

# **The Missouri State University Student-Athlete Code of Conduct**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Student-athletes at Missouri State University (“University”) are representatives of their teams, the Department of Athletics and the University. It is a privilege, not a right, to be a member of an intercollegiate athletics program. It has many benefits, but student-athletes receive a higher level of interest from the public and the media. That attention means student-athletes have a responsibility to be positive and effective members of their program, the University and the Department of Athletics.

As a member of an athletics program, student-athletes are expected to demonstrate the pillars of good character by displaying integrity, honesty, respect for others and good sportsmanship in all academic, athletic and social activities. Additionally, student-athletes are to abide by all University policies, Athletic Department, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and conference rules and regulations, as well as city, county, state and federal laws and standards of behavior.

The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct is an Athletic Department policy that applies to all student-athletes including those that are not actively competing in their sport. The standards and expectations set forth apply at all times: in season, out of season, on or off campus, and on and off the playing field. Sanctions will be applied for violation of this Code.

Student-athletes have an obligation to report Code of Conduct violations to their Head Coaches or the Faculty Athletics Representative as soon as possible. Student-athletes who do not conform to this Code may be subject to greater consequences for misconduct that is not reported or that involves multiple or repeat violations.

The Head Coach or Faculty Athletics Representative who learns of a Code of Conduct violation shall report same to the Athletic Director within 24 hours.

A written copy of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct will be provided to student-athletes annually. It will also be included in the Student-Athlete Handbook and will be available online at the [missouristatebears.com](http://missouristatebears.com) website.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Academic**

Student-athletes are expected to:

1. Be an engaged member of class by attending, being punctual, being prepared, completing assignments on time, and participating in class.
2. Adhere to university academic policies and procedures regarding academic honesty and integrity contained in The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities of Missouri State University: <http://www.missouristate.edu/judicial/12331.htm>.

3. Meet with their academic advisors as well as a staff member of the Achievement Center for Intercollegiate Athletics (ACIA) as required.
4. Participate in academic activities as requested.

## **B. Alcohol**

Prohibited acts include:

1. Possessing or consuming alcohol if under the age of 21;
2. Driving while under the influence of alcohol;
3. Misrepresenting someone's age for the purpose of possessing, purchasing or consuming alcohol;
4. Purchasing or serving alcohol to someone underage;
5. Public intoxication;
6. Consumption of alcohol while hosting a prospect while on a visit (official or unofficial) to campus; and
7. Consumption of alcohol during team travel or at team functions.

## **C. Other Drugs**

Prohibited acts include:

1. Possessing, selling or using illegal drugs;
2. Possessing, selling or using controlled substances; and
3. The use of tobacco products by a student athlete during practice, competition or other team functions.

## **D. Hazing**

Hazing is an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or which destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in a group or organization. Hazing in connection with participation in University athletic teams is prohibited.

## **E. Harassment**

Harassment is unwelcome conduct toward another person or an identifiable group of persons which is severe and pervasive and has the purpose of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning, working, or living environment. Student-athletes are prohibited from harassing others on any basis, including race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, marital status, or sexual orientation.

## **F. Nonconsensual Sexual Contact**

Student-athletes are prohibited from engaging in nonconsensual sexual contact of any type and participating in any sexual harassment as these terms are defined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities of Missouri State University.

## **G. Weapons**

The unauthorized possession or use of firearms, explosives or other weapons is prohibited.

## **H. Social Networking and Sportsmanship**

Student-athletes are required to comply with the University Social Networking and Interaction Policy and the University Sportsmanship Policy. Student-athletes should not post obscene or profane information and photographs online.

## **I. Gambling**

Student-athletes shall have no involvement with gambling, including knowingly providing information to individuals involved in organized gambling concerning intercollegiate athletics, soliciting a bet on any intercollegiate athletics team, accepting a bet on any team representing the institution, or participating in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics through a bookmaker, parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.

## **J. Legal**

Any violation of city, county, state or federal law is considered misconduct under the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct.

### **Classifications of Misconduct**

All violations of this Code will be characterized as Category I or Category II misconduct except for academic integrity violations. Academic integrity violations are governed by the Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures, <http://www.missouristate.edu/provost/academicintegrity.htm>.

### **Category I**

- Violations of the law or probation not classified as felonies (misdemeanors and municipal violations);
- First-time alcohol offenses which do not result in the destruction of property, injury, or death, and which do not involve other criminal behavior;
- First-time use of illegal drugs or controlled substances;
- Hazing which does not result in the destruction of property, injury, or death and which does not involve other criminal behavior; and
- Violations of the Social Networking Policy and other similar University policies.
- Providing false information to University officials and coaches.

### **Category II**

- Violations of the law or probation classified as felonies;
- Repeat alcohol offenses or any alcohol offense which results in property destruction, injury, death, or involves other criminal behavior;
- Repeat use of illegal drugs or controlled substances and the sale or distribution of illegal drugs or controlled substances;
- Hazing which results in the destruction of property, injury, death, or involves other criminal behavior;
- Nonconsensual sexual contact;
- Gambling activity; and
- The unauthorized use or possession of firearms, explosives, or other weapons.

## **Sanctions for Misconduct**

The Head Coach is responsible for determining, based on reasonable and credible evidence, if (1) misconduct occurred and (2) categorizing the misconduct as Category I or II misconduct. For Category I misconduct, the Head Coach is responsible for determining the appropriate sanctions after taking into consideration the facts surrounding the misconduct, mitigating circumstances, and the prior academic, behavioral, and disciplinary history of the student-athlete. For Category II misconduct, the Head Coach with input from the Athletic Director will make this decision.

Sanctions for Category I violations may include written warnings and reprimands, educational programs, community service, counseling, academic performance requirements, restitution, suspension from practice, suspension from competition, and other sanctions as determined by the coaching staff.

Sanctions for Category II violations can include all Category I sanctions and prohibiting the use of athletic facilities and services, reduction or termination of athletic aid, and dismissal from the team.

Student-athletes must abide by all team rules as set forth by the Head Coach. Such rules may include being on time for practice, meetings and team departures, attending team functions, attending class, etc. Failure to meet team obligations may subject a student athlete to penalties as set forth by the Head Coach.

## **Arrest**

If a student-athlete is arrested for conduct likely to result in a felony charge, the student-athlete will be suspended from all athletic participation while an internal investigation is conducted by the Head Coach. The Head Coach will report such an arrest to the Athletic Director who will report same to the President and General Counsel of the University. After the investigation is completed, the Head Coach with input from the Athletic Director will determine what sanctions, if any, are appropriate pursuant to this policy.

## **Appeal Process**

A review committee will hear all appeals of student-athletes who have received Category II sanctions under this policy. The committee will be composed of the Associate Athletic Director, a coach from a sport in which the student-athlete does not participate, a student-athlete advisory member, the Faculty Athletics Representative, one member of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, and one member of Judicial Services as appointed by the Athletic Director.

The appeal must be made in writing to the Faculty Athletics Representative within three (3) business days of the student-athlete's receipt of the notice of sanctions. The appeal letter must explain the basis relied upon to set aside or reduce the sanctions imposed.

The review committee will conduct its investigation by hearing details from the Head Coach, the student-athlete, and others with knowledge of the incident. The student-athlete will have an opportunity to present to the committee (orally or in writing) his/her case. The student-athlete may have a personal advisor who is a member of the University Community attend the hearing with him/her. The review committee will review all relevant information, including information

from public authorities, court records, law enforcement officers, university officers and agencies and other persons, and make a recommendation to the Athletic Director regarding the appropriate sanctions within five (5) days of receiving the appeal. The Athletic Director will make the final determination of sanctions. No further appeals will be afforded the student-athlete.

### **Sanctions for Misconduct—Student Athlete as Victim**

When misconduct is alleged to have occurred and a student athlete from another team is a purported victim, the Athletic Director will determine, based on reasonable and credible evidence, whether the misconduct occurred and whether it is Category I or II misconduct. The Athletic Director will also determine the appropriate sanctions, if any, after receiving input from the Head Coach of each student athlete involved.

In this circumstance, each student athlete may appeal the Athletic Director's decision to the review committee described above. The appeal must be made in writing to the Faculty Athletics Representative within three (3) business days of the decision. Failure to appeal within this time frame renders the Athletic Director's decision final.

If an appeal is made, the review committee will conduct its investigation by hearing details from the Head Coaches, the student-athletes, and others with knowledge of the incident. The student-athletes will have an opportunity to present to the committee (orally or in writing) his/her case. The student-athletes may have a personal advisor who is a member of the University Community attend the hearing with him/her. The review committee will review all relevant information, including information from public authorities, court records, law enforcement officers, university officers and agencies and other persons, and make a determination regarding the appropriate sanctions within five (5) days of receiving the appeal. The Athletic Director will then implement the sanctions imposed. No further appeals will be afforded the student-athlete.