

Pregnancy Statement

West Virginia University

Intercollegiate Athletics

What to do if you become pregnant?:

We recognize that a student-athlete's pregnancy is often a stressful event. As soon as you learn that you are pregnant, we encourage you to tell someone with whom you feel safe or who can best support you during this difficult time. While you are in the best position to determine who is safe to discuss your pregnancy, we will respect your confidentiality within our institution as long as it is medically safe to do so. At West Virginia University, we want to help you achieve your academic goals while protecting your physical and psychological health and the health of your pregnancy. You should know that many student-athletes have traversed through these same life transitions successfully, and there is usually no reason to make overly-rushed decisions.

Who can help you?

We encourage you to find someone trusted within our institution that can help you navigate through the numerous decisions that confront you. Our institution has a number of people that are equipped to help you, such as our athletics department counseling services, representatives of the School of Medicine, the College of Nursing, the College of Education, Human Resources, the Student Health Center, clergy, the Carruth Center, the Women's Center, our team physician or others.

What happens to your team membership?

Federal law provides many legal protections for your continued involvement with our athletic department. As long as you are in good academic standing with the University and you do not voluntarily withdraw from your team, federal law protects your membership on the team. This would include access to services provided to other student-athletes with injury or temporary disabilities, such as academic tutoring, training table, medical services, and rehabilitation services, among others. We will modify your workouts as your pregnancy progresses, if needed. Federal law also requires us to grant you as much leave as is medically necessary and to reinstate you to active team membership.

What is covered by your medical insurance?

Our athletics department will cover your medical expenses and provide the same health benefits provided to other student-athletes with injuries, illnesses or medical conditions, including counseling services, physical examinations, medical treatment, surgical expenses, medication, rehabilitation and physical therapy expenses and dental expenses. You should contact the athletics department's insurance benefits coordinator Donna Beatty (phone 304-293-9543, fax 304-293-6902). Insurance and medical care for the student-athlete related to the pregnancy or for the baby is not covered by the athletic department.

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