

## Athletics Statement of Philosophy

The overarching goal of PLNU athletics is to be an integral part of the total program of PLNU's mission "to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith." Under the departments of student development and athletics, Intercollegiate Athletics seeks to honor PLNU's core value of "the development of students as whole persons" in the lives of student-athletes.

The following principles and objectives guide the course of intercollegiate athletics at PLNU:

- 1) Student-athletes will develop the individual and team skills necessary to compete at the conference and regional levels. PLNU also welcomes the opportunity to compete nationally.
- 2) PLNU will clearly communicate its Christ-centered mission to all competitors and will affiliate with regional and national conferences that respect its mission and provide a reasonable level of competition.
- 3) PLNU maintains high academic standards for all students, including student-athletes. Scheduling of competition and travel will minimize academic disruption.
- 4) PLNU's athletic teams and spectators will cultivate a competitive environment of good sportsmanship, reflecting fairness in competition, humility in victory, and dignity in defeat.
- 5) Intercollegiate Athletics will provide opportunities for fan engagement and the cultivation of school spirit.
- 6) The Athletics Department will align its fundraising and promotional efforts with the efforts of the offices of University Advancement and Admissions.
- 7) Consistent with the history of the Church of the Nazarene and her affirmation of leadership by both women and men, Intercollegiate Athletics offers competitive opportunities to both women and men and fully complies with federal regulations related to gender equity.
- 8) PLNU hires and develops coaches who are committed to Christ, possess university level coaching knowledge and skills, maintain a high standard of personal conduct, and are committed to the character development of their athletes.
- 9) PLNU recruits student-athletes who understand and support the university mission. Each student-athlete will pursue a course of study designed to culminate in graduation from the university.
- 10) Athletic Programs will be sponsored based on: adequate facilities in proximate distance of campus, adequate economic support, adequate student interest, adequate opportunities for competition within regional and national conference affiliation, and within the context of capped enrollment.

## Point Loma Nazarene University – NCAA DII Strategic Positioning Platform

The PLNU Athletics Department mission statement is:

*PLNU champions a Christ-centered environment where student-athletes experience holistic growth while pursuing academic and athletic distinction.*

This mission statement supports the NCAA DII positioning statement by reflecting the same importance of life in balance. Additionally, PLNU strives to exhibit the six attributes of the

Division II Strategic Positioning Platform in these ways:

### **Balance**

The PLNU athletic mission statement reflects our commitment to each student-athletes' balanced experience here at Point Loma.

- PLNU has a missed class policy that reflects our dedication to keeping student-athletes in class at all times outside of competition. It has been updated this year.
- PLNU emphasizes spiritual growth for all students and has a chapel attendance policy. Chapels are a unique way we promote a balanced life through reflection.
- PLNU promotes on-campus living by providing numerous residential life programs and activities. It is required for all students to live on campus for at least their first two years. The intent is for all students to integrate into the university and engage with the campus community. The Athletic Department encourages student-athletes to live on campus and initiated our own housing policy this year. The new policy requires student-athletes to live on campus their first two years and implements additional requirements in order to live off campus. The desire is for student-athletes to be on-campus as long as possible during their college experience.
- The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee adopted a new mission statement dedicated to improving the lives of each student-athlete. SAAC also indicated new areas of emphasis for the coming year including higher levels of campus and community engagement and service projects.
- There are over 30 clubs and societies that student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in on campus.
- This year, we implemented the student-athlete survey for all student-athletes to help determine their needs and improve the overall student-athlete experience.

### **Learning**

We believe in educating both student-athletes and athletics department staff in NCAA rules and have established a weekly rules education program for department staff and a seasonal education program for each student-athlete.

- PLNU's missed class policy contributes to creating an environment focused on classroom instruction.

- The Athletics Department supports institutional goals of spiritual growth for each student through chapel attendance and coursework. We require three Bible courses for each student athletes that are in addition to their liberal arts courses.
- The Athletics Department works closely with the Office of Strengths and Vocations on campus. OSV offers resume building, interview workshops, internship assistance, personality testing, networking opportunities, and many other services to student-athletes. We believe that learning occurs through service and promoting student-athlete participation in athletic-sponsored service projects as well as university-sponsored projects and programs of which there are numerous things to choose from.
- We are a faith based institution and each semester we gather all of the student-athletes together to worship together and listen to a message for FCA day (Fellowship of Christian Athletes Day).
- We have established an annual event called Press Play during which former professional athletes whom are now in the business world come to campus to engage students by sharing their experiences and provide networking opportunities and interviewing tips.
- The campus provides tutoring services for all students.
- There are over 30 clubs and societies that student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in on campus.

Multiple offices on campus have collaborated to develop the Compliance Manual. NCAA rules and regulations education for all departments on campus is an important part of our learning development as an institution.

### **Resourcefulness**

PLNU gives students the tools to build a strong foundation in their faith which transfers to every part of their lives.

- Residential Life and Housing offers many activities for both fun and growth. We encourage our student-athletes to engage in these student body activities. These include game nights to no make-up week to hall events to campus-wide events.
- The Spiritual Development Office provides ministry opportunities ranging from local to abroad.
- The PLNU Compliance Committee holds members from all areas of expertise on campus including Student Financial Services, Records, Admissions, Athletics and Advising.
- The liberal arts curriculum ensures that student-athletes receive classes in all educational areas contributing to the holistic approach to education.
- Campus supported tutorial services are offered to all students.
- The Athletic Training Clinic and athletic trainers serve as a resource for student-athlete wellbeing and overall health.
- The Wellness Center on campus serves the student population by providing general medical attention as well as counseling and therapy resources.

PLNU Athletics began the process of moving the Point Loma Sports Associates from an independent booster club to be under institutional control.

### **Sportsmanship**

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is implementing a new program for student-athletes to have Brother-Sister teams to support each other and promote respect for visiting teams among the fans.

- Before every season, the Athletic Director meets with each team to educate them on the PLNU Athletics Department mission statement and how we are to conduct ourselves as model representatives of the University and of the sport participated in.
- Newly drafted game environment initiatives show our dedication to sportsmanship and creating a better, more engaging game environment.
- SAAC draft of game environment ideas presented to the administration.
- The Homecoming event at PLNU is during basketball season. Past years had seen unsportsmanlike conduct by spectators, but education of the fans and monitoring of the event has increased to create a respectful atmosphere.
- Our new student section, The Green Sea, met with athletics department personnel to be educated on cheering and supporting teams in a positive manner.

### **Passion**

As a faith based institution, PLNU is passionate about deepening student, faculty and staff's faith in addition to fostering an environment where education and service are important aspects of every student's life.

- PLNU coaches teach their sports with passion. At season's end, the Athletic Director evaluates each coach in this specific criteria.
- PLNU Athletics and the PLNU Student Activities Board collaborated to kick off THE GREEN SEA – a true student section for all athletic contests.
- The Athletics Department proved their dedication to increased fan and campus support by creating two new positions for marketing interns.
- The department-sponsored event, Superfest, demonstrates the athletics teams' commitment to ministry and youth. The event hosts 1500 youth and families for a day full of sports and evangelism. It is a truly passionate day where professional athletes combined with PLNU student-athletes meet the needs of underprivileged kids.
- Continued development of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee displays our passion for student-athlete welfare and involvement.
- There are over 30 clubs and societies for students to be involved in on campus.

### **Service**

- The department-sponsored event Superfest demonstrates the athletics teams' commitment to ministry and youth. The event hosts 1500 youth and families for a day full of sports and evangelism. It is a truly passionate day where professional athletes combined with PLNU student-athletes meet the needs of underprivileged kids.

- PLNU hosts Community Day and invites people from the community to come to campus for a day of fun and food. Student-athletes and staff are always involved with a booth and athletic skill demonstrations on-campus.
- This year, selected teams tested new ideas for community engagement including Faculty Appreciation Day, Community Day and Breast Cancer Awareness Day – all game related programs.
- Each year, we host the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day that is held concurrently with a baseball game.
- SAAC wrote their bylaws this year, hosted two new events and has several exciting plans in the works for next year.
- Individual teams participated in numerous service projects including Special Olympics volunteers, student-led Bible studies, Beacon of Hope Homeless Ministry, beach clean-up, community clean-up, and kids' game nights.

Each team is encouraged to serve the community as a team or individually. Coaches are charged with planning and implementing team functions.