

## **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESNO STUDENT ATHLETE RECRUITMENT CODE**

### **ATHLETICS MISSION**

The mission statement of the intercollegiate athletic department states, in part, that:

"The Department of Athletics complements the academic mission of the University by offering students an athletic experience of high quality through broad-based, competitive sports programs for both men and women. To provide such an experience, the department is committed to integrity and excellence in both athletics and academics through a comprehensive academic support system.

"As part of the collegiate experience, athletic competition provides student-athletes with a wide range of opportunities to enhance their intellectual, physical, personal and social development. The department's goal is to have student athletes develop skills and graduate and assist them to become productive citizens and succeed in life.

"Since competition is the trademark of intercollegiate athletics, the Department of Athletics is committed to achieving the full potential of each team and each athlete while maintaining compliance with the rules and regulations set forth by the Western Athletic Conference, the National Collegiate Athletic Association for Division IA membership, and the rules and procedures established by the California State University, Fresno. Dedication to athletic and academic excellence will be reflected in the performance of all University teams."

### **RECRUITING PHILOSOPHY**

The Athletic Department seeks talented student-athletes to represent the university playing on its intercollegiate sports teams. The talent shall have been demonstrated in the realms of character development, academic achievement, and athletic performance. The prospective student-athlete is expected to be able to meet the university's standards in the classroom, on the field, and for their department.

Intercollegiate sports are highly valued by the university and the community. It is recognized that participation in Division I athletics affords student-athletes a wonderful opportunity to realize the ideals of sports. The aspirations include such noble aims as: pursuing excellence, being competitive, setting goals, working hard, cultivating talent, developing stamina, finding courage, gaining maturity, building character, learning self-discipline, playing fair, appreciating teamwork, becoming selfless, respecting others, demonstrating sportsmanship, and exhibiting leadership as well as winning magnanimously and losing graciously.

The powerful effect of sports on student athletes and the substantial influence of athletic role models on others should never be underestimated. Therefore, the Athletic Department seeks prospective student athletes who are dedicated to achieving these sports ideals and to taking full advantage of the privilege afforded them by the university.

## RECRUITING POLICIES

The intent of this policy is to be applied to all prospective student-athletes being considered for team membership and/or athletic aid at Fresno State whether "recruited" student-athletes, under the definition of a recruit according to NCAA bylaw, or those students considered "walk-on."

We will recruit and sign prospective student-athletes who:

- clearly have a desire to succeed in the classroom as well as on the field of play;
- have demonstrated the ability to engage in their sport in a sportsman-like manner;
- are good citizens and community members;
- are committed to personal development as persons

We will stop recruiting or signing prospective student-athletes who:

- are currently charged with a felony
- are currently charged with a misdemeanor involving drug use/possession, violence, or other anti-social behaviors;

We will not recruit or sign prospective student-athletes who:

- have previously violated NCAA regulations;
- have been convicted of a felony ( or found to have committed an act as a juvenile that would constitute a felony if committed as an adult);
- have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving drug use/possession, violence, or other anti-social behaviors;
- have demonstrated a lack of cooperation with coaches and other leaders;
- are perceived as being unwilling to abide by the rules and regulations of the university and the Athletic Department as specified in the Student Athlete Code of Conduct

These policies are intended to ensure the Athletic Department recruits only those student-athletes whom coaches believe to be of good character and who can succeed academically in the university. If a coach, or any other person acting as a recruiter, feels that there is compelling reasons to make an exception to these policies, approval must be achieved as follows:

- A) If the prospective student-athlete has a history of a lack of cooperation with coaches, the recruiting coach must provide evidence of a change in the athlete's behavior. The Athletic Director will review the evidence and make a decision as to whether an exception is warranted.
- B) If the prospective student-athlete has violated NCAA regulations, he/she has the responsibility to provide the coach with the necessary data surrounding the violation, and evidence that he/she has been cleared by the NCAA, and is eligible to participate.
- C) If the prospective student-athlete is currently charged with or previously convicted of a misdemeanor(s) (or charged with or found to have committed an act as a juvenile that would constitute a misdemeanor if committed as an adult) the coach must secure approval in writing from the Athletic Director. Minor traffic offenses shall not be included in this list of misdemeanors.

- D) If the prospective student-athlete is currently charged with a felony or previously convicted of a felony (or charged with or found to have committed an act as a juvenile that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult) the coach must secure approval in writing by the Athletic Director .
- E) If the prospective student-athlete is a convicted felon, written approval by the President is required for an exception. A compelling circumstance might include the nature and gravity of the conviction, recentness of conviction, evidence of rehabilitation, and the relationship between specific criminal activity and specific important elements of participation on intercollegiate teams. It will not include the skill of the student-athlete.
- F) Coaches are expected to report in writing to the Athletic Director the discovery that any prospective student-athlete (or current student-athlete) has been in violation of any part of this policy within a reasonable time frame, but no later than one week after first discovering the violation.

It is assumed that exceptions will be rare and only granted with overwhelming evidence supporting the making of an exception. A coach who obtains special permission to sign a prospective student-athlete with a history of anti-social and/or criminal conduct assumes a heightened degree of responsibility to ensure the athlete-in-question fulfills the character, academic and athletic expectations of California State University, Fresno. Student-athletes receiving such exception will be notified that they are on probation and subject to immediate suspension and expulsion from the team if they commit a serious violation of the Code of Conduct.

Each year the Athletic Director will report to the Athletic Council who will review the process and the exceptions and make appropriate recommendations to the Athletic Department. Coaches' adherence to these policies will be part of his/her annual performance evaluation in keeping with the University's Policy on Coaches. The Athletic Director has the authority to impose, at his/her discretion, special procedures or penalties for a given sport(s) if he/she perceives problems in the recruiting practices of that sport(s). Such procedures may include that a coach submit a "recruiting information report" on prospective student-athletes, or that athletes file a "character disclosure statement" with their letter of intent, or other such sanctions, as the Athletic Director may deem appropriate.

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Revised

October 1, 2001