

WKU University Athletics Committee (UAC) Spring Semester 2024 Review

Meetings

February 21; March 27; April 17

The WKU UAC reviews all WKU Athletic Team Schedules for the number of class days missed due to team travel. The WKU UAC reviewed the following team schedules for the 2023-2024 season:

No schedules were reviewed during the 2024 spring semester UAC meetings. The UAC reviewed schedules for all WKU athletic teams during the 2023 fall semester.

At each UAC meeting, the WKU Senior Women's Administrator (SWA) in the WKU Athletic Department is asked to review any relevant issues occurring since the previous UAC meeting. During the 2024 Spring meetings, WKU SWA Gina Stoll reviewed and/or reported on the following:

- *WKU student-athletes have completed approximately 3,300 hours of community service
- *WKU athletics is sponsoring a student-athlete career fair on 2/26; 40 companies registered
- *Multiple WKU student-athletes participated in the Nashville Predators career day
- *WKU SAAC hosted a spring Mental Health Town Hall for WKU student-athletes
- *Announced April 24 TOPSYs event
- *WKU athletic department is providing stoles for spring graduating student-athletes
- *Answered question pertaining to TOPSYs academic awards

At each UAC meeting, the WKU Associate Athletic Director for Compliance in the WKU Athletic Department is asked to review any relevant issues occurring since the previous UAC meeting. During the 2024 Spring meetings, WKU Associate Athletic Director for Compliance John McCammon reviewed and/or reported on the following:

- *As a result of a lawsuit filed by the state of Ohio, NCAA transfer players are immediately eligible at new school with no restrictions on number of previous transfers (temporary until court establishes permanent rule)
- *Dartmouth basketball players have been ruled to be employees of the college
- * The SEC and Big 10 conferences have formed an advisory committee
- *Two pieces of legislation expected to receive final NCAA approval include a) immediate eligibility for academically-eligible student-athlete transfers with no limit on number of transfers, and b) athletic departments allowed to have limited involvement with student-athletes in the NIL process
- *Discussed recent NCAA concerns about prop bets involving NCAA games
- *Answered questions from UAC members pertaining to:
 - Enforcement of "academically-eligible" and "progress toward degree" NCAA requirements
 - Likelihood of student-athlete transfers playing for different universities during the same season
 - Employment status and possible unionization of student-athletes

At each UAC meeting, the WKU Athletic Director is asked to review any relevant issues occurring since the previous UAC meeting. During the 2024 Spring meetings, WKU Athletic Director Todd Stewart reviewed and/or reported on the following:

*Discussed CUSA member schools benefitting from Liberty University participating in the Fiesta Bowl, Florida Atlantic University participating in the NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four

*Men's and Women's conference basketball tournaments have been moved to Huntsville, AL

*Discussed possible consequences of unlimited transfers and NIL for student-athletes

*Men's Basketball promoted Hank Plona to head coach

*Reviewed performance and provided program updates for each WKU sports team, including a) the Football team won Famous Toastery Bowl, b) the Volleyball team won a first round NCAA tournament match and finished the season ranked in the Top 25, and c) the Men's Basketball team won the CUSA tourney and played in the first round of NCAA tourney

*Answered questions from UAC members pertaining to:

- Change in Men's NIT basketball tournament selection criteria
- A new Fox Sports post-season basketball tourney
- NCAA rule prohibiting NIL incentives to be used in recruiting
- WKU Football stadium renovations
- Mental health support group for WKU student-athletes
- Student-athletes affected by the temporary closure of Hilltopper Hall
- Influence on WKU recruiting of Kentucky state senate bill
- WKU TOPCARE program
- Student-athletes academic achievement
- NCAA action on transgender athlete participation
- Funding for new fieldhouse