Compliance Area:  **Outside Competition**

Intercollegiate competition is considered to have occurred when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution does any of the following:
- Represents the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies;
- Competes in the uniform of the institution, or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) received from the institution that includes institutional identification; or
- Competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, room or entry fees) from the institution for the competition.

For a MSU student-athlete to participate in unattached competition, the following NCAA/Big Ten Rules apply:

**Exhibitions – Open Events**
An exhibition or open event conducted in any regularly scheduled intercollegiate meet involving Big Ten universities must be counted as intercollegiate competition. An open event may be held within a scheduled intercollegiate meet as long as the open event is scheduled, publicized and notice is given to the Conference office 30 days in advance. If the event is open, an amateur athlete with no intercollegiate eligibility remaining may compete. [Big Ten 17.02.8 A]

**Prior Approval**
To participate in competition while not representing the institution during or between terms of the regular academic year, a student-athlete must obtain prior written approval from the sport administrator PRIOR to the competition. [Big Ten 14.7, 17.02.9]

**Important Points to Remember**
- MSU may not provide a student-athlete with expenses (e.g., meals, entry fee, lodging, transportation).
- Student-athletes may not wear MSU issued uniforms.
- The student-athlete may not score points for MSU.
- MSU may not provide athletics training support or other medical services prior to or after the competition for student-athletes who are competing unattached. If a trainer has been designated by the competition host to provide services to all participants, such services may be provided to unattached student-athletes.
- MSU coaches may not provide coaching and/or instruction to student-athletes competing unattached. In addition, coaching staff members may not direct participating student-athletes to engage in coaching or instructional activities with student-athletes who are competing unattached. A coaching staff member may engage in coaching activities with a student-athlete during the student-athlete's participation in established national championship events (including junior national championships and Olympic, Pan American, World Championships, World Cup and World University games qualifying competition).
- A student-athlete participating in unattached competition may not accept cash and/or prizes for their athletics performance without jeopardizing their eligibility for intercollegiate competition.
Identification of the unattached student-athlete's institutional affiliation (e.g., in a game program, by an announcer), in and of itself, does not constitute representation of the institution in intercollegiate competition; however, it is advisable that the unattached student-athlete's participation is clearly defined as being independent of the institution in order to avoid any confusion related to the student-athlete's participation.

**Procedure:**

Student-athletes must complete the Unattached Competition form prior to participating in an unattached competition.

**Forms Used for Documentation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Form/Report</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unattached Competition Form</td>
<td>Prior approval for student-athlete's participation in unattached competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>