

### Committee on Excellence in Athletics

#### **The Ivy League**

Since 1954, the Ivy League has established and occasionally amended a Statement of Principles that governs intercollegiate athletic competition. The Statement of Principles serves as the Ivies' unique signature relating to intercollegiate varsity sports.

The original Ivy Agreement (1954) provides, in part, the following:

The Group affirm[s] their conviction that under proper conditions intercollegiate competition in organized athletics offers desirable *development and recreation for players and a healthy focus of collegiate loyalty*. . . .In the total life of the campus, emphasis upon intercollegiate completion must be kept in harmony with the essential educational purposes of the institution.

To this end, the Group will *foster intra-group athletic completion in all sports*. No member institution, however, shall necessarily field a team in every sport.

Over the decades, the Ivy League has amended the Statement of Principles to provide, in part, the following:

1. Intercollegiate athletics ought to be maintained within a perspective that holds *paramount the academic programs of the institution and the academic and personal growth of the student athlete*.
2. The member schools are committed to *equal opportunities* in athletics for men and women.
3. The member schools ought to *look primarily within the Group for standards of competitive excellence and, for most sports, ought to measure success or failure in competition with each other*.
4. Each member school *ought not to merely tolerate, but to value a balance of competitive success within the Group. Although schools may differ in those sports in which they excel, a reasonable competitive balance among institutions over time over all sports should be sought*.

Ivy League Manual (2019-2020), pp. 1-5.

#### **Overview**

Currently, Brown University's athletics program offers 38 varsity sports and 33 club sports, which is third largest in the country after Stanford University and Harvard University. Each year, this program provides over a thousand Brown students with valuable opportunities to compete and experience the developmental benefits that come with athletics participation. Although the benefits of athletic participation are clear, the large numbers of varsity sports at Brown present a significant challenge for competitive excellence and has not offered a balance of competitive success across sports within the Ivy League, as articulated in the Statement of Principles. In the decade from 2009 to 2018, Brown garnered only 2.8% of Ivy titles, the lowest in the Ivy League.

Students who attend Brown and compete at the varsity level want to experience competitive play with success, and the current underperformance of varsity sports leads to suboptimal student experiences on their varsity teams. In addition, non-competitive varsity teams are less likely to build a cohesive Brown

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community, as compared to competitive varsity teams, such as the outpouring of community support and spirit that developed during the Women's Soccer Ivy League Championship season in fall 2019.

Several factors can be examined to determine whether Brown should re-focus its efforts on perhaps a smaller and different menu of varsity teams so as to increase the competitive balance within the Ivy League and to pursue a standard of excellence at Brown.

### **Committee Charge**

The charge of this committee is to develop a proposal with recommendations to determine the numbers and identities of varsity and highly competitive club sports at Brown which accommodate the students' athletic interests and abilities. The goals of this endeavor is to enhance the quality of the student experience in athletics, provide for gender equity, ensuring diversity and inclusion, sustaining reasonable support for the pursuit of excellence, increasing competitiveness in varsity athletics, and building a stronger university community with a focus on collegiate loyalty.

The following criteria will be assessed for all varsity sports and some of the highly competitive club sports:

1. Are there available competitive opportunities within the Ivy League and/or peer institutions to maintain a competitive varsity schedule or club schedule?
2. Does Brown have quality facilities or use of quality facilities in Rhode Island for the sport which can be used to host athletic contests, competitions and tournaments?
3. What are the average roster sizes of the sports within the Ivy League and the NCAA and how do those averages measure up to Brown's five-year roster averages?
4. How might Brown utilize its recruiting admissions slots more effectively to re-focus its efforts on perhaps a smaller and different menu of varsity sports?
5. Determine the opportunities for male and female student-athletes so that there is substantial proportionality with the undergraduate population as required by Title IX and Brown's consent decree.
6. Does the varsity sport or a highly competitive club sport have the potential to build and strengthen community?
7. How competitive within the Ivy League has each team been over the past 10 years, and for non-Ivy sports, how competitive has the team been within the appropriate sport association (e.g. ECAC and IRA)?

### **Committee Meetings and Timeline**

The committee will meet monthly (by Zoom or in person) between March 2020 and June 2020. A tentative agenda is as follows:

March 2020:

- Discussion of committee charge
- Briefing on Title IX standards and other gender equity issues
- Overview of the competitiveness of each of Brown's varsity and highly competitive club teams.

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- Discussion of current and average roster sizes (comparing Ivy Group and NCAA average rosters), and the allocation of recruiting slots across varsity sports

April 2020:

- Assessment of facilities for each sport
- Assessment of the current capacity of shared facilities (e.g. training rooms)
- Review of the operating budget for each sport

May 2020

- Interactive analysis of implications of different choices for recruiting slots, AI averages, operating expenses, gender equity, and diversity and inclusion. Ideally, all members will attend this meeting in person.

June 2020:

- Discussion of and vote on final recommendations

#### **Committee members**

- Kevin Mundt, chair
- Richard Caputo, Jr.
- Kathryn Quadracci Flores
- Earl Hunt
- Jonathan M. Nelson
- Paula McNamara
- Eileen Goldgeier (ex officio)

The committee will be staffed by Jack Hayes, Director of Athletics, and Marguerite Joutz, Chief of Staff and Assistant to the President.

**CONFIDENTIALITY: THE COMMITTEE WILL WORK IN COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY. MEMBERS SHALL REFRAIN FROM SHARING ANY COMMITTEE MATERIALS OR THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS. SOME INFORMATION PROVIDED MAY BE PROTECTED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE.**