

From: Donna Lopiano [donnalopiano@sports-management-resources.ccsend.com] on behalf of Donna Lopiano [dlopiano@sportsmanagementresources.com]

Sent: Monday, July 14, 2008 10:26 AM

To: donnalopiano@aol.com

Subject: SMR Sports Management Newsletter



Sports Management Newsletter

June, 2008 - Vol 1, Issue 3

In This Issue

Developing Political Acumen

Leadership Among Student-Athletes and Captains

Key Elements and Best Practices: Academic Support Programs

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

FAQs

[Q: How long does it take to complete the process of creating a strategic plan?](#)

[Q: Why work to diversify revenue streams? Isn't it better to master one rather than be average at many?](#)

[Q: Is 'leadership' innate or can it be developed by intent?](#)

Dear Management Professional,



This issue focuses on leadership -- your own and that of student-athletes. We address the development of team captains, how sports managers can improve their political acumen and why athletics directors who establish strong ties with the faculty increase the prospect of student-athlete academic success and academic integrity. Each free monthly SMR newsletter covers similar timely management topics plus a selection of frequently asked questions (FAQs). Feel free to submit an FAQ for the next issue. Click on the button to the left to subscribe.

Developing Political Acumen



A good working definition of "politics" is "the ability to influence another person's thinking or actions". The athletics director or sports manager must be a master of politics, always working to persuade others to support the resource and other needs of their organizations. Political acumen is not intuitive; it is a **learned skill** that is essential for administrative success at every level.

Leadership Among Student-Athletes and Captains



Frequently, coaches lament that they don't have any true leaders on their teams. Leadership is such an important element of positive team chemistry and success, that its development should not be left to chance. Coaches need team captains now as well as an adequate supply of prospective leaders in the pipeline. Here's how to start a [leadership development program](#) for your coaches and student-athletes.

Key Elements and Best Practices: Academic Support Programs



Institutional risk related to the academic integrity of athletics programs is at an all-time high. Yet, the majority of college level student-athlete academic support programs are still being operated by athletics departments, an inherent 'conflict of interest' situation. It's easy to understand why the media and other observers are questioning whether athletics personnel are pressuring student-athletes into easy academic majors and courses where eligibility becomes less of a concern. Increasingly, the media is suggesting that athletes are leaving the university without viable career options or the academic training to pursue jobs for which they have an interest. Recent media reports have disclosed situations where athletic department advisors regularly registered athletes for independent study courses with the same professors who gave inflated grades for work of questionable academic rigor. Other stories have raised questions about whether student-athletes themselves or tutors paid by the athletics department are producing required academic work. As a result, many colleges and universities are taking steps to bring student-athlete academic support and advising programs under faculty control in order to make them more effective and academically defensible. Every athletics director should be aware of key issues in the academic integrity debate and [best practices in the design of academic support programs](#).

There is no tougher job than being an athletics director when you consider workloads and oversight responsibilities over multiple sports programs -- from hosting or attending hundreds of athletics events each year to protecting institutional integrity, ensuring rules compliance and executing a myriad of other responsibilities. Yet most athletics department administrative staffs are relatively small and few staff members have time to engage in regular in-service education. Check out the [SMR Library](#) for other information and resources or the [SMR Blog](#) for opinions on current scholastic and collegiate sports issues as well as general management topics. Suggestions for future newsletter topics are welcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna".

Donna A. Lopiano, President
[Sports Management Resources](#)

[Forward email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to donnalopiano@aol.com by dlopiano@sportsmanagementresources.com.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Sports Management Resources | 60 Harvest Moon Road | Easton | CT | 06612