RIT Croatia

RIT Croatia Student-Athlete Academic Accommodation Policy

1. Rationale

RIT Croatia is committed to supporting the academic success and well-being of student-athletes, recognizing the unique challenges they face in balancing high-level athletic commitments with academic responsibilities. Representing Croatia or another country in competitive sport is a demanding undertaking that can require significant travel, structured training schedules, and periods of intensive competition that do not always align with the academic calendar.
This policy establishes reasonable and consistent academic accommodations that enable eligible student-athletes to meet their academic obligations while fulfilling their athletic commitments, without compromising the academic standards and integrity expected of all RIT Croatia students.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all enrolled students at RIT Croatia who meet the eligibility criteria defined in Section 3.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for academic accommodations under this policy, a student must meet both of the following criteria.

3.1 Athletic status

- Croatian students must be registered in the Croatian Olympic Committee's athlete database in Category I, II, or III. Supporting evidence of categorization must be submitted with the request form.
- Non-Croatian students must provide valid official documentation of their recognized athlete status from the relevant national governing body in their home country and must be actively competing.

3.2 Academic standing

- A student-athlete must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. Eligibility will be reviewed before the beginning of each academic year; students who fall below this threshold will not be eligible for accommodations in the following academic year until the cumulative GPA is restored.
- First-year students in their first semester must have graduated from secondary school with a minimum B average or equivalent.

4. Guiding Principles

The accommodations provided under this policy are guided by the following principles:

- **Equity** – Student-athletes should have equal opportunities to succeed academically, regardless of their athletic commitments.
- **Flexibility** – Accommodations should be flexible and responsive to the individual circumstances of each student-athlete.
- **Collaboration** – Faculty, staff, and student-athletes are expected to work together in good faith to plan and implement accommodations effectively.
- **Academic integrity** – Accommodations support access to learning; they do not lower academic standards, exempt students from course requirements, or alter the grading criteria that apply to all students.

5. Policy Provisions

The following accommodations are available to eligible student-athletes. All accommodations are subject to the conditions outlined in Section 6 (Procedure).

5.1 Advanced course registration

Eligible student-athletes will be granted priority registration for courses, **provided there is no active financial hold on their account**. This enables student-athletes to build schedules that reduce conflicts with athletic commitments.

5.2 Flexible attendance

Student-athletes are entitled to **two additional excused absences per course per semester**, beyond the number of excused absences already permitted under the course attendance policy, when absences are directly caused by athletic competitions or required training. Student-athletes remain responsible for all missed content and coursework.

5.3 Assignment due date flexibility

When a student-athlete is absent due to an athletic commitment, **faculty will provide an extension of up to 48 hours** on assignment due dates. Extensions must be requested in advance and are not automatic.

5.4 Exam flexibility

Where feasible, faculty will offer alternative exam arrangements, such as a make-up exam, for student-athletes who have a documented conflict due to athletic travel or competition. This provision may be used **up to two times per semester**, per course. It does not apply during the final examination period, which adheres to fixed institutional schedules.

6. Procedure

Student-athletes seeking academic accommodations under this policy must follow the steps below. Student-athletes are responsible for submitting updated documentation and a new request form to the Student Life and Well-Being Coordinator before the start of each academic year. **Eligibility must be reconfirmed each academic year**.

1. **Submit a request** – Complete the Student-Athlete Academic Accommodation Request Form (see Appendix) and submit it, along with supporting documentation of eligible athletic status, to the Student Life and Well-Being Coordinator.
2. **Review** – The Student Life and Well-Being Coordinator will review the request and supporting documentation and confirm eligibility. Upon confirmation, all accommodations outlined in Section 5 apply automatically.
3. **Notification** – If the request is approved, the student will receive written confirmation of the accommodations offered.
4. **Student-Athlete Accommodation Agreement** – Upon approval, a Student-Athlete Accommodation Agreement (SAAA) letter will be issued, confirming the student's eligibility and listing all applicable accommodations under this policy. The Student Life and Well-Being Coordinator will distribute the SAAA electronically to the relevant faculty members at the start of the term. The SAAA confirms a student's eligibility status and lists their approved accommodations; it does not include personal details beyond what is necessary to implement the accommodations.
5. **Faculty communication** – Student-athletes are responsible for contacting each faculty member early in the semester to discuss the application of their accommodations in the specific course context.

7. Responsibilities

Student-athletes are responsible for:

- Submitting complete and accurate documentation before the beginning of each academic year
- Notifying faculty in advance of anticipated absences or conflicts
- Catching up on all missed coursework and content
- Maintaining the academic standing required for eligibility

Faculty are responsible for:

- Reviewing and implementing accommodations listed in the SAAA
- Working in good faith with student-athletes to plan around anticipated conflicts
- Applying accommodation provisions consistently and in accordance with this policy

The Student Life and Well-Being Coordinator is responsible for:

- Receiving and reviewing accommodation requests
- Verifying eligibility documentation
- Issuing SAAA letters and distributing them to faculty
- Maintaining secure and confidential student records

8. Compliance

This policy applies to all academic programs and both RIT Croatia campuses. Students and faculty are expected to fulfill their respective responsibilities in good faith.

The request form is attached to this policy and is available from the Student Life and Well-Being Coordinator.

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STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION REQUEST FORM

Please complete all items in legible print or type

All information provided to the Student Life and Well-Being Coordinator is kept confidential and will only be shared with others with your permission.

Student Information

Today's Date:
Student Name:
Student Last Name:
RIT Email:
Sport:

For students categorized by the Croatian Olympic Committee

Complete this section if you are registered in the Croatian Olympic Committee's athlete database.

Category (I / II / III):
County (Županija):

Confirmation document attached:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Status:

☐ Olympian

☐ Non-Olympian

For students from outside Croatia

Complete this section if you are recognized as an athlete by a national governing body other than the Croatian Olympic Committee.

Name of national Olympic Committee or governing body:

Confirmation document attached:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Impact on Studies

Please describe how your athlete status impacts your studies.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____