

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Philosophy

Participation in the Central Connecticut State University Athletics program is considered a privilege, not a right. As a CCSU student-athlete, you represent the University and, as such, are expected to conduct yourself with honesty, pride, sportsmanship and integrity at all times.

B. Academic Conduct

The Athletic Program fully supports the academic mission of the University. Academic responsibility is considered the highest priority for student-athletes attending CCSU, therefore:

Student-athletes must comply with academic regulations as published in the current University catalog, eligibility policies established by the University Athletics Board, and the policies established by the Academic Center for Student-Athletes.

Student-athletes are to regularly attend all classes, tutorial sessions and meetings with academic advisor(s).

Student-athletes are to complete class assignments and course examinations as required.

Each student-athlete shall assume full responsibility for monitoring one's own satisfactory progress and academic achievement. This may include seeking assistance from individual professors, academic advisor(s), tutors, or counseling services.

C. Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

The Athletics Program expects that all student-athletes will conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the University's mission and the Athletics Program philosophy. Therefore, we expect each individual to conform to the following:

Student-athletes are responsible for their own behavior which includes the securing and reading of appropriate sections of the Student Handbook. The CCSU Student Handbook can be located at http://www.ccsu.edu/uploaded/departments/student_affairs/pdfs/StudentHandbook08.pdf

Student-athletes must comply with the policies enumerated in the Student Handbook concerning:

Conduct and Discipline, Disciplinary Penalties; Academic Misconduct Supplemental Information on CCSU Alcohol and other Drug Policies; Policies and Regulations regarding Alcoholic Beverages; Administrative State of Action in case of Campus Disruption.

Student-athletes are subject to the rules and regulations established by the NCAA, Northeast Conference, Central Connecticut State University and/or coach of a specific team. The head coach is responsible for distributing specific team rules and potential sanctions to each team member. A copy of team rules will also be submitted to the Director of Athletics.

Further, it is the policy of the Athletics Program that the Director of Athletics has the authority to immediately suspend from athletic participation for a time period to be determined by the Director, any student-athlete charged with a crime or arrested for any reason. When possible, the Director of Athletics will discuss the matter with the head coach prior to taking action.

Student-Athletes may exercise their right to appeal to the Athletics Program Disciplinary Committee. The Committee, chaired by the Director of Athletics, will take into account: Sanctions recommended by the coach Sanctions for like offenses recommended by the University Vice President Student Affairs. These sanctions might include, but are not limited to:

Disciplinary warning

Disciplinary probation (restricted from competition and/or practice for a specified time period)

Suspension (complete separation from the athletic team for the balance of the season and/or future seasons)

Termination of the student-athlete's athletic grant-in-aid

Statement from the student-athlete and/or his/her representative.

D. Athletics Program Discipline Committee

This committee will be composed of the Director of Athletics (chair), Chair of the Athletics Department, Associate Director of Athletics/Compliance, and one member at-large to be elected from the Athletics Program for a two year term. The student-athlete and/or his/her representative(s) will have the right to appear before the Disciplinary Committee to provide a statement.

Meetings will be called by the Chair as deemed necessary. The committee will gather all pertinent facts including, but not limited to, official reports, newspaper articles, eyewitness accounts, and student-athlete response.

The committee will recommend action as described, but not limited to, item 3-e above. All decisions of the Discipline Committee will be implemented immediately.

Student-athletes have the right of appeal through standard University appeal policy.

Until a successful appeal is made, all Discipline Committee decisions will be in effect.

E. Text of Student-Athlete Code of Conduct Agreement

I _____ (name) recognize and agree that participation in athletics at Central Connecticut State University is a privilege and, therefore, continued eligibility requires adherence to the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. I further recognize and agree that all student-athletes are subject to the policies, regulations and procedures of the NCAA, Northeast Conference and Institution and other appropriate governing bodies. Moreover, I understand that violations of the Central

Connecticut State University Student-Athlete Code of Conduct may render my team membership and/or athletic grant-in-aid to be null and void.

While away from campus representing Central Connecticut State University, I understand that the use of alcohol and or illegal drugs are prohibited. Alcohol and or

illegal drug use during that time is grounds for disciplinary action which might include dismissal from the team and cancellation of Athletic Grant-In-Aid.

I hereby certify that I have read, understand and will meet the requirements of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct for as long as I am a student-athlete at Central

Connecticut State University. Moreover, I have had the opportunity to ask questions and receive explanations for statements I did not understand.

Academic Fraud (Appendix A)

Academic Fraud, as stated by the NCAA Bylaws, occurs when there is knowing involvement in arranging for fraudulent academic credit or false transcripts for a prospective or enrolled student-athlete or any fraudulence in connection with entrance or placement examinations.

A student-athlete or athletic staff member who has committed an incident of academic fraud is subject to institutional as well as NCAA penalties. The penalties

for CCSU include, but are not limited to, termination from team, loss of athletic scholarship and/or loss of eligibility. NCAA penalties could be loss of eligibility (game suspensions) and/or loss of scholarship.

Under NCAA rules, a student athlete who is found guilty of academic fraud may be required to attend a hearing not only within the University Judicial office, but as part of a possible NCAA investigation.

All student-athletes are provided a copy of the September 6, 2000 Official Interpretation regarding Academic Fraud.

NEC Sportsmanship Principles

1. Participants in intercollegiate athletics should display proper respect and courtesy, and maintain civility toward opposing coaches and student-athletes, game officials and spectators at all contests.

2. Coaches bear the responsibility of teaching the value of sporting conduct in both word and deed to their student-athletes. The use of foul or vulgar language is inconsistent with this responsibility, and is therefore strongly discouraged on the part of coaches and student-athletes alike.

3. There is no place in intercollegiate athletics for taunting, embarrassing or humiliating an opponent or game official. Student-athletes who do so should be disciplined by their head coach in a timely manner. Coaches who do so should be disciplined by their administration in a timely manner.

4. Representatives of NEC member institutions shall refrain from making any public criticism of other member institutions, their personnel, the Conference in general and its office staff, or any game officials.
5. Coaches and administrators shall make every effort to promote the Conference and its member institutions in a positive manner.
6. Coaches and student-athletes should exercise self-control with game officials during competition and shall refrain from approaching officials at the end of a period or at the end of a contest to address them in a disrespectful manner, complain about an officiating call, or express their displeasure with the game official's performance.
7. Coaches and student-athletes must understand that competing in intercollegiate athletics is a privilege, not a right. Their behavior and attitude toward opponents, game officials and members of the media should reflect positively upon the institution they represent.
8. Institutional administrators are responsible for insuring that all parties involved in intercollegiate athletics - including student-athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, band members, cheerleaders and mascots - are informed of the acceptable behavior that is expected of them and are aware of the consequences when failing to abide by the acceptable code of conduct.
9. Coaches and student-athletes should be encouraged to live up to their own highest personal standard of sportsmanship, even when their opponents may not. Personal accountability and respect for one's own standards must come first.
10. The responsibility to demonstrate and develop good character and sportsmanship should never be subordinated to the desire to win. The vital lessons and intrinsic value of sports are acquired through the competition and honorable pursuit of victory, rather than the outcome itself.

Team Rules

You have a responsibility as an enrolled student-athlete to adhere to team rules as provided by the head coach and the Athletic Department (Student-Athlete Code of Conduct). These rules are important because they potentially affect your status as a student-athlete and/or your athletic scholarship at CCSU.

The head coach is responsible for the total conduct of his/her team within the limits of authority defined by the University and Athletic Department policies as well as the rules and regulations of the NCAA and the Northeast Conference.

A written or verbal statement of the team rules which refer to player appearance, training, curfew, conduct, etc., should be given to each team member prior to the beginning of the season. A copy of team specific rules should be provided to the Director of Athletics prior to the start of the season.

Team Travel Conduct

Any student-athlete and/or student serving in an official capacity for Central Connecticut State University are representatives of Central Connecticut State University.

As a representative of the University such students traveling individually or as a team/group to an intercollegiate athletic contest shall agree to abide by the laws of the State of Connecticut, the local state government, University policies, Athletic Department policies, and team rules. Student-athletes and/or students serving in an official capacity for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics shall be responsible for acting in accordance with such laws, policies, and rules during the entire period of travel and competition.

Ethical Conduct – Sports Participation

- You must compete with honesty and sportsmanship at all times so that you represent the honor and dignity of fair play [NCAA Bylaw 10.01.1].
- You are **not eligible** to compete if you have shown dishonesty in evading or violating NCAA regulations [NCAA Bylaw 14.01.3].