

Student-Athlete Code Of Conduct

PHILOSOPHY

Membership on an athletic team at California State University, Fresno is considered a privilege. In order to maintain that membership, student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, honesty, integrity, and respect for others, as well as abide by all university policies, team rules, the rules and policies of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and the Western Athletic Conference, in addition to state and federal laws.

Student-athletes, as representatives of the university, are among the most visible students on campus and in the community. Because of America's fascination with sports, and those who play, a unique platform exists to be a role model, mentor or spokesperson. The university, the athletic program, and the student-athlete all benefit from this exposure. However, this platform brings with it a set of privileges and responsibilities. Personal deportment of student-athletes, both on and off campus, becomes public knowledge.

To this end, the Athletic Council has adopted a standard of ethical conduct and behavioral expectations for all athletes at California State University, Fresno. A balanced student-athlete will be a responsible citizen, who achieves academically and performs athletically. Violation of this code of conduct is a significant event and calls for disciplinary action.

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

One of the primary purposes of a university is to educate young men and women to be responsible and productive citizens of good character. Character is knowing what is right (awareness), committing to what is right (attitude) and doing what is right (behavior). Good character is knowing of, caring about and acting upon the core ethical values of respect and responsibility for oneself and others, plus important derivative values such as fairness, honesty, trust, decency, and compassion. It means having personal integrity and possessing the will, the courage, the determination, and the persistence to do the right thing despite pressures and temptations to the contrary.

The Athletic Department firmly believes that good character is necessary for athletic excellence. Accordingly, student-athletes are expected to:

- Abide by all government laws and university regulations, and Athletic Department rules
- Accept personal responsibility to exercise good judgment and self-discipline on and off the playing field/court and on and off campus

- Take seriously the duty of being a good role model, including prudent personal associations, and of exerting a positive influence on others -- especially young people
- Honorably represent oneself, one's team, and the university by exhibiting pride in dress and behavior while playing in and traveling to and from sports events
- Present a positive demeanor at all times on and off the campus
- Show respect for all members of the university and the community
- Treat people with civility and cooperate with people in authority
- Refrain from and be intolerant of physical abuse, harassment and intimidation
- Demonstrate responsible citizenship and good sportsmanship

The university is proud of its well-earned reputation as a high quality regional institution of higher education and is resolute about protecting its integrity. Student-athletes will be held accountable for conduct that is detrimental to the university and the Athletic Department. This means that one shall not embarrass, disgrace or discredit California State University, Fresno, and there are serious consequences for anyone engaging in antisocial behavior.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

In keeping with the mission of the university, a priority for the Athletic Department is to augment and support every effort that will foster intellectual development and graduation for student-athletes. While several levels of support exist at the university, the ultimate responsibility for success rests upon the shoulders of the student-athlete. As a result, each student-athlete is expected to:

- Set a primary goal of obtaining a degree
- Seek assistance from instructors and Athletic Academic Support Services before and/or when academic difficulties occur
- Be a responsible member of each class, which includes attending, being prepared, completing requirements, and participating at the level expected of all students
- Meet with the academic major advisor and academic services staff as required
- Adhere to the university's policies regarding academic integrity and honesty
- Participate in diagnostic testing as requested by Academic Services or the Department of Athletics

ATHLETIC RESPONSIBILITIES

As athletic ambassadors of the university, student-athletes are expected to:

- Behave with dignity, respect and good sportsmanship
- Conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship during games and competition
- Reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that should characterize participation in competitive intercollegiate athletics
- Conduct themselves in a manner reflecting positively on themselves and on the reputation of the university, both on and off the "field of play," in pre-game and post-game comments to media, and when traveling and participating at other institutions
- Maintain an attitude of respect toward opponents
- Look for ways to encourage and appreciate quality play and effort, regardless of whether it's exhibited by a teammate or an opponent

As members of an athletic team representing California State University, Fresno, student-athletes are expected to:

- Adhere to applicable NCAA rules and policies as addressed in the NCAA Student-Athlete Statement that is administered annually prior to competition
- Adhere to all WAC rules and policies governing student-athlete conduct and behavior
- Comply with individual sport team rules, as established by the Head Coach and/or Athletic Administration
- Adhere to their particular team's dress code, nutritional needs, and curfew

While intense and emotional game action and conduct is certainly a part of intercollegiate sports contests, a student-athlete should never demean the dignity and individuality of the opponent. To this end, student-athletes are expressly prohibited from engaging in the following behavior at any intercollegiate sporting events:

- Inappropriate behavior with the intent to demean opponents, game officials and fans
- Disrespectful attitude toward opponents, game officials or fans
- Inciting crowd hostility

- Vulgar language and/or gestures

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Participation in athletics is contingent upon medical approval by the Athletics Team Physicians and the Sports Medicine staff. Student-athletes are recommended to show evidence of proper medical insurance and provide a current medical history for the Sports Medicine staff and/or Team Physicians. Participation in all department-sponsored student enhancement seminars or functions, which may include but are not limited to; counseling, drug testing, drug education, nutrition and alcohol education is required. Student-athletes are expected to keep themselves in top physical condition and are responsible for continuing training programs prescribed by medical and coaching staffs.

Alcohol consumption is highly discouraged at all times. California state law sets the minimum age for the purchase and drinking of alcoholic beverages at 21 years of age. Underage drinking is a violation of this Code of Conduct. Student-athletes are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages whenever appearing as official representatives of the university for athletic competition (including travel time), community and public service events and appearances, and Department of Athletics-sponsored events (all sports contests, recognition banquets, speaking to youth groups, participating or presiding at camps/clinics, visiting hospitals, and any other event affiliated with the Athletic Department or the university).

The use of illegal and/or "performance enhancing" drugs is totally inconsistent with the purpose of intercollegiate athletics and creates a danger to the health and safety of student-athletes and their teammates. The Athletic Department will not tolerate the use of these products. Violations of this policy are subject also to those guidelines set forth in the department's drug education and screening program.

COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Student-athletes must participate in all mandatory educational programs, and assist the Department of Athletics administration by providing information regarding certification of eligibility and NCAA compliance issues whenever sought. Information on automobile registration, summer and academic year employment is to be filed with the Compliance Coordinator.

- Student-athletes should be aware that they are prohibited under NCAA rules from receiving extra benefits
- It is an express violation of NCAA rules for a student-athlete to solicit or place a bet on any intercollegiate athletic team, to accept a bet on any team representing the university,

to alter performance or to provide information benefitting individuals involved in organized gambling activities or intercollegiate athletic competition

- Student athletes are responsible for notifying the Compliance Coordinator if they know of, or suspect, the violation of NCAA rules by self, a teammate, coach, a member of the athletic staff, or any other person
- The abuse (inappropriate awarding or sale) of a student-athlete's complimentary tickets is a violation of this Code of Conduct, in addition to possible violation of NCAA rules

Violations of these, and any other applicable NCAA or WAC rules will be considered violations of the Code of Conduct.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Allegations of violation of the Code of Conduct may come from several sources. In those cases involving WAC and NCAA rules, or legal authorities, the Head Coach, Athletic Director and Compliance Coordinator must be notified. The Head Coach is responsible for reviewing Code of Conduct violation allegations and determining if a violation occurred. If a serious violation did occur, a report must be filed with the Athletic Director, sports supervisor and the Compliance Coordinator. This report will list the pertinent facts, the action taken or penalties recommended by the Head Coach.

The Head Coach, subject to review and approval of the Director of Athletics, may bar a student-athlete from participating in team activities for a prescribed period of time for violations of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. This sanction shall be imposed as soon as the Head Coach notifies the student-athlete of the violation, gives the student-athlete a chance to explain what happened, and determines that a sanction is justified after consideration of the student-athlete's statement. The level of progressive discipline is at the discretion of the head coach. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to: probation, ineligibility to practice, ineligibility to start in contests, sitting out games, suspension and/or continued suspension from the team, permanent dismissal from the team, and, as provided under NCAA rule, the discontinuation or non-renewal of athletic scholarship. In addition, student-athletes may be required to participate in assistance programs to address behavioral problems.

The sanction for any violation shall be subject to the review and approval of the Director of Athletics. Discipline imposed by the Director of Athletics does not preclude any disciplinary action which may be imposed by the Vice President for Student Affairs under Title V. (California Code of Regulation, and the Chancellor's Executive Order #148).

In those cases involving WAC and NCAA violations, the Compliance Coordinator is responsible for the investigation and submission of findings. Once it has been determined that a violation

has occurred, the student athlete may be suspended from competition and/or other team activities pending review and resolution of recommended penalties by the Athletic Director.

Any violation of the Code of Conduct which results in permanent dismissal from an athletic team shall be promptly reviewed by the Director of Athletics, and, upon request by the student-athlete, the Director of Athletics will arrange a hearing of the appeal with the Code of Conduct Panel to examine the nature of the violation and the subsequent dismissal from the team.

ATHLETICALLY RELATED FINANCIAL AID

Failure to abide by the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct or team rules and regulations may be grounds for non-renewal, reduction, or cancellation of athletic aid. Sanctions involving reduction or termination of athletically-related financial aid during the period of the award will be imposed pursuant to the relevant NCAA procedures. Student-athletes will be given written notice of the proposed decision, and will have the right to a hearing before the Athletic Appeal Panel appointed by the President.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS OF LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS

All sanctions will be commensurate with the severity of the violation as determined by the Head Coach and the Athletic Director. In addition, student-athletes may be required to participate in assistance programs to address behavioral problems.

- Charge of Misdemeanor - If charged with a misdemeanor, a student-athlete may be suspended from athletic participation by the Head Coach, pending the Director of Athletics' investigation. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken which may include such progressive discipline as ineligibility to practice, ineligibility to start in contests, sitting out games, and suspension and/or continued suspension from the team, and dismissal from competition.
- Conviction of Misdemeanor - Once a student-athlete has been convicted of a misdemeanor, the student-athlete will be suspended from his or her team until the Director of Athletics or his designee determines disciplinary action to be taken. The Director of Athletics or designee may elect to confer with a three-member Code of Conduct Panel, appointed by the President.
- Charge of Felon - If charged with a felony, a student-athlete will be automatically suspended from athletics participation by the Head Coach, pending the Director of Athletics' investigation. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, which may include such progressive discipline as sitting out games, and continued suspension from the team or dismissal from athletic competition.

- Conviction of Felony - If convicted of a felony, a student-athlete will be immediately expelled from his or her athletic team. Any appeals of this action will be addressed by the Code of Conduct Panel. In cases where a student-athlete is expelled from an athletic team, any remaining athletic aid will be terminated immediately, and the student-athlete shall be notified of his or her right to a hearing before the Athletic Appeal Panel appointed by the President.
- Student-athletes are required to report all violations of law to the Athletic Director

CODE OF CONDUCT PANEL

The Code of Conduct Panel is designed to be a group of individuals with whom the Director of Athletics may consult regarding sensitive Code of Conduct issues. This body may also serve to hear any student-athlete appeals regarding progressive discipline. The panel will be appointed by the President, who will seek candidates for nomination from the Academic Senate and Athletic Council. This nine-member panel will consist of at least five faculty members. From this panel, the Athletic Director may select a group of not less than three members, two of whom must be faculty members, to serve as consultants on a given case. In cases dealing with violations of the Code of Conduct, the role of the panel is to hear the evidence, and on the basis of this evidence, make recommendations to the Athletic Director. While hearing student-athlete appeals, the panel will make the final determination of the case. If the Athletic Director is not available, one of the Associate/Assistant Athletic Directors may call the Panel together to hear a case.

Student-Athlete Code Of Conduct

Student athletes are among the most visible students on campus as well as in the community. Because of America's fascination with sports and those who play, a unique platform exists to be a role model, mentor, or spokesperson. The university, the athletic program, and the student-athlete all benefit from this exposure. However, this platform brings with it a whole set of privileges and responsibilities. Social interaction and personal deportment of student-athletes, on and off the campus, becomes public knowledge.

As a student who represents the university in intercollegiate athletic competition, I

- Understand that participation in intercollegiate athletics is a privilege.
- Pledge to demonstrate responsible citizenship, sportsmanship, honesty, and integrity on the field or court, on the campus, in the local community, and to otherwise represent the university in a manner that brings pride to me and the university.
- Will make the attainment of an academic degree a high priority.
- Will be a responsible member of each class, which includes attending, being prepared, completing requirements, and participating at the level expected of all students in the class.
- Will abide by the rules and policies of the NCAA and the Western Athletic Conference.
- Will abide by all university regulations and policies, including those of the Residence Dining Hall, the campus residence halls, the Kennel Bookstore, the Financial Aids office and the parking authority.
- Will abide by all sport-specific team rules, and the rules and policies of the Athletics Department governing student-athlete conduct, which are fully contained in the Student-Athlete handbook and the Policies and Procedures of the Athletics Department.
- Acknowledge that any violation of the Code will result in appropriate discipline as determined by my head coach, the Athletic Director, and/or recommended by the Code of Conduct Panel. The process by which this discipline will be administered is fully contained in the Student-Athlete Handbook and the Policies and Procedures Manuel of the Athletic Department.

Student-athlete signature

Date

Sport