
Athletics and Recreation

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Athletic Department of the College of the Holy Cross is to promote the intellectual, physical, and moral development of students. Through Division I athletic participation, our young men and women student-athletes learn a self-discipline that has both present and long-term effects: the interplay of individual and team effort; pride and self-esteem in both victory and defeat; a skillful management of time; personal endurance and courage; and the complex relationships between friendship, leadership, and service. Our athletics program, in the words of the College Mission Statement, calls for “a community marked by freedom, mutual respect, and civility.”

Besides teaching these virtues, a few sports played at Holy Cross have the added value of focusing alumni and student support and enhancing our reputation locally and nationally. While Holy Cross continues to commit itself to accomplishment in these sports, which are a rich part of our tradition, we choose to do so in a way that complements the pursuit of academic excellence.

Holy Cross is committed to the guiding principles of the Patriot League, of which we are a founding member: presidential control of athletics; the cultivation of the ideal scholar-athlete; and participation in a wide variety of sports. Commitment to the last principle assures that the College sponsors, in a very evident way, gender equity.

The Department of Athletics is also committed to compliance with all College policies and regulations involved in Division I membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC). As a member of the NCAA, Holy Cross also advocates student-athlete welfare, diversity, gender equity, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct in its athletic programs.

Intercollegiate Sports

Sponsoring a comprehensive athletic program at the NCAA Division I level, the College has 27 varsity athletic teams. Intercollegiate sports for men are baseball, basketball, crew, cross country, football, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, and indoor and outdoor track and field. Crusader women compete in basketball, crew, cross country, field hockey, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, and volleyball. A charter member of the Patriot League, Holy Cross competes with American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Lafayette, Lehigh, and Navy in conference play. In non-league competition, the Crusaders face numerous top Division I programs, including many opponents from the Ivy League, Big East, and Atlantic Coast Conference. The men's ice hockey team is a member of the Atlantic Hockey Association. The Women's Golf Team is a member of the Big South Conference.

Clubs and Intramurals

The College sponsors co-ed clubs in equestrian, sailing, skiing, soccer, Ultimate Frisbee and ballroom dancing. For women, there are lacrosse and rugby clubs, while men participate in ice hockey, lacrosse and volleyball at the club level. The College also provides an active intramural program. Men participate in basketball and flag football at the intramural level. Women's intramural basketball is also a popular activity. Men and women compete together in softball, tennis, floor hockey and volleyball.

Facilities

Athletic facilities at Holy Cross are excellent. The College's athletic fields are superbly maintained by its award-winning grounds staff. The football stadium seats 23,500. A lighted Astro-turf field is surrounded by an eight-lane running track. Baseball and softball fields are located on the lower campus. Construction of a new 3,000-seat baseball stadium was completed in spring 2005. A new soccer facility seating 1,320 became available for play in fall 2006.

The Hart Recreation Center serves as home to the Crusader basketball, swimming, hockey and volleyball teams. In addition to the 3,600-seat basketball arena, 1,400-seat ice rink, and six-lane swimming pool with a separate diving area, the Hart Center features squash and racquetball courts, locker and shower facilities, exercise equipment and a rowing practice tank. The newest addition to the Hart Center is a state-of-the-art wellness center. The wellness center includes a specialized strength and conditioning facility for varsity student-athletes, as well as aerobic equipment and workout areas for the general student body.

The fieldhouse has a tartan surface and contains basketball and volleyball courts, a running track, and locker rooms. The fieldhouse also serves as a practice site for several teams and clubs.

The men's and women's crew teams have the good fortune of rowing on Lake Quinsigamond, scene for many years of the Eastern Sprints rowing regatta and considered one of the world's finest venues for crew. The lake also serves as the home port for the sailing club.