



ATU Sport

Recreational Guidelines 2025-2026

ATU Sport provides a Recreational Programme focused on inclusive participation for all students and staff who wish to exercise, keep fit, and play sport in a safe and fun environment. The Programme promotes health, well-being, and engagement at all experience levels and aims to be flexible to each campus's needs.

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ATU Recreational Sports Program

ATU Sports Recreational Programme encompasses all internal recreational physical activities, including national campaigns from third-level bodies and local partnerships.

The recreational programme is divided into 3 categories:

- a) Recreational sports clubs
- b) On campus physical activity
- c) Physical Activity Campaigns

1. Recreational Sports Clubs

Students and staff who wish to form a sports club for recreational non-competitive purpose will come under this category.

1.1 Standard Provisions

Subject to sports officer approval, recreational clubs will have access to:

Facilities – Approved recreational clubs/activities will be allocated access to on-campus facilities, including sports halls, studios, and pitches, for a minimum of one hour per week, where possible.

- Where demand exceeds available capacity, priority will be given to ensuring that all approved clubs receive their minimum weekly allocation before additional hours are distributed. Any additional facility time will be allocated using clear, fair, and consistent criteria.
 - Facility allocations will also take club attendance numbers into consideration to ensure that clubs are assigned spaces appropriate to their size and activity needs.
 - Clubs are expected to make full and responsible use of their allocated timeslots. Where a club is unable to attend a scheduled session, a minimum of 24 hours' notice must be provided in accordance with the relevant campus cancellation process.
 - Failure to attend two allocated sessions within a semester without prior notice may result in the matter being reviewed by the Campus Sports Officer.
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- **Equipment:** Basic equipment (e.g., bibs, balls, markers, nets, posts), provided by the Sports Office/Sports Centre or Students' Union. All equipment remains the property of these offices. Requests for additional equipment can be made to the campus sports officer for consideration. An inventory of each team's provision must be completed by every club annually at the beginning and end of the academic year and submitted to the ATU Campus Sport Service. This will be used to determine equipment requirements for the forthcoming year. Each recreational club must organise and be responsible for the maintenance,

storage and return of all equipment that is assigned to the team following the end of each session.

- **Staff Support:** Guidance and assistance from Sports Officers and Sports Centre staff.
- **Promotion:** A profile on the SU Life platform to support recruitment and advertising.
- **Internal Travel:** Travel between ATU campuses for recreational events, note this is subject to Sports Office approval.

1.2 Additional Provisions – Subject to Approval

Depending on the nature of the recreational activity clubs may also access:

- **Coaching:** Where a supervised coach is required for safety reasons, members must contribute towards coaching costs. Contributions will vary depending on the activity and demand.
- **External Facilities:** When on-campus facilities are unavailable, clubs may apply for external facility rental, with associated costs considered by the Sports Office.
- **Individual Competitors:** Students who wish to represent ATU individually at recreational competitions must complete an [individual competitor funding application](#).

1.3 Club Requirements

To qualify for support, recreational clubs must:

- Recruit and advertise through SU Life, Clubs & Societies Day, and social media.
- Appoint at least two **Student Liaison Officers** to coordinate with Sports Staff (a full committee structure may be established instead if preferred).
- Ensure the club is covered under ATU insurance.
- Adhere to the ATU Student Code - [AQAE006 Student Code Policy](#)
- Clubs should aim to maintain participation levels appropriate to their activity and allocated facility space. Where attendance levels begin to decline, staff may work with clubs to identify supports and explore adjustments such as changes to session times, promotion, or session format before facility allocations are reviewed.
- Clubs are required to maintain accurate weekly attendance records and submit these to the Sports Officer upon request.

Student Liaison Officer Role

The Student Liaison Officer supports the recreational club and communicates with the Sports Office on the club's behalf. Each recreational club should appoint at least two Student Liaison Officers, ideally one from years 1–2 and one from years 3–4, to ensure continuity between academic years. These positions do not require a formal election but must be registered with the Sports Office or the Clubs & Societies Office at the Students' Union.

Student Liaison Officers are responsible for:

- Setting up the club on SU Life and maintaining its profile.
- Accepting the Clubs and Societies guidelines on their campus upon registration & adhering to these recreational guidelines.
- Ensure weekly attendance numbers are recorded and shared with sports office.
- Reporting incidents or accidents promptly (ideally within 48 hours) to the Sports Office.
 - Where such an incident occurs at the ATU Sport campus, it must be reported to the staff or coach on duty at the venue who will then complete the **ATU Accident/Incident Report Form**.
- **Non-ATU Staff:** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE FORM](#)
- **ATU Students:** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE FORM](#)
 - Where an incident occurs on an away/neutral (not on an ATU Campus facility), it is the responsibility of the student liaison officer to complete the form.

2. On Campus Physical Activities

On-campus physical activities include initiatives such as fitness classes, 5K runs, and social leagues.

2.1 Provisions

Participants in on-campus activities will have access to:

- Indoor and outdoor campus facilities.
- Sports Office/Sports Centre equipment.

- Qualified instructors for fitness classes - please note: where qualified instructors are required to run fitness classes or courses, students and staff will be required to contribute financially.
- Support and advertisement from the Sports Office/Sports Centre.
- Insurance cover.

2.2 Requirements

To qualify for these provisions, activities must:

- Involve a minimum number of active student/staff participants (numbers vary by campus and activity).
- Be covered under ATU insurance.
- Take place at times suitable for students. Where possible, activities may also be extended to staff and the wider community.

3. Physical Activity Campaigns

Physical activity-based campaigns involve initiatives by external bodies (e.g. Sport Ireland, Local Sports Partnerships) or internal student groups.

3.1 Provisions

Campaigns may be supported with:

- Indoor and outdoor facilities (subject to demand and season).
- Sports Office/Sports Centre equipment.
- Promotion and support from the Sports Office/Sports Centre. (Note – co-ordination of the campaign is the responsibility of the external body or student group)

3.2 Requirements

To qualify for support campaigns must:

- Be covered under university insurance

- Support and promotional material must be made available from external body or student body leading the campaign

4. Sponsorship & Fundraising

4.1 Recreational clubs may explore the possibility of sponsorship & fundraising opportunities.

- All sponsorship ideas must be provided to the ATU Campus Sport Service before a final decision is made to proceed.
- Sponsorship cards/letters can be provided from the ATU Campus Sports Service.
- ATU will not permit sponsorship of Alcohol/Tobacco/Gambling related companies.
- Funds can be raised through raffles or competitions. Prizes for such raffles cannot be provided through funding received from Clubs and Societies budget.
- As per the Student Alcohol Policy, alcohol or items promoting alcohol brands, licensed entertainment venues, tobacco or gambling companies cannot be used as prizes. All funds raised must go through the sports office and be recorded on SU Life.
- ATU Recreational club should always refer and align to ATU Clubs and Societies Guidelines on their campus in relation to any fundraising activity

5. Sportswear & Leisurewear

- Recreational club leisurewear items are not funded by ATU.
- Clubs may purchase leisurewear using their own funds or through fundraising. All leisurewear must comply with ATU Sport Leisurewear Guidelines (see Resources section on SU Life)
- Sponsorship promoting alcohol brands or licensed entertainment venues is not permitted on club leisurewear. For reference, please adhere to club leisurewear guidelines: [CLUB LEISUREWEAR GUIDELINES](#)
- In cases where an individual club member competes on behalf of ATU, a returnable ATU Sport jersey/top will be provided.