

Procedure: 6.8.3p. (V.S.1)

Student Athletics

Revised:

Last Reviewed: October 11, 2022; October 6, 2020; and October 30, 2017.

Adopted: November 7, 2013.



I. PURPOSE:

Effective November 7, 2013, all colleges associated with the Technical College System of Georgia must have all new athletic programs or colleges with existing athletic programs for which a change in conference or competition level will require an effective program or resource expansion reviewed and approved by the State Board prior to engaging in recruitment, practice, or competition, except for intramural sports. For purposes of this policy, intramural sports are defined as programs only involving students currently enrolled at the same college.

Athletic programs in the start-up phase shall be submitted for review and approval to the Board within six months of the effective date of this policy. The Commissioner shall establish a process by which all colleges shall submit athletic programs for review and approval to the Board.

Colleges with athletic programs currently in operation will not be required to seek approval from the Board; however, colleges will be required to register all currently operational athletic programs with the System Office within six months of the effective date of this policy.

II. RELATED AUTHORITY:

O.C.G.A. § 20-4-11 – Powers of Board.

O.C.G.A. § 20-4-14 – TCSG Established; Powers and Duties.

20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq. – Title IX.

34 C.F.R. §§ 106.1 et seq. – U.S. Department of Education Title IX Regulations) 29 U.S.C. §§ 701 et seq. (“Section 504”).

34 C.F.R. §§ 104.1 et seq. – U.S. Department of Education Section 504 Regulations.

III. APPLICABILITY:

All work units and Technical Colleges are associated with the Technical College System of Georgia.

IV. DEFINITIONS: N/A

V. ATTACHMENTS: N/A

VI. PROCEDURE:

A. General Provisions

1. Presidents shall ensure that equitable athletic opportunity will be provided for members of any gender so that no person, based on gender, will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in the overall intercollegiate athletics program of the college.
2. Presidents shall ensure that equitable athletic opportunities will be provided to all students as required by, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq. and Title IX, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.
3. All grants-in-aid or scholarships related to athletic participation will be administered strictly with applicable intercollegiate athletic rules and regulations. They may be funded from athletic fee revenues, unrestricted endowment income, and other allowable funding sources.
4. Intercollegiate athletics cannot be operated at the expense of academic programs and essential activities at the college or by diverting funds from other significant institutional funding or operations.
5. The President shall ensure that all funds utilized in support of intercollegiate athletic programs will be allocated, administered, and expended in strict compliance with applicable intercollegiate athletics regulations, State Board Policies, and TCSG Procedures, including but not limited to those about auditing, accounting, procurement, inventory management, contracts, and use of motor vehicles.
6. The President will develop institutional guidelines for establishing and conducting intercollegiate athletic programs.

B. Approval of New or Expanding Athletic Programs. The President of each college shall submit a five-year operational and capital plan ("operational plan") for any new athletic programs, athletic programs in a start-up phase, and current intercollegiate athletic programs for which a change in conference or competition level will require an effective program or resource expansion.

1. Operational plans for new programs will be submitted to the Commissioner for review. They will be presented to the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia for approval before colleges engage in recruitment, practice, or competition. Plans for those programs currently in a start-up phase will be submitted before engaging in competition. Plans for program expansions should be submitted before any conference or competition change.
2. Each operational plan will include the following:
 - a. Projected expenditures and revenue;
 - b. All sources of funding, including but not limited to institutional funds, athletic fees, ticket sales, unrestricted endowment income, sponsorships, community giving, and alumni donations;
 - c. Estimated impact on student enrollment and/or retention;
 - d. Demonstrated support and approval for the operational plan based upon widespread consultation with the college's academic and student governing bodies, community constituents, and Local Board of Directors;
 - e. Description of any required changes in or additions to property or facilities to accommodate the athletic program;
 - f. Description of measures to be taken to minimize any safety or security risks associated with student participation in athletics;
 - g. Explanation of any student housing requirements that may be required by rules and regulations of applicable governing bodies and how colleges will maintain compliance; and

- h. Any other relevant information applicable to expansion or start-up (e.g., conference/league/association regulations, level of competition, etc.)

C. Current Athletic Programs. Presidents will register all current athletic programs within six (6) months of the date of approval of this procedure.

1. Presidents will submit a report to the Office of Technical Education to be shared with the State Board, which will include the following information for each athletic team:
 - a. Number and gender of students participating;
 - b. Number of scholarships/grants-in-aid provided to students;
 - c. Budget information for the preceding fiscal year, including funding source.
 - d. An organization chart showing the staff members and/or volunteers associated with the program and the reporting relationship to the President.
2. The Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Technical Education, or designee, will maintain a summary of all athletic programs operated by the colleges.
3. Presidents will notify the Assistant Commissioner upon discontinuing any intercollegiate athletic program.

VII. RECORD RETENTION:

Records about student-athletes shall be maintained following Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Regulations (FERPA). Any medical information provided by students will be maintained in a secure location accessible only to those individuals with legitimate, job-related reasons to review the information. All records created or maintained under this procedure shall be retained as required by the State of Georgia's Document Retention Policy.