

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS
“OPT-OUT” POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This form is used by the Athletic Compliance Office to provide information on the Texas A&M International University Policies and Procedures regarding “opt-out” of athletics activities during the academic year 20-21 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This information will be provided to a student-athlete when he/she expresses health related concerns relating to COVID-19.

1. Actions by all parties involved in decisions by TAMIU student-athletes to opt-out of participation in athletics for COVID-19 related reasons shall be governed by the relevant NCAA rules and regulations.
2. Any TAMIU student-athlete that chooses to opt out of his/her respective Fall 2020 season must first meet with the Head Coach and Athletic Director to discuss the basis for considering taking the step of opting out.
 - a. It is critical that the student athlete understand the full implications of taking this action and that coaches and staff have a full appreciation and understanding of the basis/concerns giving rise to the decision.
3. If the student-athlete makes the final decision to opt-out, he/she must notify the Head Sport Coach and Athletics Director in writing (a form will be available in the ARMS Workflow Launchpad for this purpose) of his/her decision to opt-out.
 - a. Texting coaches/staff, posting on social media, leaving a voicemail with coaches/staff will **not** be acceptable forms of notification.
4. Any student-athlete that opts out of his/her respective fall season due to concerns about contracting COVID-19 will not have his/her 2020-21 athletic financial aid impacted by that decision.
5. Student-athletes electing to opt-out will continue to have access to the Student Athlete Resource Center (SARC) and should work through their academic coordinator regarding class questions, tutor appointments, etc.
6. Student-athletes will continue to have access to sports medicine for rehabilitation and treatment purposes.
7. Student-athletes electing to opt-out will *not* be permitted to participate in any countable athletic related activities with the team, participate in voluntary athletics related activities with the team, virtual countable athletic related activities, or access athletics facilities (i.e. weight rooms, indoor practice facility, locker room, etc.).
8. Exceptions to provisions 6 and 7 above may be made at the discretion of the Director of Athletics/ Designee.
9. Student-athletes must remain enrolled full time (minimum 12 hrs undergraduate; 9 hrs graduate school).
 - a. Falling below full time or withdrawing from the institution will result in the cancellation of all athletic aid.
10. Student-athletes will remain bound by the Student Athlete Handbook, Code of Conduct, and all institutional codes of conduct.
11. Student-athletes must meet all satisfactory academic progress benchmarks of the NCAA and the Texas A&M International University.
12. All NCAA rules and regulations, including, but not limited to progress towards degree, banned substances, amateurism, recruiting and sports wagering will remain binding upon student athletes.
 - a. Opting out does not permit a student athlete to speak to other institutions, coaches and staff about transferring and participating in athletics.

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13. If the student athlete chooses to return and opt-in to athletically related activities, he/she must be cleared and follow all COVID19 medical protocols in place at the time and only after the Athletic Director, Head Coach, and Athletic Trainer approval of his/her return.