



2022-23

**MOUNTAIN WEST
SAAC HANDBOOK**

History

In 1998, NCAA Proposal No. 1998-99 mandated Division I conferences have student-athlete advisory committees. The Mountain West Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) completed its inaugural year in the spring of 2000. The Mountain West SAAC consists of 23 members: 22 student-athlete representatives (two from each institution) and the Mountain West representative to the Division I National SAAC. Two faculty athletics representatives serve as non-voting, ex officio Co-Mountain West Joint Council representatives. The Committee discusses student-athlete welfare issues and provides input to Conference and campus administrators on national and Mountain West governance matters. The Mountain West SAAC also reviews Conference and NCAA legislation, provides feedback to various league and institutional committees, and reviews issues referred to it from other administrative committees. Last, the Committee promotes a positive student-athlete image.

(Revised October 2018)

Mountain West SAAC Mission Statement

"The mission of the Mountain West Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is to enhance the quality of life for student-athletes and to promote a positive student-athlete image both on and off campus."

The Committee will accomplish its mission by:

- Providing a forum for student-athlete issues.
- Providing student-athletes a voice within the Mountain West governance structure.
- Acting as a liaison between various Conference committees, institutional student-athlete advisory committees and the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- Developing student-athletes into leaders beyond the athletic realm.
- Equipping student-athletes with the necessary information to make decisions on issues that affect student-athlete welfare.

(Revised May 2013, July 2014)

Membership

- The Mountain West SAAC is comprised of 23 members: 22 student-athlete representatives (two from each institution) and the Mountain West representative to the Division I National SAAC. Two faculty athletics representatives serve as non-voting, ex officio Co-Mountain West Joint Council representatives. Mountain West SAAC members must currently be active in their institutional student-athlete advisory committee.
- To be eligible for participation on the Mountain West SAAC, a student-athlete must have been enrolled at a Conference institution for at least one full-time semester and be within their NCAA-mandated five-year window of eligibility.
- Members must be full-time students per NCAA and Mountain West rules.

(Revised October 2018)

Appointment

Mountain West SAAC members will serve a two-year term from August 1 of the first year of the term through July 31 of the end of the second year of the term.

A representative may continue to serve as a Mountain West SAAC representative for a term longer than two years if (i) the institutional SAAC approves the term renewal and (ii) the representative maintains academic and athletics eligibility. An institutional SAAC may replace a representative who is unable to fulfill the two-year term requirement due to academic, athletics or other obligations. The Mountain West SAAC may dismiss a representative who has two unexcused absences (as determined by the Conference) by at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote. The institutional SAAC must elect or designate a replacement in compliance with the representation requirements and qualifications.

Institutions are required to have at least one underclassman (sophomore or junior) representative. To maintain Conference continuity, student-athletes from the same institution should not complete their Mountain West SAAC terms of service in the same year. At least one representative must represent a Mountain West-sponsored sport.

In April of each year, institutions are responsible for submitting to the Conference Office two underclassmen nominations for the SAAC to evaluate and select the new member for the ensuing academic year.

Diversity among the Committee members will be paramount in the selection process.

The Committee will select one vice-chair for the following year at the spring in-person meeting. The vice-chair shall be a member who has two years of remaining eligibility to serve on the Conference SAAC. The elected vice-chair will serve one year in this position and then will become the Conference SAAC Chair at the start of his or her second year of service. If that person is unable to serve, the Committee will also select the Chair at the in-person meeting. The Chair must be a senior. In the event of a tie during the voting process, the candidate who received the most number of 1st place votes will be elected.

(Revised May 2010, May 2012, May 2013, July 2014, October 2018)

Responsibilities

- Mountain West SAAC members will conduct themselves in a professional manner both inside and outside committee meetings, as well as handle their leadership roles with grace, class, dignity and respect.
- Members are expected to share the information from SAAC meetings with their institutional administrators and fellow student-athletes, as well as share with the Committee issues that arise at their institutions.
- Members are responsible for collecting the voice of their student-athlete peers on campus, Conference, and national issues, and serve as a liaison between the campus SAAC and Mountain West SAAC.

- Members of the SAAC are expected to respond to all forms of communication in a timely manner.
- Members are expected to lead and support community service efforts.
- Members are encouraged to foster ongoing relationships with administrators, coaches, fellow student-athletes and other leaders on their respective campus.
- The Mountain West Chair will be responsible for the facilitation of SAAC conference calls and in-person meetings. In the case the Chair is not available, the Vice-Chair will assume these responsibilities.

(Revised May 2011, May 2013, July 2014)

Conference Calls

The Mountain West SAAC will participate in four conference calls during the academic year (two per semester). All conference calls will occur on Sunday at 8 p.m. MT (7 p.m. PT).

It is required that at least one SAAC representative from each institution participate on the call. In the event that both representatives are unable to participate on the call, an alternate must be found. It shall be noted that participation is not limited to the two designated institutional representatives.

A quorum will consist of at least 75 percent of the member institutions (nine institutions). If a quorum is not present, no official business shall be conducted.

(Revised May 2013, July 2014)

Meetings

There will be two (2) in-person meetings per academic year in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Each institution is responsible for sending one of its designated representatives to each meeting. If one of the two designated representatives are unable to attend, an alternate representative must be selected.

SAAC Administrators are asked to return the travel form one month in advance of the scheduled meetings. Institutions will be responsible for scheduling and payment of flights. All flight arrangements must be made to and from Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Conference Office will provide double-occupancy lodging and meal expenses.

Members will be notified of the meetings through e-mail and conference calls. Each participant will receive an agenda in advance in order to properly review the issues prior to arrival.

(Revised May 2013, July 2014)

Participation in MW Governance Structure

The Mountain West SAAC will participate in various levels of the Mountain West governance structure. Participation will include:

- Board of Directors: Two representatives (Mountain West representative to the Division I National SAAC and rotating representative) will participate in the yearly winter and spring in-person meetings.
- Joint Council: One representative will participate on monthly conference calls. Three representatives also will participate in the spring in-person meeting.
- Athletic Directors: One representative will participate on conference calls.
- Faculty Athletic Representatives: One representative will participate on monthly conference calls.
- Senior Woman Administrators: One representative will participate on monthly conference calls.

All student-athletes shall serve in a non-voting, ex officio capacity. The two student-athlete representatives on the administrative conference calls will consist of one upperclassman and one underclassman.

The SAAC will review the schedule of meetings at the start of each semester and determine representatives to participate on each conference call. In the case a designated representative is unavailable to participate on the call, an alternate will be identified.

SAAC members participating on these administrative calls will be responsible for providing a report to the full SAAC on its conference calls or during in-person meetings.

(Adopted September 2014; Revised May 2015)

Goals

Below are goals established by the Mountain West SAAC. The goals are reviewed annually and revised as necessary:

Goal No. 1: *To facilitate a positive student-athlete image by promoting good sportsmanship and publicizing the accomplishments of student-athletes. This may include athletic and academic accomplishments as well as community service activities.* The Committee agreed this is an ongoing goal and identified the following items that could assist student-athletes in achieving the goal.

- Address sportsmanship with student-athletes as well as administrators, coaches, student-body and fans to create enhanced awareness of sportsmanship and ethics, develop a sense of responsibility among various constituencies and foster a positive environment at all athletic events.
- Improving the competition environment could lessen the number of sportsmanship incidents.
- Use social media and other technological mediums to promote a positive student-athlete image.

(Revised May 2011)

Goal No. 2: *Continue to cultivate relationships between student-athletes, coaches and administrators, institutional faculty, and the student-body.* The Committee agreed this should

be an ongoing goal and identified the following items that could assist student-athletes in achieving the goal.

- Continue to nurture relationships through face-to-face contact with FARs, ADs, SWAs, other institutional staff members and the student-body on your respective campuses.
- Create a mechanism on campus (e.g., “who to call” cards) that provides student-athletes and prospective student-athletes (during official visits) with information on who to call in certain situations.

(Revised May 2012)

Goal No. 3: *To improve the lives of student-athletes by raising awareness of welfare issues.* The Committee agreed this should be an ongoing goal and identified the following items that could assist student-athletes in achieving the goal.

- Focus on health issues (e.g., mental health, concussions, eating disorders, proper diet and alcohol awareness).
- Seek education from institutional staff members (e.g. SWA’s and compliance staff) on issues concerning, but not limited to:
 1. Title IX.
 2. Legislative issues.
 3. Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund/Special Assistance Fund Guidelines.
 4. NCAA internship and employment opportunities.

(Revised May 2011, May 2015)

Goal No. 4: *To inspire and develop student-athletes into leaders beyond the athletic realm. This will positively impact their professional environment and community.* The Committee agreed this is an ongoing goal and identified the following items that could assist student-athletes in achieving the goal.

- Attendance at various national leadership conference and meetings.
- Organizing and conducting service projects.
- Creating leadership development opportunities.

(Revised May 2011, May 2015)

Goal No. 5: *Assist student-athlete advisory committees in becoming successful by improving the awareness and functionality of their institutional SAAC.* The Committee agreed this is an ongoing goal and identified the following items that could assist student-athletes in achieving the goal.

- Create bylaws and define roles.
- Conduct a SAAC seminar to educate student-athletes about its purpose.
- Accept the personal responsibility of informing other student-athletes of SAAC and its functions.

- During freshman/newcomer orientation conduct a session on the SAAC.
- Cultivate relationships with other campus organizations.

(Revised May 2011)

Goal No. 6: *Equip student-athletes with the necessary information to make decisions on issues that affect student-athlete welfare.* The Committee agreed this is an ongoing goal and identified the following items that could assist student-athletes in achieving the goal.

- Encourage student-athlete representation at leadership council meetings and/or staff meetings on campus.
- Student-athlete representation/voice on MW governance committees.

(Revised July 2014)

Sportsmanship

In 2001, the Mountain West Sportsmanship Initiative was developed and has since become a focal point of the Mountain West Joint Council and Mountain West Board of Directors. The emphasis on appropriate conduct is as strong as ever. Institutions are encouraged to raise the level of awareness of the Initiative's components through Web sites, institutional Student-Athlete Advisory Committees and support from Faculty Athletic Representatives.

The Mountain West Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) believes the most important aspects of sport are good ethics and positive sportsmanship. It is very pleased the Conference has undertaken an initiative to enhance this philosophy. We need your commitment to make this effort a success.

The Mountain West SAAC believes that in order for an institution to convey a message of good ethics and positive sportsmanship, it must have the involvement and the participation of those individuals most involved in athletics on campus. While this includes, but is not limited to, the President, athletic administrators, coaches and fans, the most important individuals are the student-athletes. It is their behavior, more than any other, which can shape the perception of the league's teams and institutions by the public, the media and opponents.

Good ethics and positive sportsmanship are philosophies that must be displayed both on and off the playing field. Good sportsmanship on the field enhances the student-athlete image off the field. Not only should student-athletes be good citizens, they should show a general concern for others. We must take a leadership role to compete at the highest levels, always endeavoring for victory, but doing so with grace, class, dignity and respect.

Community Service

The Mountain West sponsors the SAAC Community Service Challenge as a way to recognize the league-wide community service efforts each year. The challenge will entail each institution's SAAC logging the total amount of community service hours completed on their respective campuses from the months of March through February. Institutions are asked to submit

community service hour logs at the end of each month using a form provided by Conference staff. The MW Recognition Committee will determine the winner of the Community Service Challenge by reviewing each institutions: 1) video summarizing the community service for the year, the hours logged, and the impact the service had on each respective community. The award will be presented at the Mountain West Basketball Championships. All student-athletes are encouraged to participate.

In conjunction with the Mountain West Community Service Challenge, there also is an All-Mountain West SAAC Community Service Team. This group will consist of one student-athlete from each institution who helped promote and participate in community service activities on their respective campus. It is the responsibility of each institution to nominate their representative to the Team. The Team will be announced with the overall community service challenge winner in March.

Members of the Mountain West SAAC will frequently provide updates on community service projects as well as share ideas with the Committee on conference calls and meetings.

(Revised July 2014, May 2015, October 2018, May 2022)

Student-Athlete Welfare

The Mountain West SAAC strives to educate student-athletes on their rights. The Committee also promotes and supports student-athlete welfare issues.

Member institutions should seek out opportunities for student-athletes to learn valuable life skills, both while in college and after graduation. Institutional SAACs are expected to help facilitate educational seminars (e.g., mental health, career planning, drug/alcohol prevention and financial education) for student-athletes. The Mountain West SAAC is expected to be informed on the permissible uses of the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) in order to educate their fellow student-athletes.

(Revised May 2011, July 2014)

Social Media and Technology

Mountain West SAAC Website

The [Mountain West SAAC Website](#) contains all the informational resources related to the ongoing activities of the Committee. Each institution is expected to host and maintain an institutional SAAC Website. The purpose of these Websites is to inform all student-athletes about current issues within the membership as well as the rights they have as student-athletes. Institutional SAAC Websites are as follows:

[Air Force](#)
[Colorado State](#)
[Fresno State](#)
[Nevada](#)

[New Mexico](#)
[San Diego State](#)
[San José State](#)
[UNLV](#)

[Utah State](#)

[Wyoming](#)

Facebook

All Mountain West student-athletes are encouraged to “like” the [Mountain West SAAC Facebook](#) page. Committee members are asked to invite other student-athletes to “like” the group. Institutions are also asked to post photos of their community service activities on the Mountain West SAAC group page.

Each institution is encouraged to create and maintain an institutional SAAC Facebook page. This will serve to increase visibility as well as to provide a mechanism for all student-athletes to have a voice within SAAC, even if not a member. Institutional SAAC Facebook sites are as follows:

[Colorado State](#)
[Fresno State](#)
[Nevada](#)
[New Mexico](#)

[San José State](#)
[UNLV](#)
[Utah State](#)
[Wyoming](#)

Twitter

The Mountain West SAAC also uses Twitter to keep student-athletes up-to-date with the latest happenings around the league and NCAA. The account can be followed at @MW_SAAC. Followers will have the opportunity to receive breaking news, updates, special announcements and much more. Committee members are encouraged to follow the account, and encourage fellow student-athletes to do the same. Institutional SAAC Twitter handles are as follows:

Colorado State: @CSUSAAC
Fresno State: @FSSAAC
Nevada: @NEVADASAAC
New Mexico: @UNMSAAC
SDSU: @AZTECSAAC

SJSU: @SJSUSAAC
UNLV: @UNLV_SAAC
Utah State: @USUSAAC
Wyoming: @UWSAAC

(Revised May 2012, July 2014, May 2015, July 2016, May 2022)

NCAA Division I National SAAC Information and Resources

Each NCAA Division I Conference is permitted to have one representative serve on the NCAA Division I SAAC. The standard term on the NCAA Division I SAAC is two years, with the option to renew for a third year. Mountain West Staff will collect nominees from each institution and three will be submitted to the NCAA for selection. In the case more than three nominees are submitted by institutions, the SAAC Executive Committee will review the candidates and select the final three nominees. The individual selected to serve on the National SAAC also will serve as a member of the Mountain West SAAC.

It is the responsibility of the NCAA representative to participate in conference calls and attend in-person meetings for both the Mountain West and NCAA. In conjunction with Mountain West staff, the representative will collect information, and share and advocate for the position of the Mountain West on NCAA legislation and issues at the national level. The representative also will be responsible for sharing information from the national level to members of the Mountain West SAAC via email, and updates on conference calls and in-person meetings.

[NCAA DI SAAC Website](#)

[NCAA DI SAAC Twitter:](#) @DIV1SAAC #OURvoice

Mountain West Member Institutions

<p style="text-align: center;">Air Force Academy</p> <p>Lt. General Richard Clark, Superintendent Nathan Pine, Director of Athletics Meg Martin, Faculty Athletics Representative Jennifer Block, Senior Woman Administrator Chris Cicere, SAAC Administrator Laura Hutcheon, SAAC Administrator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Boise State University</p> <p>Marlene Tromp, President Jeramiah Dickey, Director of Athletics Roger Munger, Faculty Athletics Representative Christina Van Tol, Senior Woman Administrator Kelli Nooney, SAAC Administrator Sara Swanson, SAAC Administrator</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Colorado State University</p> <p>Joyce McConnell, President Joe Parker, Director of Athletics Kyle Saunders, Faculty Athletics Representative Shalini Shanker, Senior Woman Administrator Marie Tyrrell, SAAC Administrator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fresno State</p> <p>Saul Jimenez-Sadoval, President Terry Tumey, Director of Athletics Victor Torres, Faculty Athletics Representative Carrie Coll, Senior Woman Administrator Carlie Corrigan, SAAC Administrator Carrie Coll, SAAC Administrator</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">University of Nevada</p> <p>Brian Sandoval, President Doug Knuth, Director of Athletics Paul Mitchell, Faculty Athletics Representative Rhonda Bennett, SWA & SAAC Administrator Nikita Amy, SAAC Administrator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">University of New Mexico</p> <p>Garnett Stokes, President Eddie Nuñez, Director of Athletics Karen Gaudreault, Faculty Athletics Representative Amy Beggin, Senior Woman Administrator Amanda Carroll, SAAC Administrator</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">San Diego State University</p> <p>Adela de la Torre, President John David Wicker, Director of Athletics Frank Harris, III, Faculty Athletics Representative Jenny Bramer, Senior Woman Administrator Sabrina White, SAAC Administrator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">San José State University</p> <p>Jolene Koester, President (Interim) Jeff Konya, Director of Athletics Tamar Semerjian, Faculty Athletics Representative Dedra Palmer, Senior Woman Administrator (Interim) Annalisa Duarte, SAAC Administrator Tobruk Blaine, SAAC Administrator</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">UNLV</p> <p>Keith E. Whitfield, President Erick Harper, Director of Athletics Brackley Frayer, Faculty Athletics Representative Mallory Poole, Senior Woman Administrator Mallory Poole, SAAC Administrator Sarah Wattenberg, SAAC Administrator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Utah State University</p> <p>Noelle Cockett, President John Hartwell, Director of Athletics Edward Heath, Faculty Athletics Representative Amy Crosbie, Senior Woman Administrator Waqa Damuni, SAAC Administrator</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">University of Wyoming</p> <p>Edward Seidel, President Tom Burman, Director of Athletics Scott Chamberlin, Faculty Athletics Representative Taylor Stuemky, Senior Woman Administrator Taylor Stuemky, SAAC Administrator</p>	

Mountain West SAAC Executive Committee

Briona Carswell, Air Force – Mountain West SAAC Chair

TBD – Mountain West SAAC Vice-Chair
Kaiya Johnson, SJSU – Mountain West Division I SAAC Representative
Kyle Elias, Nevada – Social Media Committee, Chair
TBD – Social Justice Committee, Chair

Mountain West SAAC Representatives by Institution

Air Force:

Briona Carswell
Anna Kemper

Marin Wilson

San Diego State:

April Ranches
Michael Shawcroft

Boise State:

Serena Huchingson
MaLeigha Menegatti

San José State:

Kaiya Johnson
Rebecca Petoe

Colorado State:

Peyton Allen
Dawson Besst

UNLV:

Isabella (Izzy) Perez
Isabella Bassock

Fresno State:

Mia Barr
Ella Rud

Utah State:

Zachary Meyer
Joshua Hartvigsen

Nevada:

Victoria Gailey
Kyle Elias

Wyoming:

Lydeke King
Jessica Zapf

New Mexico:

Gregory Brown

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