COACHES, INSTRUCTORS, AND ADVISORS

It is the club's responsibility to secure the services of a coach/instructor for its team, if a coach/instructor is desired. Club members must find a volunteer who meets the specified requirements as identified below and who will abide by the rules for coaches and instructors outlined herein. The selection of a coach or an instructor MUST be approved by the Assistant Director-Sport Clubs. All coaches/instructors must complete a Coaches/Instructors Agreement and Application Form at the beginning of EACH YEAR and attend a mandatory meeting (see Important Sport Club Program Dates). Coaches/instructors must submit copies of all relevant certifications and qualifications.

The coach/instructor must strictly be a volunteer and is not considered an employee of the University. If it is determined by CRS that a club is paying for the services of a coach/instructor, the club will be immediately suspended from the Sport Club Program. The club will have to meet with the Assistant Director-Sport Clubs to discuss possible reinstatement of the club.

If a club wishes to seek the services of a coach, members should seek an experienced individual who possesses technical knowledge of the sport and knows how to aid players in avoiding injuries. Those agreeing to serve as Coaches/Instructors must meet with the Assistant Director-Sport Clubs to discuss his/her qualifications, responsibilities to the club, and pertinent rules of CRS prior to any coaching or teaching.

Coaches and Instructors

Coaches must acknowledge and respect the leadership positions held by the officers and abide by all decisions made by this group. Recommendations made by the coaches will be considered, but final decisions will be made by the officers and/or club because they are ultimately held accountable. A sport club coach/instructor:

- Follows all University and Department policies and guidelines relative to sport club coaches/instructors as outlined in the Coach/Instructor Handbook.
- Maintains a safe environment for participants; including themselves. NOTE: Takes the necessary safety precautions as required by University policy, State or Federal law, and/or club policy, such as wearing flotation devices, protective eyewear, etc.
- Is involved strictly with coaching/teaching the club members in practice and competition while refraining from participating in other areas of club management. The coach/instructor should allow the student officers to discuss club matters with the Assistant Director-Sport Clubs. The student officers serve as the liaison between the club and the CRS Department – not the coach/instructor.
- Is a positive role model for all club participants
- Selects goals which are attainable and realistic challenges given the nature of the Sport Club Program. Coaches should remember that club teams are not varsity teams.

Volunteer coaches/instructors may be sanctioned or dismissed for the following:

- Acting in an unsafe manner which puts club members or themselves at risk.
- Managing club business, including scheduling, travel arrangements/payments, submitting forms, and purchasing equipment.
- Entering into agreements on behalf of the club or University.
- Offering scholarships.
- Recruiting players.
- “Cutting” students from the club.
- Instructing or encouraging club members to violate CRS or University rules and regulations.
- Failing to favorably represent the University of Maryland.

CRS has an obligation to protect the club and its members. If, in the opinion of the Assistant Director-Sport Clubs, the club, or any member, is being neglected or misled by the coach/instructor, or if the coach/instructor is not working in the best interests of the club, he/she can be relieved of all coaching and/or teaching functions. Coaches/instructors will be afforded the same due process as the club and its members.
Club Advisor
All sport clubs are required by the OCP and CRS to have a faculty/staff advisor. They can be very helpful. Clubs can rely on them for assistance with activity planning, fund-raising, budget preparation, and problems with club members. He/she can serve as a resource person regarding University matters and offer advice to club members regarding club business and help members balance club/school activities. He/she should in no way be directly involved in the daily operations of managing the club, or be relied on to make club decisions.

The club advisor should offer guidance. His/her role is to provide advice to the club. The advisor is most helpful when he/she uses mature judgment and experience to help club members refine their programs, plans, and discussions to a point where they are effective, realistic, and reflect favorably on the University. The faculty advisor is considered a valuable link between the club and the University.

The advisor for a sport club is selected by the members of the club. The advisor should be an individual who is accepted and respected by the members of the club. The sport club advisor must be a faculty or staff member of the University of Maryland. The advisor should be available during the development of plans and programs for the club and attend club meetings on a regular basis.