

Adams State College

Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

The intercollegiate athletic program at Adams State College (ASC or College) facilitates the personal growth and education of students through their participation in a comprehensive program of NCAA Division II sports. As an integral part of the College, the intercollegiate athletic program actively promotes fair equity and diversity, and provides community engagement.

As such, the department of athletics (department) has adopted a standard of ethical conduct and behavioral expectations for all student-athletes at Adams State College. A balanced student-athlete will be a responsible citizen, who achieves academically and performs athletically. Violation of this Student-Athlete Code of Conduct (Code) is a significant event and calls for disciplinary action.

A. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

It is a privilege and not a right to be a student-athlete at ASC. On and off campus and in cyberspace communities, every student-athlete is expected to conduct himself or herself in a manner that exhibits honor and respect to the team, department, College, and surrounding community for the duration of his or her tenure as a student-athlete. As a student-athlete at ASC, you are expected to conform to all federal, state, and local laws, as well as College policies regarding academics, residence life, and general conduct. Student-athletes penalized for violating public laws are not exempt from further sanctions by the College if their actions also violated College policies. In addition, the athletic department and respective coaches reserve the right to implement additional sanctions appropriate to the circumstances.

ASC expects its student-athletes to demonstrate academic integrity and accomplishment, train and strive for their highest degree of athletic excellence and sportsmanship, and to conduct themselves responsibly as members of the campus and larger community.

Every student-athlete is required to report his or her violations – and any violations of this Code by other student-athletes that they observe- to his or her Head Coach or to the Director of Athletics (AD) within 24 hours of such violation. This obligation is in effect year-round, including semester and summer breaks.

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B. DEFINITIONS

1. Student-Athlete: Once a student is accorded the status of a varsity athlete, he or she is required to act in accordance with this Code until the completion of eligibility, including semester and summer breaks, or until the student-athlete is no longer receiving athletically-related financial aid (including post eligibility and student-athletes medically unable to participate). Recruits are required to act in accordance with this Code while on campus or participating in any College or recruiting activity. Violations by recruits that are discovered prior to achieving varsity athlete status may result in withdrawals of offers, invitations and scholarships; violations by recruits discovered after achieving varsity athlete status may result in sanctions in accordance with this Code.

2. Hazing: Hazing includes but is not limited to any conduct or method of initiation, admission, or condition of continued membership in any student organization which: 1) endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any student or other person, including prolonged deprivation of sleep, rest, food or drink; forced or coerced and prolonged physical activity; forced or coerced consumption of food, liquor, beverage, drugs, or any substance not generally intended for human consumption; beating or branding; involuntary confinement or imprisonment; or 2) destroys, vandalizes, or removes public or private property.

3. Sportsmanship: Sportsmanship shall be defined in accordance with the standards of the NCAA, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, and the department. In general, a sportsman is one who can take a loss or defeat without complaint, a victory without gloating, and who treats opponents with fairness, generosity, and courtesy. Sportsmanship is respect for oneself, teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and property. Sportsmanship also requires maintaining self-control and refusing to be drawn into or encourage physical conflict not otherwise required by proper execution of the sport. All student-athletes are obligated to represent themselves, the team, the department, the College, and their communities with the highest level of sportsmanship.

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C. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Prohibited conduct includes violation of any of the written policies and standards established by the College, the Athletic Department and the coaches with authority over your program. By way of illustration, and without limitation, those prohibitions include:

1. **Academic Dishonesty:** The department will not tolerate acts of academic misconduct which includes, but is not limited to: cheating, falsification, fabrication, tampering, plagiarism, facilitating academic misconduct, multiple submission, and other academic misconduct.
2. **Alcohol:** Prohibited acts include: 1) possessing or consuming alcohol if under the age of 21, 2) operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, 3) misrepresenting one's age for the purpose of purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol, 4) purchasing, furnishing, or serving alcohol to or for an underage person, 5) public intoxication, 6) violations of additional team rules regarding alcohol use, and/or 7) consumption of alcohol during team travel or team functions.
3. **Other drugs:** Prohibited acts include: 1) possessing or using illegal substances, as defined by law, 2) possessing or using controlled substances as defined by law, 3) distributing, selling, or possessing with the intent to distribute illegal or controlled substances, as defined by law, 4) the use of tobacco products by a student-athlete during practice, competition, or other team functions. Student-athletes also agree to NCAA and ASC drug testing.
4. **Hazing:** Hazing in connection with membership or participation in College athletic team activities is strictly prohibited.
5. **Cyberspace (including social networking websites):** Student-athletes are permitted to have profiles on social networking websites such as Myspace and Facebook, provided that the student-athlete does not post or permit others to post on-line to his/her profile: offensive or inappropriate pictures or comments that are likely to bring discredit to you, your team or the College, including but not limited to postings that promote illegal or prohibited conduct or that threaten to cause team or department disunity or disrupt the purposes of the athletic program.
6. **Violence:** ASC is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which its members are free from all forms of exploitation, intimidation, and violence. Student-athletes are prohibited from engaging in violent acts including assault on a person or property, sexual assault, intimidation, hate crimes, hazing, stalking, domestic violence, rape, sexual violence, or any other conduct prohibited by College policy or law.
7. **Sexual Harassment and Discrimination:** The athletic department will not tolerate sexual harassment or any other type of discrimination in violation of the College's Anti-Discrimination Policy.
8. **Disrespect:** At all times, student-athletes are required to conduct themselves in a manner respectful of themselves, their team, their coaches, the College, the department, game officials, opponents, and property. Student-athletes are to refrain from disrespectful conduct such as unsportsmanlike conduct; profane, abusive, demeaning, harassing, threatening, or obscene expression; or deliberate damage to equipment or other property.
9. **Gambling and Bribery:** Student-athletes shall not knowingly: 1) provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition, 2) solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team, 3) accept a bet on any team representing the institution, 4) solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item that had tangible value (e.g. cash, clothing, equipment, meals), and/or 5) participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card, or any other method employed by organized gambling.
10. **Unexcused Class Absences and Poor Academic Performance:** Student-athletes are expected to attend class regularly and punctually and to fulfill course load and academic performance requirements. Failure to meet such obligations may affect eligibility to participate, scholarship eligibility, and academic standing.
11. **Failure to Meet Team Obligations:** Student-athletes must complete training requirements; arrive promptly for team practices, meetings, and departure for away games and other team events; attend team functions; comply with written and verbal directives from their coaches and other department officials, and otherwise fulfill their responsibilities as team members. Head Coaches reserve the right to institute for their teams more strict policies than those enumerated in this Code.

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D. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AND SANCTIONS

The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct disciplinary process is independent of and supplements other College policies and judicial processes, including the ASC Student Handbook Code of Conduct and Standards of Residence and Judicial Handbook (<http://ww2.adams.edu/students/housing>) (<http://ww2.adams.edu/pubs/media/studenthandbook200809.pdf>). Sanctions levied by the department may occur over and above or in lieu of sanctions levied by the College. Sanctions will vary depending on the type and circumstances of the violation.

When the department becomes aware of an alleged violation of this Code, the AD or his/her designee will consult with the Dean of Students and/or the OEO if there is reason to believe that the alleged conduct also constitutes a violation of other College policies to coordinate the College's response to the alleged conduct. Except where the matter is to be investigated by other College officials, the AD or his/her designee will take reasonable steps to verify the validity, reliability, and accuracy of the report. These steps may include interviews of students and employees or of non-College persons having knowledge of relevant facts; examination of documents; and other steps necessary for the AD to determine the merits of the report. A meeting with the student-athlete will ordinarily occur before any discipline is imposed; however, in extenuating circumstance, the AD may suspend the student-athlete from department activities before the meeting.

Determination of responsibility will be made by the AD and based on a preponderance of evidence and information available. A first-time offense may be serious enough to warrant any of the possible sanctions listed below. A student-athlete's refusal to participate and cooperate in an athletic department or NCAA investigation of possible violation of this Code or NCAA rules may itself constitute a basis for disciplinary action.

The AD will copy the Dean of Students on any notice of sanction issued for a violation of this Code.

Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to:

1. Warning—the issuance of a written warning
2. Probation—special status with condition imposed for a limited time
3. Community service
4. Required educational or counseling sessions
5. Drug testing
6. Restitution—payment for damaged property
7. Suspension—removal of a student-athlete from all athletic department activities for a limited time
8. Expulsion—permanent removal from a team and/or department activities
9. Withdrawal of financial aid—termination of athletically-related financial aid as allowable by NCAA regulations

Possible sanctions for team violations include, but are not limited to:

1. Team probation
2. Team community service
3. Cancellation of contests
4. Cancellation of season

Violation of team rules: Each student-athlete is responsible for following his/her specific team policies. These policies shall be in writing and distributed to team members at the start of each academic year or the beginning of the practice season, whichever comes first. The head coach and the Director of Athletics have authority to impose sanctions for violations of these policies.

Violation of criminal law: When a student-athlete has engaged in conduct alleged to be in violation of criminal law, immediately upon receipt of notice of such possible violation the Head Coach must report the information to the AD.

Student-athletes arrested for, or charged with, violating criminal law will be immediately suspended from practice and competition. Within 48 hours of notice of a suspension the student-athlete's coach or designee shall review the suspension and recommend to the AD whether the suspension should continue. Within 10 days of notice of suspension, the student-athlete shall be afforded the opportunity to present his or her position before the AD, the Faculty Athletics Representative, the Senior Woman Administrator, and the Compliance Coordinator. Based on available information, the AD may, at any time prior to a finding or plea of guilty to a criminal charge, lift or modify the suspension. If a student-athlete pleads guilty to, is found guilty of, pleads nolo contendere to, or accepts a deferred sentence for a felony charge, such a student-athlete shall be barred permanently from participation in intercollegiate athletics at ASC.

A student-athlete suspended from participation as a result of a criminal charge shall not automatically be prohibited from receiving financial aid during the pendency of such criminal charge, however the College may impose termination of such aid as a sanction after investigation and disciplinary proceedings in accordance with this Code and NCAA regulations. Upon plea of guilty, nolo contendere, acceptance of a deferred sentence or a finding of guilt in a felony case, the College shall immediately inform the student that he/she is barred from participation in intercollegiate athletics and inform the student-athlete of the status of his/her aid. The student-athlete may appeal in accordance with Section E. This policy is applicable to all renewals of current athletic aid and to all subsequently awarded athletic aid.

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E. APPEALS

A student-athlete who is subject to a season-long suspension or expulsion from athletics team participation, or whose athletic grant-in-aid would be affected by a sanction imposed by the AD, may request an appeal from these sanctions. The appeal must be made in

writing to the Faculty Athletics Representative within 3 school days of the student-athlete's receipt of the notice of sanctions. The appeal letter must explain the grounds for the appeal (e.g., new information, due process issue, abuse of discretion).

Upon receipt of the request for appeal, the Faculty Athletics Representative or his/her representative will refer the appeal to the College Magistrate pursuant to the Student Handbook. For purposes of the Misconduct Hearing, the AD may perform the functions of the Dean of Students, if the AD or designee has conducted the investigation. The student-athlete will be given the opportunity to make an oral and written statement about the circumstances and why he/she feels reinstatement is warranted. The decision of the Magistrate is final for all sanctions except suspension from the College or expulsion from the College.

Initial Section E _____

F. AGREEMENT/WAIVER

I understand and agree that I am required to know, understand, and follow the standards contained in the Adams State College Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. In addition, I understand and agree that I am responsible for knowing, understanding, and following the rules, policies, and procedures contained in the Adams State College Student Handbook, Standards of Residence and Judicial Handbook, and my sport's team policies.

I understand the possible individual and team sanctions which could be imposed due to a violation of any of the policies listed above. If I have further questions regarding this Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, I can ask my coach or the Compliance Coordinator.

SPORT: _____

DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____