Effective August 1, 2015, Michigan State University [University or MSU] adopted Standards for Safeguarding Institutional Governance of Intercollegiate Athletics [Institutional Standards or Standards] to help reinforce the integrity of the governance and operation of its intercollegiate athletics program. The Institutional Standards conform with the Big Ten Conference Standards approved by the Big Ten Council of Presidents/Chancellors on June 1, 2014 (effective August 1, 2015). The Institutional Standards reflect the University’s policies, practices and procedures with respect to the operation of its Department of Intercollegiate Athletics [Athletics Department] and units within the University that interact with the Athletics Department, including academic support, compliance, admissions, student discipline, medical and athletic training services, and financial aid. In accordance with Big Ten Conference requirements, on November 28, 2018 the University conducted its annual review meeting of the effectiveness of its Institutional Standards during 2017-2018 and submits the following report.

I. Annual Review Committee

The annual review committee was led by the MSU Faculty Athletics Representative (M. Kaplowitz) charged as MSU's Standards Lead Representative and included the following individuals:

- Director of Intercollegiate Athletics (W. Beekman)
- Senior Associate Athletics Director for Compliance Services and Senior Women’s Administrator (J. Smith)
- Executive Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Services (J. Pignataro)
- Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel (R. Young via phone)
- MSU Health Team CEO (M. Herbert)
- MSU’s Assistant Provost/Chief Medical Officer (A. Avellino)
- Associate General Counsel and Secretary of the Board of Trustees (N. White Barr)
- President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (B. Higgins)
- Vice President for Student Affairs & Services (D. Maybank)

II. Implementation & Compliance Efforts

During the 2017-2018 compliance period, the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Athletics Department, and the Faculty Athletic Representative continued to use the Standards as a benchmark for evaluating and educating others about the alignment of intercollegiate athletics within the University’s overall governance and operational structures.
The University took the following steps to achieve compliance with the Standards and to avoid governance-related problems in athletics:

- Distributed the Standards to new members of the Athletics Department and staff of units that interact with the Athletics Department.
- Presented the annual report on athletics compliance to the Board of Trustees Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reported to the Board of Trustees on athletics compliance at the Board meeting on September 8, 2017. The Board also reviews Athletics Department program priorities, as they are reflected in the annual Board-approved Department budget.
- Continued to educate coaches, staff, student-athletes and others involved with Athletics program about detecting and preventing violations of the Standards and their reporting obligations with respect thereto.
- Performed internal audits of the Athletics Department including the annual audit of the Office of Compliance Services.
- Performed an academic audit, through the Office of the Registrar, to detect and prevent clustering in courses or majors.
- Conducted information, listening, and feedback forums for student-athletes to provide information, address concerns, and learn about issues.
- Restructured and clarified the athletic medicine organizational infrastructure with strengthened and transparent checks and balances. Created a Director of Athletic Medicine. All athletic medicine providers and staff, including athletic trainers, will report to the Director of Athletic Medicine, who has medical oversight and who directly reports to MSU’s Assistant Provost/Chief Medical Officer, not through the Athletics Department.
- Developed a Quality Medical Oversight Committee, which tracks rates of injury, reviews injury occurrences, and triages behavioral and mental health concerns of student-athletes.
- Updated and implemented new quality and safety policies and procedures including chaperone policy, consent to treat, volunteer/practice location approval, drug policy, sports medicine and performance manual, and strength and conditioning handbook.
- Restructured the service-level agreement between MSU Health Team and the Athletics Department to increase athletic medicine resources including the recruitment of a female primary care physician, increased behavioral health support, increased full-time athletic trainers, and support for athletic training program faculty recruitment.
- Adopted a two-Faculty Athletics Representative [FAR] model. Appointed two new FAR.
- Monitored and responded to MSU “Misconduct Hotline” calls. During FY18, there was one Athletics call, one such call during FY17, and one such call in FY16. Total number of calls to the hotline increased from 43 in FY16 to 86 in FY18.
III. Violations

There were no violations of the Institutional Standards during the 2017-2018 reporting period.

The finding of no violations of Institutional Standards is based on, among other things, reports received from the University’s Office of Financial Aid; Office of Admissions; Office of the General Council; Assistant Provost/Chief Medical Officer; Office of Student Affairs and Services; and Office of the Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education.

IV. Systematic Failures

No systematic failures of the Institutional Standards were identified or reported during the 2017-2018 reporting period.

The finding of no systematic failures of the Institutional Standards is in line with the findings reported by the NCAA in their letter of August 29, 2018. The NCAA, as part of their oversight duties, investigated whether any NCAA violations occurred related to Larry Nassar or whether any NCAA violations occurred related to football and men’s basketball. The NCAA found no such violations as per their August 29, 2018 letter.

V. Amendments

No amendments were made to the Institutional Standards during the 2017-2018 reporting period.

However, amendments to the Institutional Standards are expected during 2018-2019 so that the Standards reflect institutional changes including the adoption of a two-FAR model and the hiring of an Assistant Provost for Student Wellness, Health and Safety/Chief Medical Officer.

Submitted December 7, 2018