

STUDENT-ATHLETES - CONDUCT AND ETHICS

The University of Oregon has established a tradition of ethical conduct at all levels of University life. In accordance with this tradition, all student-athletes involved in the intercollegiate athletics program are expected to represent the University in an honorable manner at all times. Coaches and professional staff members are expected to instruct student-athletes on appropriate behavior and to assist them with understanding the intent of rules and regulations imposed upon them by all relevant governing authorities.

Governing Authorities

Standards of ethical conduct are established and enforced by:

- **The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)**

Student-athletes are subject to the rules and regulations of the NCAA, which govern unsportsmanlike behavior, non-therapeutic drug use, non-permissible awards, benefits and expenses, gambling and bribery, and other forms of misconduct. All such rules and regulations are found in the current edition of the *NCAA Division 1 Manual*, available at <http://www.ncaapublications.com>.

- **The Pacific-12 Conference (PAC-12)**

The University and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics fully endorse the policies of the PAC-12 Conference, found in the *Pacific-12 Conference Handbook*, available here: <http://compliance.pac-12.org/tools/>, as they relate to student-athlete conduct, Conference championship play and the intra-Conference transfer of student-athletes.

- **The University of Oregon**

Student-athletes are subject to University rules and regulations, as published in the University of Oregon *Student Conduct Code*, available at: <http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx>.

- **Department of Intercollegiate Athletics**

Student-athletes must abide by all rules and guidelines set forth by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and published in the Department's *Student-Athlete Handbook*. Additionally, team rules may be established by each individual sport's Head Coach and his/her staff within parameters set by the Athletic Director and the University.

When in doubt, student-athletes are encouraged to obtain clarification regarding any Departmental, University, Conference or NCAA rules and regulations from a member of the coaching staff, the sport administrator who oversees the program or the Senior Associate Athletic Director, Chief Compliance Officer or designee, as appropriate.

In addition to the rules and regulations of the aforementioned authorities, general Departmental policies on conduct are set forth below.

Personal Conduct and Responsibilities

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics makes every effort to offer a program that meets the objectives of the University by assisting student-athletes in earning their degrees as they strive to achieve their full potential both on and off the field. The Athletic Director, professional staff members associated with the various sports programs, and individual Head Coaches work together to develop appropriate standards for personal conduct.

Student-athletes accepted into the University of Oregon athletics program are extended the privilege of participating in intercollegiate athletics. This privilege in no way constitutes a right to participate. Therefore, in agreeing to join the intercollegiate athletics program, student-athletes must be willing to accept personal responsibility for their behavior. Obligations include, but are not limited to, responsible conduct in the following areas:

- 1) Academics

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- a) Attend classes regularly and complete all academic assignments;
- b) Communicate to the appropriate parties (e. g., instructors) in a timely manner when an academic/athletic conflict occurs;
- c) Consult with academic advisors and attend study halls or tutoring sessions, as directed;
- d) Maintain an academic load of at least twelve (12) hours per quarter and make satisfactory progress toward a degree;
- e) Accept personal responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility;
- f) Strive to obtain a college degree within five (5) years; and
- g) Understand and live by the academic regulations of the University as described in the Department's *Student-Athlete Handbook*.

2) Athletics

- a) Abide by all team, Departmental, University, Conference and NCAA rules;
- b) Achieve and maintain optimum physical condition within accepted health standards;
- c) Attend all organized practices unless officially excused;
- d) Take proper care of equipment and return it in good condition; and
- e) Treat officials and opponents with respect, and avoid undue confrontations.

3) General Conduct

- a) Know and follow the University's Student Conduct Code;
- b) Obey residence hall policies and regulations;
- c) Obey all federal, state and local laws; and
- d) Abstain from using tobacco, alcohol and non-therapeutic drugs (See Policy 506B, Student-Athletes: Drug Education and Testing Program).

The *University of Oregon Student Conduct Code* is published in every academic term's Duck Call Schedule of Classes. Each student-athlete is responsible for insuring that they obtain and read a copy of this publication, in addition to the

Department's *Student-Athlete Handbook*. All University of Oregon students are governed by the standards of behavior and responsibility, individual rights and disciplinary guidelines defined within the Code.

In addition, educational seminars are available at various times throughout the year. Topics covered include career counseling, drug education, date rape, gambling, AIDS, and other current issues concerning student-athletes.

Dress Code

Head Coaches are encouraged to set dress code standards for student-athletes, especially when traveling as a team. Coaches may also specify what constitutes appropriate dress while representing the University at other times.

Sportsmanlike Conduct

Sportsmanlike conduct means more than the absence of negative actions in public. Each individual Head Coach is expected to provide student-athletes with instruction on appropriate conduct, including positive techniques for handling the following playing-field situations:

- Communicating with officials and opponents on routine matters during athletics events;
- Maintaining control during emotionally charged situations, including assisting a teammate or colleague who needs calming; and
- Reacting in a positive manner to an aggressive action by an individual or a group.

Through discussions with their coaches, student-athletes are expected to know what constitutes inappropriate behavior and to conduct themselves in a manner that avoids such behavior. Unacceptable behavior on the playing field includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Physically abusing officials, coaches, opponents or spectators;
- Engaging in undue public criticism of game officials, Conference

personnel, another institution, its student-athletes or its personnel;

- Throwing objects;
- Interacting inappropriately with officials or the news media;
- Inciting players or spectators to negative actions or to any behavior that insults or defiles an opponent's traditions;
- Using obscene or otherwise inappropriate language or gestures;
- Making public statements which are derogatory, controversial or outside the Department's media policy;
- Engaging in negative recruiting by making derogatory statements about another institution or its personnel; and/or
- Participating in any action which violates generally recognized ethical standards of intercollegiate athletics participation.

The University investigates incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct and may discipline accordingly any involved student-athlete(s) found out of compliance.

Acquaintance Rape

Because acquaintance rape, commonly called "date rape," is an increasingly serious concern nationwide, the Department publicly addresses such behavior with its student-athletes. It expects all student-athletes to conduct themselves in a manner which avoids any association with such a charge. Coaches and staff members who counsel student-athletes should make them aware of the consequences of such a charge. Further, student-athletes are encouraged to:

- Understand the definition of rape;
- Be conscious of the signals they transmit to others;
- Be careful not to place themselves in situations that could be misunderstood or misread;
- Accept a negative response to their overtures (e.g., "no" does **not** mean "yes");
- Avoid drinking or taking drugs at all times, but especially when on a date.

Lastly, students should be encouraged to seek appropriate counseling, as necessary.

Gambling and Bribery

The NCAA and the Athletics Compliance Office have established specific guidelines concerning involvement in gambling and bribery in intercollegiate or professional sports. The Athletic Director or his designee, as well as the individual sports coaches, are responsible for educating student-athletes concerning these guidelines.

Student-athletes should be made very aware of how gambling and bribery threaten the integrity of intercollegiate sports. In addition, they are responsible for the following:

1. Reporting any offers of gifts, money or favors in exchange for supplying team information or for attempting to alter the outcome of any contest;
2. Maintaining a clear understanding of what constitutes gambling and bribery activities and reporting any suspected infractions;
3. Contacting the coach or other Departmental personnel (i.e., the Chief Compliance Officer or designee) when questions occur concerning appropriate release of team information; and
4. Increasing individual and team awareness that participation in gambling or bribery activities can result in disciplinary actions by the University and the NCAA (see "Enforcement" below), as well as local, state and/or federal prosecution of the involved individual(s).

Hazing

Hazing is defined in Public Act No. 88-328 as "any action which recklessly or intentionally endangers the health or safety of a person for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, a student organization." (The term "hazing" does not include an action sponsored by an institution of higher education which requires any athletic practice, conditioning or completion of curricular activity.)

Hazing, which is prohibited in any form at the University of Oregon, includes (but is not limited to) situations which would require any of the following:

1. Indecent exposure of the body;
2. Any activity that subjects the person to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation or extended isolation from social contact;
3. Confinement of a person to unreasonably small, unventilated, unsanitary or unlighted areas;
4. Assault; and/or
5. Any physical activity or ingestion of a substance which could adversely affect the health or well-being of the individual.

Penalties in cases of individual violators are outlined in the *University of Oregon Student Conduct Code*. Organizations found to be encouraging or authorizing hazing may be subject to suspension or termination of activities, as well as any penalties pursuant to the penal code.

Harassment

The University of Oregon does not condone harassment directed toward any person or group within its community. Coaches are responsible for instructing student-athletes on the definition of harassment and for encouraging them to refrain from actions that intimidate, humiliate or demean a person or groups or that may undermine their sense of security or self-esteem.

Student-Athletes should further be informed that if they believe they have been subjected to harassment, they should contact the sport's liaison.

Agents

As detailed in the Athletics Department Compliance Manual, it is essential that student-athletes know the NCAA rules related to professional sports. A violation of the rules concerning agents could have severe negative consequences for the University and the student-athlete. NCAA rules forbid a student-athlete to:

- Agree, either orally or in writing, to be represented by an agent or

organization in the marketing of his/her athletic ability or reputation until after completion of the last intercollegiate contest in his/her sport, including postseason games;

- Negotiate or sign a playing contract in any sport in which the student-athlete intends to compete;
- Ask to be placed on a professional league's draft list; (See NCAA manual for exceptions.)
- Accept payment of expenses or gifts of any kind (including meals and transportation) from an agent (this rule extends to relatives or friends of the student-athlete);
- Receive preferential benefits or treatment (for example, loans with a deferred pay-back schedule) because of reputation, skill or pay-back potential as a professional athlete; or
- Retain professional services for personal reasons at less than the normal charge from a representative of the student-athlete's school's athletics interests.

During the 2013 Oregon legislative session and effective January 1, 2014, HB 3296, an amendment to Oregon's Uniform Agent Athlete Act (UAAA) was passed. This Chapter 54 Oregon Revised Statute defines an agent, mandates registration and also mandates prosecution if the law is violated. The violation of these regulations can result in criminal and civil penalties for the agent and civil penalties for the involved student-athlete.

The Athletic Director or his designee discusses agents at the beginning of each year in team eligibility meetings. At other times, for assistance with the selection of professional agents or any question related to a professional sports association, student-athletes should be directed to talk with their coach or the appropriate Compliance Office staff member.

Enforcement

University of Oregon Student Conduct Code

The *Student Conduct Code* of the University of Oregon can be found at:

<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx>

Violations of the University's *Student Conduct Code* are under the jurisdiction of the Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards.

Any student-athlete conduct violation should be reported immediately to the Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards, who is ultimately responsible for investigating all such charges and enforcing sanctions imposed for conduct violations.

Legal Violations

When a student-athlete violates a local, state or federal law and the misconduct involves a misdemeanor, or violent action, drug and/or felony charge, the student-athlete may be suspended from participation in intercollegiate athletics until the charges have been addressed by the legal system. By suspending the student-athlete, the Department and the University are in no way pre-judging the situation; rather such action is taken in order to protect the intercollegiate athletics program and, specifically, the student-athlete's team, from negative media attention.

If such action is taken, the student-athlete is given written notification of the suspension, signed by the respective Head Coach and the Athletic Director. The student-athlete may appeal this decision. Such an appeal must be submitted within 72 hours of the notice of suspension. Based on all available information, the Athletic Director may lift or modify the suspension or leave it in place until the case has been decided by the legal system.

A determination regarding further action by the Department and the University is made on a case-by-case basis once the charge has been resolved by the court. Like all other citizens, if accused, the student-athlete is innocent until proven guilty.

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While on suspension, the student-athlete may not practice or compete; however, financial aid will remain in place. Further, the student-athlete's name will remain on the squad list and he or she may continue to use student-athlete support services, such as the weight and training rooms and academic support services.

In order to protect the accused and to limit media attention, student-athletes and staff are encouraged to refrain from addressing the student-athlete's case with the media. All questions concerning the situation should be referred to the Assistant Athletic Director – Communications for a prepared statement release.

Department University, Conference and NCAA Violations

Non-Academic conduct violations of the University's *Student Conduct Code* or Department's *Student-Athlete Handbook* are reported to the Dean of Students, while violations of PAC-12 Conference or NCAA conduct rules are reported to the student-athletes' Head Coach, the Athletic Director, the Conference Commissioner and the NCAA, as appropriate.

If a student-athlete is found to be in violation of University, Conference or NCAA policy, the penalty imposed is dependent upon the severity of the offense and may include the following:

1. Written warning;
2. Disciplinary probation;
3. Dismissal from the squad;
4. Cancellation or gradation of financial aid; and/or
5. Suspension or expulsion from the University.