

REGULATIONS FOR ELITE STUDENT ATHLETES

(DECISION N° 9/XXXI OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 14TH JUNE 2010, MODIFIED BY DECISION N° 40/XII OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 1ST JULY 2013, DECISION N° 49/XIV OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 2ND JUNE 2014, DECISION N° 59/XV OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 8TH JUNE 2015, DECISION N° 119/XIX OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 20TH DECEMBER 2021 AND DECISION N° 140/XXV OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AND DECISION N°146/XV OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 19/05/2025)

In the event of a divergence between the English and French versions of these regulations, the French version shall prevail.

Foreword

Elite athletes who wish to pursue higher education are subject to both academic and sporting requirements. These mainly consist of physical and technical preparations and participation in national and international competitions, the dates of which may coincide with other events during the academic year.

The possibility of organising the university year with a high degree of flexibility is one of the main wishes of these students. Many European and Belgian universities have made provisions to facilitate the organisation of studies without affecting quality.

In the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, the Decree of the Government of the French Community of 17th December 2020 outlines the procedure to recognise students as elite athletes, aspiring athletes, top referees, young talent, athletes in training, or training partners, according to the definition outlined in the Decree of 3rd May 2019 on the organised sports movement in the French Community.

Preliminary Note

For the purposes of these Regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

Dean: the Deans of the Faculties, the President of the School of Human and Social Sciences, and the President of the Teacher Training Institute of the University of Mons (UMONS).

Faculties: the UMONS Faculties, the UMONS School of Human and Social Sciences, and the UMONS Teacher Training Institute.

Article 1: “Elite Student Athlete” Status¹

Students who wish to be granted “elite student athlete” status must apply for this by completing a form to this effect and submitting it, along with any other required documents, to the secretariat of the Faculty concerned as soon as possible after registration and by 15th October at the latest. The deadline of 15th October may be extended if recognition of one of the statuses mentioned in the following paragraph is granted during the academic year.

The Minister of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, whose remit includes sport, must recognise the status of elite athletes, aspiring athletes, top referees, young talent, athletes in training, or training partners (in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Decree of the French Community of 17th December 2020), the proof of which must be included in the application.

In cases where the elite athlete is not under the jurisdiction of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, or if they practise their sport abroad, or if they find themselves in any other situation not covered by the Decree, the student must submit another document attesting to the approval of this status.

A schedule of sporting activities planned for the year is also attached.

The application is examined by the Dean of the Faculty concerned, or their delegate.

Students who have submitted proof of recognition of the status of elite athlete, aspiring athlete, top referee, young talent, athlete in training, or training partner (in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Decree of the French Community of 17th December 2020), from the Minister of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation whose remit includes sport, are automatically granted “elite student athlete” status.

For students in another situation, the Dean, or their delegate, examines the request and decides whether or not to grant “elite student athlete” status for one academic year.

The Faculty Secretariat notifies the student, the Registration Office, the President of the Board, and the teachers of the programme that the student is registered on, of the decision made.

A new application may have to be re-submitted every year, if required.

Article 2: Reduced Workload

Students who have been granted “elite student athlete” status may benefit from a reduced workload in accordance with the provisions of Chapter X of the Study Regulations.

¹ “Elite student athlete” is used here in the broadest sense of the term, with the status being granted particularly to elite athletes, aspiring athletes, top referees, young talent, athletes in training, or training partners (in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Decree of the French Community of 17th December 2020), as well as to students in other situations, at the discretion of the Dean of the Faculty or their delegate.

Article 3: Schedule and Deadline Adjustments

1. Learning Activities

Following a decision made by the Dean, in consultation with the President of the Board, elite student athletes may, for justified reasons, be partially exempt from fulfilling the learning activities, if it is impossible to find a solution that would make studying and participating in sports activities compatible.

The following may be considered as just cause:

- Participation in regular training sessions or training camps at national or regional (FWB) level, in preparation for national or international selection;
- Preparation for, or participation in, an important international or national competition.

2. Assessments

During the assessment periods, if objective reasons (assessed by the Dean) related to the sporting activities schedule, and if the obligations of the “elite student athlete” justify it, the date of an assessment may, at the student’s request, be changed. These measures are decided by the Dean, in consultation with the President of the Board. If necessary, and depending on the circumstances, the assessment methods may differ from those initially envisaged. In such cases, the student will be informed by the teacher at the earliest opportunity.

An “elite student athlete” faced with a case of *force majeure* may request a session extension for this reason, in accordance with the procedure defined in Article 15 of the Assessment Panel Policy and Examination Regulations (Annexe 0 of the Study Regulations). If warranted, the Dean will decide whether to extend the assessment period.

3. Other

Elite student athletes may ask the teacher concerned to consider delaying the return of their personal work.

Application for Recognition of “Elite Student Athlete” Status
Academic Year 20....-20....

This form must be returned to the Secretariat of the Faculty concerned as soon as possible after registration and by 15th October at the latest².

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT

Last name, first name :

.....

UMONS ID number: Tel./Mobile:

Email address (written in UPPERCASE) :

.....

Student's course of study:

.....

Campus: ☐ Mons / ☐ Charleroi

requests the Dean of the Faculty, or their delegate, to recognise the student's “elite student athlete” status for the **20.... -20....³** academic year.

The following documents are attached to my application:

☐ proof of recognition of the status of elite athletes, aspiring athletes, top referees, young talent, athletes in training, or training partners (in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Decree of the French Community of 17th December 2020), from the Minister of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation whose remit includes sport.

☐ any other supporting document not covered by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, if I am an elite athlete and practice my sport abroad, or if I am in a situation not covered by the Decree of the French Community of 17th December 2020.

☐ a schedule of sporting activities planned for the year.

I certify that this information is true, accurate and complete.

Signed in on

Signature:

² The deadline of 15th October may be extended if recognition of the status of elite athlete, elite referee, promising athlete, young talent, athlete in transition or training partner is granted by the Minister of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation responsible for sport during the academic year.

³ The status is granted for one academic year. The application may have to be re-submitted every year, if required.

In addition, the data may be used for statistical purposes.

The data controller is UMONS (whose registered office is located at 20 Place du Parc, 7000 Mons, Belgium). If you have any queries about data processing, you can contact your Faculty/School.

They are kept for an indefinite period.

In accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), you may exercise your rights with regard to your personal data (right of access, rectification, opposition, limitation). In the event of a dispute concerning your personal data, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Authority (<https://www.autoriteprotectiondonnees.be>). You are advised to first contact our Data Protection Officer (dpo@umons.ac.be), who is your contact person for all questions regarding your personal data. You can consult our privacy policy here: www.umons.ac.be/ViePriveeEtudiant.

Dean's remarks	Signature:
Decision	The Dean, or their delegate ☐ recognises the student's “elite student athlete” status for the 20.... -20.... academic year ☐ does not recognise any special status Faculty stamp