Princeton University
Office of the Dean of the College
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To: Members of the Faculty
From: Dean Jill Dolan
Date: September 17, 2015
Subject: Varsity Athletic Competitions and Class Attendance

Princeton has long been committed to maintaining a competitive varsity athletics program as part of its broad conception of undergraduate education. In keeping with that commitment, we reserve the 4:30-7:30 p.m. time slot for student participation in athletics (and, of course, many other extracurricular activities). This memo outlines the University’s long-standing policy regarding conflicts that may arise between regularly scheduled classes and varsity athletic competitions.

Students are expected to meet with their instructors at the beginning of each term to identify any class meetings they are likely to miss due to athletic competition and to discuss how they plan to cover the assigned material (by, for example, reviewing other students’ notes, attending office hours, writing a short essay on the assigned reading, or an assignment you find fair and equivalent). Our athletics department makes every effort to schedule competitions at times that do not conflict with our students’ academic commitments. Such conflicts, however, are sometimes unavoidable because of a variety of factors beyond our control. In those cases, our policy is not to penalize students for missed class time when they are attending competitions. Students are not permitted to miss class to attend practices.

In short, while the University permits students to miss classes for sanctioned varsity athletic competitions, these absences must not compromise the student’s ability to remain in good academic standing.

If you have any questions or concerns about the amount of class time that a student is missing due to varsity athletic competition, please contact Dean Dov Grohsgal at 609-258-9310 or by e-mail at dweinryb@princeton.edu. Dean Grohsgal will consult as needed with Princeton’s Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA, as well as other colleagues in the residential colleges and the Athletics Department to help resolve any problems.

Thank you for helping our students balance the rigor of their academic pursuits with the educational opportunities that offered through our athletics programs. We truly appreciate your attention.

cc: Clayton K. Marsh, Deputy Dean of the College
Mollie Marcoux, Ford Family Director of Athletics
Anthony Archbald, Executive Associate Director of Athletics
Dov Grohsgal, Assistant Dean, Office of the Dean of the College