

Student-Athlete Code of Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Athletics Department), as an integral part of the educational mission of the University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder), provides the student-athletes it serves with the opportunity to participate in a nationally successful and respected intercollegiate athletic program which establishes and maintains unparalleled standards in education, athletic competition, and relationships with its internal and external communities.

It is a privilege, not a right to be a NCAA, Division I student-athlete at CU-Boulder. To earn this privilege, student-athletes must conduct themselves, on and off the field, as positive role models who exemplify good sportsmanship. The concept of sportsmanship includes the following characteristics which CU-Boulder aspires to utilize: integrity, honor, honesty, respectfulness, courtesy, civility, class, responsibility, duty, accountability, fair play, empathy, compassion, kindness, teamwork and playing by the rules.

The CU-Boulder Athletics Department and its student-athletes are often in the spotlight and, fair or not, their behavior is subject to scrutiny by their peers, members of the campus, local and national communities, and by the media. The actions of one student-athlete reflect on the individual, team, department and CU-Boulder. Therefore, the honor and privilege of being a student-athlete at CU-Boulder comes with a commensurate level of responsibility.

The University expects its student-athletes to train and strive for their highest degree of athletic excellence; to demonstrate academic integrity and accomplishment; and to conduct themselves responsibly as members of the campus and surrounding communities for the duration of their tenure as student-athletes at CU-Boulder.

**NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, YOU ARE A
COLORADO BUFFALO AND ALWAYS IN UNIFORM!**

SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

A. Responsible Conduct/Colorado Creed. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves responsibly at all times within the Athletics Department, campus, and larger community, including abiding by the Colorado Creed:

As a member of the Boulder community and the University of Colorado, I agree to:

- Act with honor, integrity and accountability in my interactions with students, faculty, staff and neighbors.
- Respect the rights of others and accept their differences.

- Contribute to the greater good of this community.

I will strive to uphold these principles in all aspects of my collegiate experience and beyond.

More information on the Colorado Creed may be found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/creed>.

B. CU-Boulder, NCAA, and Pac-12 Conference Policies and Regulations. Student-athletes are required to abide by all CU-Boulder, NCAA, and Pac-12 Conference policies, guidelines, procedures and rules including, but not limited to, the following:

CU-Boulder Student Policies:

- Student Conduct Code <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html>
- Academic Honor Code <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>
- Sexual Misconduct/Harassment Policies and Protocols and Amorous Relationships <http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/>

NCAA, Pac-12 Conference and Athletics Department Policies:

- Drugs
- Sports Wagering
- Extra Benefit, Ethical Conduct and Amateurism Rules
- Sportsmanship
- CU Recruitment of Prospective Student-Athletes Policy
- Hazing

C. Standard Team Rules. The Athletics Department makes every effort to offer a program that assists student-athletes in securing a degree and fulfilling the educational mission of CU-Boulder. A student-athlete's acceptance of athletics financial aid and/or participation as a member of an athletics team carries with it definite standards of personal, academic, and athletics conduct including, but not limited to:

Personal: Student-athletes are expected

- to conduct themselves in such a manner that would uphold or enhance the traditions and ethical standards of CU-Boulder, the athletics program, and the team
- not to bring discredit to CU-Boulder or cause harm to its reputation

Academic: Student-athletes are expected

- to attend classes and complete all academic assignments
- to consult with academic coordinators and attend tutoring sessions, supervised study sessions, or other academic responsibilities and programs
- to keep a course load of at least 12 credit hours per semester and make progress, as required by the NCAA, toward a degree
- to accept responsibility for academic eligibility

or other academic responsibilities and programs

Athletics: Student-athletes are expected

- to abide by CU-Boulder, Pac-12, NCAA and team rules
- to maintain themselves in top physical condition, within accepted health standards
- to attend organized practices unless officially excused
- to respect all athletics facilities and use them properly
- to take proper care of equipment and return it in good condition
- to treat officials and opponents with respect, and avoid undue confrontations
- to maintain established team standards of appropriate grooming and dress
- to abstain from using tobacco and non-therapeutic drugs
- to abstain from underage consumption of alcoholic beverages
- not to accept any impermissible “extra benefits” from representatives of athletics interests
- not to sell or accept anything of value in exchange for complimentary admissions to athletics events, participation, championship or special achievement awards

Nothing in this Code limits the authority of a head coach to establish and enforce more stringent team rules and student-athletes are also required to comply with such additional team rules as are established by the Head Coaches.

D. Laws. Student-athletes are required to abide by all applicable municipal ordinances and state and federal civil and criminal laws.

SELF-REPORTING OBLIGATION

A student-athlete is obligated to report any violation of this Code of Ethics to the Head Coach or to the Athletics Director within 24 hours of, or at the student-athlete’s first opportunity to report, such violation. This obligation is in effect year round, including semester and summer breaks. Failure to self-report may also be considered a violation and may be weighed by the Athletics Department when determining an appropriate sanction.

POTENTIAL SANCTIONS AND DISCIPLINE PROCESS

A student-athlete who violates any of the requirements of this Code and/or who takes any other action that is considered detrimental to the character of the team or the educational mission of the Athletics Department, and/or CU-Boulder, may be subject to disciplinary action.

A. Sanctions. Possible sanctions include but are not limited to:

- Warning: issuance of a verbal and/or written warning.

- Probation: special status with conditions, including referral to counseling or community service or restitution, imposed for a specified time.
- Suspension: removal for a specified period of time from some or all Athletics Department activities and services.
- Dismissal: removal from all Athletics Department services and activities.
- Withdrawal of Financial Aid: termination of athletic-related financial aid at the first opportunity allowable by NCAA regulations.

B. Procedures for Violation of Team Rules. A student-athlete who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates team rules or requirements can be sanctioned by the Head Coach, or his/her designee. Before a student-athlete can be sanctioned with dismissal from the team for violation of team rules, the Head Coach or his/her designee must consult with and obtain approval from the Athletics Director.

C. Procedures for Violations of NCAA, Pac 12 Conference, and Athletics Department Rules. A student-athlete who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates NCAA, Pac 12 Conference, and Athletics Department rules, requirements, and policies can be sanctioned by the Athletics Director, or his/her designee, after consultation with the Head Coach.

D. Procedures for Violation of Criminal Law and/or Student Conduct Code. A student-athlete who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates criminal law or the Student Conduct Code can be sanctioned by the Athletic Director, or his/her designee, after consultation with the Head Coach. Whether the sanction is permanent or interim (pending an investigation and determination of responsibility by the Office of Student Conduct) is in the discretion of the Athletics Director.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy is effective immediately and its administration/operation is subject to change or modification at any time.