slide 16:** I mentioned continuing eligibility. Let's look at the freshman year. Within your freshman year, you have to pass 6 credits each semester, but 18 credits between fall and spring and then 24 credits by the end of fall spring and summer to be eligible going into your sophomore year. Then, after your sophomore year, junior year, senior year, there are benchmarks that you have to hit in order to remain eligible to compete. Those are things that we monitor. If we ever see issues, we make sure that we address them with you, but also your coaches as well. There are GPA requirements, and our GPA requirements are slightly more strict than those of the NCAA right now, so it's based on attempted credits here at Saint Francis. If you've attempted 30 credits or less you need to have a 1.8 cumulative GPA, 31 to 59 credits, you need a 1.9, and once you've attempted 60 credits or more, you need a 2.0. You also need a 2.0 to graduate from the University and a 2.0 needs to be cumulative and also within your specific major.  

**JK, Slide 17:** One of the ways we ensure academic success is through our study table program. This is required for all freshmen, they must complete five hours per week. Study table is open Sunday through Friday, and you come in whenever it works for your schedule. The hours are listed there, that's our current structure as we see it right now. Then, based on your freshman year GPA, it will determine if you have to do it in sophomore, junior, or senior year.  

**JK, Slide 18:** Another thing that is accessible and free to students is tutoring and the Writing Center. There are tutors in two locations on campus, right now in the library and then down here in Stokes, right off the study table area. It is all drop in tutoring; the schedule is posted and same thing with the Writing Center. You're able to access those and it's a free service. We encourage our student-athletes to make sure they use those resources. I am going to turn it over to Sarah now.  

**Sarah Ross (SR), Slide 19:** One more academic piece before we head into the student-athlete development part of this. John and I teach a class called Gen 101, it is specifically a student-athlete seminar class that covers everything an incoming student-athlete needs to know about being a collegiate student-athlete. You're going to go through a great deal of orientation prior to the day you step foot on campus, which is wonderful and it helps the transition into college, but the experiences that you have specific to being a student-athlete are things that you otherwise wouldn't hear about without this course. John and I will meet with you once a week, it is a graded course, but certainly not meant to be anything too difficult, hopefully a GPA booster. We will cover everything you need to know about being a collegiate student-athlete and then we'll also do some peer to peer education days with our Student Athlete Mentors, which I'll touch on a little bit later.  

**SR, Slide 20:** One of the first committees that our office overseas is called the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, it goes by the acronym SAAC. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is kind of like student government for student-athletes. It serves as the voice of all student-athletes. It's a platform where student-athletes can bring forth concerns, it's a platform where student athletes can push initiatives where they want to see action taken. Each team has two representatives on the committee, and they'll use their time in meetings to try and push initiatives
forward. This is also a program that does a lot of work in the community through service projects and fundraising events. We've set records the last few years in the items we've donated in our canned and non-perishable food drive, community service hours, and money raised for local foundations.

**SR, Slide 21:** The Student Athlete Mentors program, which goes by SAMs and I touched on this with the Gen 101 class, is dedicated to ensuring a smooth transition of all freshman student-athletes. Upperclassman student-athletes go through various trainings to be a peer mentor for freshman student-athletes. SAMs will teach our freshmen on topics like drug and alcohol education, they'll do a diversity equity and inclusion training, some mental health education, as well as nutrition and Wellness. Essentially, the SAMs provide, I think, a better education at that peer level for an incoming freshman than if they just have to sit and listen to another adult or administrator facilitate this information.

**SR, Slide 22:** Something that's unique to Saint Francis is our APPLE leadership team. Our APPLE leadership team is dedicated to providing education about alcohol and substance abuse as well as providing alternative activities in place of what could be happening at late night parties and such. The APPLE leadership team hosts tailgates at all of our home football games as well as select sporting events throughout the year, especially at conference championships or important playoff games. They also host what is called, Late-Night Alternatives, and those events happen usually Friday or Saturday nights after about 8:00 PM. They're just fun gatherings like a casino night, we've brought in different food vendors, we've had trivia, bingo, dodgeball tournaments have been very popular. All of these events are possible from a grant that we have the pleasure of using called the NCAA CHOICES Grant. The money comes in directly from the NCAA for us to be able to fund these Late-Night Alternatives.

**SR, Slide 23:** One of the biggest programs/events we host is called our Frankie Cup competition. This is an inter-departmental competition between all of our sports teams and spirit groups. The teams are challenged in the categories of: academic achievement, athletic performance, their dedication to community service, their attendance at what are called Frankie Cup games (those are specific sporting events picked by each team that we dubbed Frankie Cup games), and then participation in all of the programming that I have spoken on thus far. The teams spend all year accumulating points in all of these categories, then, whichever team at the end of the year has earned the most points is dubbed our Frankie Cup winner. In addition to what I consider a very illustrious title, the winning team earns a $10,000 donation to their program. This is all possible because of our donor, John Kimble. He dedicated this competition to his parents; the formal name being, the L. Robert and Mary Louise Kimble Frankie Cup competition.

**SR, Slide 24:** Most important is all of our social media pages! John and I do our best to keep everyone up to date on all the programming that we're doing, but if you ever want to know what's going on or you want a heads up of things that are coming in the future, check us out. We're on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. All of the programs have dedicated pages. We will always be in touch, there will never be something we don't reach out about, but we make sure that social media is up-to-date so there is an interactive way for everyone to connect.

**SR, Slide 25:** This is the last piece that I'm going to touch on. All student-athletes that come to Saint Francis get a planner from our office. It has the academic breakdown so that you have a way to stay organized and stay on top of your work, but it also has in there the Student-Athlete Handbook. It does serve a dual purpose. We'll hand those out when you get to campus in the fall.

**ST, Slide 26:** Alright everybody, I'm just going to touch on a couple last topics before we wrap-up for the day. The first being drug testing, everyone's favorite topic. The institution, Saint
Francis University, does conduct drug testing of our student-athletes at random times and locations, however we're going to focus mainly on the NCAA drug testing. The NCAA drug testing takes place year-round, that includes any winter or summer vacation periods. It is completely random and typically comes with a 24-hour notice for the drug test. If a student-athlete is selected for a drug test and tests positive, there are two different types of drugs and two different types of penalties associated with those drugs that the NCAA tests for. The first type of drug being street drugs (marijuana, heroin, cocaine, those kind of things). Student-athletes that test positive for that during an NCAA drug test are immediately suspended for 50% of the next season's competition. If a student-athlete tests positive for performance enhancing drugs (steroids, HGH, those types of things) they are immediately suspended for 365 calendar days, then after that one-year suspension given another test. If they were to test positive again, the student-athlete would be rendered permanently ineligible in all NCAA sports. The biggest thing to note here is the NCAA takes drug testing very seriously and it is very important to stay clean during your time as a student-athlete to avoid any eligibility issues.

ST, Slide 27: Last one such on here is just team travel and really this is just for parents to make sure you guys know that all of this stuff listed here is provided by the institution. Whether it be lodging, meals, transportation, if your son or daughter is telling you that they need extra money for food when they're on the road or they need money for their hotel room when they're on the road, please know they're just pulling your leg. They really don't need that because our institution will provide everything that they need when they are traveling to away competitions.

ST, Slide 28: That's the end of our presentation. As we said before, this is all of our contact information, so please reach out to us if you have any questions. I am more than happy to help you out. In the meantime, enjoy the rest your summer and we are very much so looking forward to having you back on campus in the fall.