Amateur Status
An amateur student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate athletics participation in a particular sport. You will lose your amateur status and will be ineligible for competition if you:
• Use your athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in your sport;
• Accept a promise of pay even if the pay is to be received following the completion of your intercollegiate athletics participation;
• Sign a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability;
• Receive, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based upon your athletics skill or participation;
• Compete on any professional athletics team, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses is received;
• Enter into any kind of agreement to compete in professional athletics, either orally or in writing, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement;
• Enter into an agreement with an agent; or
• Become involved in any commercial endorsement for a product, service or establishment.

Use of Agents
It is permissible for you to inquire of a professional sports organization about your eligibility for a professional-league player draft or request information about your market value without affecting your amateur status, provided you do not retain an agent. Please note the following regarding the use of agents. You will become ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if:
• You have ever agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing your athletics ability or reputation in that sport, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement;
• You have signed a contract or commitment that does not become binding until the agent signs the document, even if the contract remains unsigned by the other parties until after your eligibility is exhausted;
• You have ever entered into a verbal or written agreement with an agent for representation in future professional sports negotiations that are to take place after you have completed your eligibility;
• You or your relatives or friends accept money, gifts, transportation or any other benefits from:
  o Any person who represents any individual in the marketing of his or her athletics ability; or
  o An agent, even if the agent has indicated that he or she has no interest in representing you in the marketing of your athletics ability or reputation and does not represent individuals in your sport.

An agent is any individual who, directly or indirectly:
• Represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain; or
• Seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospect’s enrollment at an educational institution or from a student-athlete’s potential earnings as a professional athlete.
An agent may include, but is not limited to, a certified contract advisor, financial advisor, marketing representative, brand manager or anyone who is employed or associated with such persons.

**Legal Counsel and/or Financial Advisor**
Securing advice from a lawyer or a financial advisor concerning a proposed professional sports contract shall not be considered contracting for representation by an agent under this rule, unless the lawyer or financial advisor also represents the individual in negotiations for such a contract. The lawyer or financial advisor may not be used as a link between the student-athlete and the professional sports team organization. A lawyer or financial advisor may not be present during discussions of a contract offer with a professional organization or have any direct contact (i.e., in-person, by telephone or by mail) with a professional sports organization on behalf of the individual. A lawyer or financial advisor’s presence during such discussions is considered representation by an agent. **To maintain eligibility, the student-athlete must compensate the advisor at the normal rate.**

**Draft**
Subsequent to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, you lose amateur status in your sport when you ask to be placed on the draft list or supplemental draft list of a professional league in that sport, even though:
- You ask that your name be withdrawn from the draft list prior to the actual draft;
- Your name remains on the list but you are not drafted; or
- You are drafted but do not sign an agreement with any professional athletics team.

**Professional Men’s Basketball Draft Exception**
A basketball student-athlete may enter a professional league's draft one time during his collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided:
- The student-athlete requests that his name be removed from the draft list and declares his intent to resume intercollegiate participation not later than the end of the day before the first day of the spring National Letter of Intent signing period for the applicable year;
- The student-athlete’s declaration of intent (to resume intercollegiate participation) is submitted in writing to the athletics director; and
- The student-athlete is not drafted.

**Professional Football Draft Exception**
An enrolled student-athlete may enter the National Football League draft one time during his collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league and the student-athlete declares his intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 72 hours following the National Football League draft declaration date. The student-athlete's declaration of intent shall be in writing to the athletics director.

**Sports Other Than Basketball and Football**
An enrolled student-athlete may enter a professional league’s draft one time during his or her collegiate career without jeopardizing his or her eligibility in the sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted and within 72 hours following the draft he or she declares his or her intention to resume participation in intercollegiate athletics. The student-athlete’s declaration of intent must be in writing to the athletics director.
Tryouts with Professional Teams
You may tryout with a professional athletics team (or participate in a combine including that team) at any time, provided you DO NOT miss class. You may receive actual and necessary expenses in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per professional team (or a combine including that team). The 48-hour tryout period begins at the time you arrive at the tryout location. At the completion of the 48-hour period, you must depart the location of the tryout immediately in order to receive return transportation expenses. A tryout may extend beyond the 48 hours if you self-finance any additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time, provided you DO NOT miss class.

- A basketball student-athlete may accept actual and necessary travel, room and board expenses from a professional sports organization to attend that organization’s basketball draft combine regardless of the duration of the camp.
- In men’s ice hockey, a student-athlete may accept actual and necessary travel, and room and board expenses from the NHL to attend the NHL scouting combine, regardless of the duration of the combine.

During a tryout, a student-athlete may not take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team. It is permissible to participate in practice sessions conducted by a professional team, provided the tryout meets the above legislation and the individual does not:
- Receive any compensation for participation in the practice sessions;
- Enter into any contract or agreement with a professional team or sports organization; or
- Take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team.

In men’s ice hockey, during a tryout, a student-athlete may participate in practice sessions conducted by a professional team, provided the tryout meets the above legislation and the individual does not:
- Receive any compensation for participation in the practice sessions;
- Enter into any contract or agreement with a professional team or sports organization; or
- Take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of a professional team.

It is not permissible for an MSU coaching staff member to arrange for or direct student-athletes’ participation in football or basketball practice sessions conducted by a professional team.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Office of Compliance Services at 432-5510.