



# Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

## Considerations for Research Involving Student-Athletes

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) is a Division II NCAA member. As such, it and its student-athletes must follow the rules and regulations of the NCAA in addition to the Common Rule and other regulations for research involving human subjects.

**This guidance is only for research projects which specifically target student athletes for recruitment or enrollment. It does not apply to projects where student athletes might participant incidentally (i.e., as part of the student population).**

All research projects specifically targeting recruitment and enrollment of UCCS student athletes should be approved by UCCS Athletic Compliance. Please email [akoehler@uccs.edu](mailto:akoehler@uccs.edu) prior to completing your IRB application. Please attach email correspondence to your IRB application. The following criteria will be used in determining compliance:

- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regulations
- Undue influence
- Risk for de-identification

When planning studies, researchers must also take care to protect student-athletes from particular risks unique to their student-athlete status and eligibility. For example:

- The UCCS Athletics Department does not make a determination regarding exemptions under FERPA. This will require a determination by the Office of the Registrar.
- Associate Athletics Director – Athletic Medicine will work with the Director of Campus Compliance / Privacy Officer for any requests related to protected health/medical related information to ensure proper safeguards are in place to protect the privacy of our athletes.
- Whenever possible, avoid paying student athletes in research studies in which they are being recruited BECAUSE they are student athletes. When compensation is provided in any study, student-athletes should be compensated at the same rate and in the same manner as nonathlete participant. According to NCAA regulations ([16.11.1.6](#)), compensation cannot be determined or provided by the athletics department.
- Include additional safeguards against coercion, such as clarity that participation or non-participation will not affect playtime, eligibility in any programs, or status as student-athlete. Employ third party recruitment strategies (e.g., avoiding recruitment from individuals in positions of authority).
- Protect anonymity and do not allow student-athletes to be used promotionally for the study.
- Certain study topics, subjects, or procedures may present special risk to student-athletes, such as drug use/drug testing.

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The Associate Athletics Director for Compliance or the Associate Athletics Director – Athletic Medicine can provide de-identified data to researchers if deemed appropriate and if the department has the data/manpower available to perform the activity.

[Contact the IRB](#) with any questions or concerns when planning studies involving UCCS student-athletes.

Contact Information for Athletics:

**Associate Athletics Director for Compliance**

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