

# **How to Become a Member of the Department of Recreational Sports' Sport Clubs Program**

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## Guidelines for clubs seeking membership in the Department of Recreational Sports' Sport Clubs Program

Clubs seeking admission into the Department of Recreational Sports Sport Clubs Program (SCP) should consider the following guidelines and requirements. If **ALL** of these requirements can be met, a meeting may be requested with the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports for Sport Clubs to discuss the preparation of a formal proposal packet by the club.

- For a club to apply for membership, it must be an officially registered student organization for a minimum of 5 academic years. Clubs must be student-initiated, student-led organizations and be in good standing with the Student Engagement and Campus Life Office for all 5 of those academic years. Clubs must agree to represent the university in a professional manner, follow all rules and regulations set forth by the Sport Club Office, and comply with Policy 8011 of the University regarding USLP (University Student Life Program) status.
- Member clubs of the SCP must actively compete in their sport on an intercollegiate level, and have a governing body that oversees their sport. Sport Clubs are required to both host games/tournaments/events and travel to other campuses/cities to compete. Clubs are responsible for scheduling their own practices, games, and tournaments.
- Only NCAA recognized, NCAA emerging, or Olympic Sports may apply for SCP. Sports which are considered emerging sports may also apply for SCP membership. Please review the “Recognized, Emerging, and Olympic Sports” page.
- Member clubs of the SCP must keep all their operating funds (both university-allocated and self-generated) in Department of Recreational Sports controlled accounts. **Sport Clubs are not allowed to have off-campus checking or savings accounts.** All financial transactions are approved by the Sport Club Office.
- All members of the SCP are required to abide by all SCP, Departmental, University and Commonwealth of Virginia policies and laws. The Department of Recreational Sports emphasizes that alcohol and illegal drug use during club activities, practices and games is absolutely forbidden, and are grounds for immediate expulsion from the SCP. Additional judicial and/or legal action may be taken against individuals who are involved in such conduct.
- A specific level of support (both financial as well as access to university facilities such as playing fields and courts) is not guaranteed to any sport club. Admission into the SCP does not ensure a specific level of annual funding from Recreational Sports or the ability to hold a certain number of weekly practices or host a certain number of games or tournaments each semester. SCP member clubs are required to generate at least half of their annual operating budget through a combination of dues and fundraising activities.

## Definition of Terms<sup>1</sup>

**Sport.** A sport shall:

1. Be defined as an institutional activity, sponsored at the varsity or club level, involving physical exertion for the purpose of competition against teams or individuals within an intercollegiate competition structure.
2. Operate under standardized rules within rating/scoring systems ratified by at least one official regulatory agency and/or governing body.

**Sport Club.** A sport club is a student organization that has been accorded that status by an institution and satisfies the following conditions:

1. It is a sport in which student-athletes compete in intercollegiate athletics.
2. All sport clubs that are members of the SCP are USLP (University Student Life Program) status within the university's system of student organization classification. USLP's are legally considered to be a part of (an extension of) Virginia Tech and the Department of Recreational Sports, and are required to adhere to all departmental, university, local, state, and federal regulations, policies, and laws.

**University Student Life Program.** An organization comprised primarily or exclusively of students whose activities, operations, and decision-making processes are directly governed by academic or administrative departments and for which the university is ultimately responsible.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/inclusion/ncaa-emerging-sports-women-process-guide>, <https://policies.vt.edu/assets/8011.pdf>

## **Recognized, Emerging, and Olympic Sports**

### **Recognized NCAA Sports<sup>2</sup>**

Baseball, Men's	Mixed Skiing, Men's
Basketball, Men's	Mixed Skiing, Women's
Basketball, Women's	Rowing, Women's
Bowling, Women's	Soccer, Men's
Cross-Country, Men's	Soccer, Women's
Cross-Country, Women's	Softball, Women's
Fencing, Men's	Swimming and Diving, Men's
Fencing, Women's	Swimming and Diving, Women's
Field Hockey, Women's	Tennis, Men's
Football, Men's	Tennis, Women's
Golf, Men's	Track and Field (Indoor), Men's
Golf, Women's	Track and Field (Indoor), Women's
Gymnastics, Men's	Track and Field (Outdoor), Men's
Gymnastics, Women's	Track and Field (Outdoor), Women's
Ice Hockey, Men's	Volleyball (Beach), Women's
Ice Hockey, Women's	Volleyball (Indoor), Men's
Lacrosse, Men's	Volleyball (Indoor), Women's
Lacrosse, Women's	Water Polo, Men's
Mixed Rifle, Men's	Water Polo, Women's
Mixed Rifle, Women's	Wrestling, Men's

### **Emerging NCAA Sports<sup>3</sup>**

Acrobatics and Tumbling, Women's	Triathlon, Women's
Equestrian, Women's	Wrestling, Women's
Rugby, Women's	

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ncaa.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/inclusion/emerging-sports-women>,

## Olympic Sports<sup>4</sup>

3x3 Basketball	Karate
Acrobatic Gymnastics	Luge
Alpine Skiing	Marathon Swimming
Archery	Modern Pentathlon
Artistic Gymnastics	Mountain Bike
Artistic Swimming	Nordic Combined
Athletics	Rhythmic Gymnastics
Badminton	Road Cycling
Baseball Softball	Roller Speed Skating
Basketball	Rowing
Beach Handball	Rugby
Beach Volleyball	Sailing
Biathlon	Shooting
BMX Freestyle	Short Track Speed Skating
BMX Racing	Skateboarding
Bobsleigh	Skeleton
Boxing	Ski Jumping
Breaking	Ski Mountaineering
Canoe/Kayak Flatwater	Snowboard
Canoe/Kayak Slalom	Speed Skating
Cross-Country	Sport Climbing
Curling	Surfing
Diving	Swimming
Equestrian	Table Tennis
Fencing	Taekwondo
Figure Skating	Tennis
Football	Track Cycling
Freestyle skiing	Trampoline
Futsal	Triathlon
Golf	Volleyball
Handball	Water Polo
Hockey	Weightlifting
Ice Hockey	Wrestling
Judo	

\*The Olympics has men's and women's categories for each sport

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.olympic.org/sports>

## **Procedures for a new or existing club to be considered for admission in the Sport Club Program**

The Sport Club Program (SCP) is administered and advised by the Department of Recreational Sports. All teams and members of the SCP are governed by regulations of both Virginia Tech and the Department of Recreational Sports. Virginia Tech sport clubs are expected to actively compete at the intercollegiate level through league and/or other scheduled play. Clubs which seek admission into the SCP should refer to following guidelines:

The first step in the admission process is to carefully review the “Guidelines for Clubs Seeking Membership in the Sport Club Program”. If, after reading the guidelines, a club believes that it can meet **ALL** the expectations and requirements of SCP membership, a meeting may be scheduled with Alan Glick, Assistant Director of Recreational Sports to discuss the possibilities, benefits, and requirements of becoming a member of the sport club program.

The club should submit a formal written proposal via email to Alan Glick ([aglick@vt.edu](mailto:aglick@vt.edu)) during the month of November. A Sport Club Evaluation Committee will review the proposal during the month of December, which should include at least the following information:

- The name of the club’s national governing body/association
- The purpose and mission of the club, and the reasons why the club is seeking membership into the Sport Club Program
- A listing of current club officers and members
- The club’s goal and objectives
- The club’s history at Virginia Tech (including length of time the club has been a registered student organization)
- Copies of previous annual budgets and a copy of the club’s current-year budget (including expenses and income)
- A copy of the club’s constitution
- The club’s past, current and future game/competition schedule dating back at most five (5) years
- The club’s facility and equipment requirements
- The club’s faculty/staff advisor
- The club’s coach
- Any additional information you feel would be useful in the decision-making process

The Evaluation Committee will review the proposal. Club officers may be asked to make a brief presentation to the committee.

The Evaluation Committee will make a recommendation regarding action to be taken on the proposal (pro or con) to the Sport Club Office professional staff, who will make the final decision on the request for admission. The decision of the Sport Club staff may or may not follow the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee, and approval from the Director of Recreational Sports, the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs and the Vice-President of Student Affairs is also required for a club to be admitted to the Sport Club Program.

***The Department of Recreational Sports and the Sport Club Program reserves the right to decline membership to a club that requires extensive funding and/or departmental resources (such as, but not limited to playing fields and court space) or presents an unacceptably high level of risk or liability to the university and/or to the club’s participants in the judgment of the university.***

*The final decision concerning Sport Club Program membership will be made by the Vice-President of Student Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Recreational Sports professional staff, the University Risk Management Office and University Legal Counsel.*

The club will receive written notification of the decision from the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports for Sport Clubs as quickly as possible. New members of the SCP will be placed on a one (1) year “provisional status” to substantiate its ability to follow rules, procedures and requirements of the Sport Club Program and of the Department of Recreational Sports. A club on provisional status will not receive departmental funding for the first year and is required to close any off-campus checking accounts. At the end of the provisional status period, a determination will be made by the Sport Club professional staff regarding the future of the club as a member of the SCP.

Clubs may be expelled from the SCP for its failure to abide by Department of Recreational Sports and/or University rules and guidelines, or if the club fails to maintain a viable level of club membership or an active schedule of intercollegiate competition.

Contact the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports for Sport Clubs if there are any questions concerning these guidelines and procedures.

**(Revised 6/21)**