

Niagara University Department of Athletics

2014-15

Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

Niagara University is strengthened by the high caliber of its student-athletes and the Department of Athletics is committed to promoting that strength with the guiding principles of honesty, integrity, respect, ethical conduct, teamwork, and dedication.

To support our student athletes and give them guidance through the challenges facing them, the University has adopted this Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. Each student-athlete is required to abide by this Code as they live, study, and compete at Niagara.

While it is hoped that student-athletes will draw inspiration from the ethics and values that are the foundation of this Code, make no mistake: THESE

ARE THE RULES. Violations of this code are subject to discipline by the Department of Athletics as well as Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and law enforcement.

I. Standards of Conduct

Student-athletes must comply with:

- The rules, policies and procedures found in the Niagara University Student Handbook.
- The rules, policies and procedures found in the Niagara University Undergraduate Catalog.
- Municipal, County, State, and Federal laws, both civil and criminal.
- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).
- Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).
- Atlantic Hockey Association (AHA).
- Rules and directions as defined by the coaching staff, athletics trainers, and Department of Athletics staff.
- The rules set forth in this Code of Conduct.

Violation may result in discipline as described in Section V below.

Legislative Compliance

Student-athletes are expected to comply with all NCAA, MAAC, and AHA rules and regulations. Any student-athlete or prospective student-athlete found to have been intentionally involved in a major infraction will be immediately declared ineligible for athletics participation and NU may or may not choose to appeal to the NCAA for the restoration of his/her eligibility. Any student-athlete or prospective student-athlete involved in a violation of NCAA rules that impacts eligibility is immediately declared ineligible and, after assessing its own penalty on the ineligible student-athlete or prospective student-athlete, the institution may appeal to the NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement Staff for restoration of the involved individual's eligibility.

II. Reporting Obligation

Student-athletes must truthfully report their own violations, the violations of others, and the planning of events and actions that will result in violations of this Code. Reports should be made to the Head Coach, Director of Athletics, or sport administrators.

For example, a student-athlete must self-report underage drinking or cheating on an exam or paper.

This reporting obligation is serious. Failure to abide by it will be an additional violation of this Code if a student-athlete is:

1. Subject to discipline for an incident he or she did not report.
2. Aware of a violation by another student-athlete.
3. Aware of a potential violation planned by others.

III. Sportsmanship

Student-athletes must bring honor to themselves, their team, their sport, their families, and Niagara University by exhibiting the highest level of sportsmanship.

“Sportsmanship” is respect for oneself, teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and property. It requires self-control. It means refusing to be drawn into or encouraging fighting or arguing with officials. A student-athlete must accept defeat without complaint, victory without gloating, and treat an opponent with respect. At Niagara University, sportsmanship is tied to the Vincentian mission of charity to others—especially when you win.

IV. Rules

Niagara University Academic Integrity Policy

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. The Niagara University Academic Integrity (“AI”) Policy is posted at www.niagara.edu/academicintegrity. Copying, cutting and pasting, plagiarizing, fixing grades, cheating on an exam or submitting fraudulent work are examples of academic dishonesty that can be disciplined under the university’s AI policy and this set of rules.

Niagara University Alcohol Policy

Abusing alcohol will not be tolerated. The Niagara University Alcohol Policy can be found at <http://www.niagara.edu/student-code-of-conduct>. Prohibited acts include, but are not limited to, possessing or consuming alcohol if under the age of 21; operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol; misrepresenting one’s age for the purpose of purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol; purchasing, furnishing, or serving alcohol to or for an underage person; and being dangerously intoxicated to the point where local law mandates being taken into custody.

Niagara University and NU Athletics Drug Policies

Abusing drugs will not be tolerated. The Niagara University rules on illegal substances can be found at <http://www.niagara.edu/student-code-of-conduct>. Prohibited acts include, but are not limited to, possessing, distributing, selling or using illegal substances as defined by law; using tobacco products during practice, competition or other team functions; and any acts as described in the NU Athletics Drug and Alcohol Policy.

The Athletics Drug Testing policy can be found in the Athletic Training section of www.purpleeagles.com. Student-athletes from each team will be drug tested throughout the year at random. A student-athlete may also be tested if there is reasonable suspicion to believe the student-athlete is using a prohibited drug. Student-

athletes who test positive for drugs will continue to be tested throughout their career at NU. Failure to appear at a drug test will be considered a positive test. For information about NU Athletics' Safe Harbor program, please contact the Assistant AD for Sports Medicine.

NCAA Nutritional or Dietary Supplements Policy

Many nutritional/dietary supplements contain substances banned by the NCAA. In addition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not strictly regulate the supplement industry. Therefore, the purity and safety of nutritional/dietary supplements cannot be guaranteed. Impure supplements may lead to a positive NCAA drug test and thus affect the eligibility of student-athletes. To avoid violation of this standard, student-athletes should contact the head coach, team physician, athletic trainer, and/or consult the list of banned drugs as described in NCAA Division Bylaws.

Hazing

Hazing activities are strictly prohibited. Niagara University interprets hazing as any act, whether physical, mental, emotional or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may degrade, humiliate, harass or intimidate the person. In addition, any activities which compel another person to participate in any activity which is against university policy or state/federal law will be defined as hazing. Hazing behaviors could also violate Title IX. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Initiation activities where there is an expectation of individuals joining a particular team to participate in behavior designed to humiliate, degrade or abuse them regardless of the person's willingness to participate.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring an individual to consume alcohol or any other substance.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring an individual to shave any part of the body, including hair on the head.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring any public activity which is illegal, immoral, indecent or lewd.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring the eating of anything an individual would refuse to eat otherwise.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring any activity that creates a risk to the health or safety of any member of its community or to University property.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring use of calisthenics, such as push-ups, sit-ups and runs.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring pranks such as stealing or harassment of another organization.
- Awakening or disturbing individuals during normal sleeping hours.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring individuals to participate in an activity in which the full membership is not willing to participate.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring someone to publicly wear apparel which is conspicuous and not within the norm of good taste.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring public stunts and buffoonery.
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring nudity at any time or reading of pornographic material.

- Paddling, beating or physical abuse of any kind.
- Spraying the body with eggs, mud, paint or any other substance.
- Morally degrading/humiliating games or other activities that make a member the object of amusement, ridicule or intimidation.
- Subjecting a member to cruel and unusual psychological conditions.

Niagara University Policy regarding Violence, Sexual Assault, and Harassment

Niagara University and the Department of Athletics are committed to creating and maintaining a community in which its members are free from all forms of harassment, exploitation, intimidation, and violence. Students are prohibited from engaging in violent acts including assault on a person or property, hate crimes, hazing, stalking, sexual violence, or any other conduct prohibited by University policy and/or law.

For more information about the University's sexual misconduct policy, please go to <http://www.niagara.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>. Additional information about sexual assault/harassment can be found online here <http://www.niagara.edu/counseling-self-help-resources/> and confidential support is available in Counseling Services.

Coaches and Athletic staff are considered mandatory reporters under Title IX regarding these kinds of violations. In addition, the following people can assist with filing complaints:

Christopher Sheffield, Executive Director for University Planning & Assessment/Title IX Coordinator – O'Shea Hall, Room B-27 (716-286-8425)

Carrie McLaughlin, Dean of Students – Gallagher 111 (716-286-8405)

Rita Geiben, Employment & Employee Relations Manager – Human Resources Building (716-286-8691)

Niagara University Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation Policy

Students, who are concerned about potentially harassing and/or discriminatory situations, and retaliation for reporting such concerns, should consult the university's policy www.niagara.edu/ugc-compliance. Students with such concerns may also discuss them with the Dean of Students (Gallagher 111).

Whistleblowing Policy

Students concerned with the potential abuse or theft of university resources should consult the university's Whistleblowing Policy, found at <http://www.niagara.edu/whistleblowing>.

V. ALSO PROHIBITED

Disrespect

Student-athletes are required to comport themselves in a respectful manner at all times. Disrespectful conduct will be reviewed by the Head Coach and Director of Athletics and may result in disciplinary action.

Poor Sportsmanship

Student-athletes are held accountable to a high standard of ethical conduct in all activities affecting the athletics program, whether as a participant or as a spectator. “Unsportsmanlike” conduct, as defined by the NCAA, the MAAC, the AHA or Niagara University, will be reviewed by the Head Coach and Director of Athletics and may result in disciplinary action.

Gambling and Bribery

Student-athletes shall not knowingly provide information to individuals involved in illegal gambling activities; solicit, place or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition, including any Niagara team; solicit, place or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition, including any Niagara team, for any item that has tangible value (e.g. cash, clothing or equipment, meals); and/or participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.

Unexcused Class Absences and Poor Academic Performance

Student-athletes are expected to attend class regularly and punctually, and to fulfill all academic performance requirements. Failure to meet such obligations may affect playing eligibility and scholarship eligibility.

Failure to Meet Team Obligations

Student-athletes must complete training requirements; arrive promptly for team practices, meetings, and departures for away games and other team events; attend team functions; and otherwise fulfill their responsibilities as team members by following all team rules and procedures.

Conduct Unbecoming a NU Student-Athlete

At all times, student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves responsibly within the Department of Athletics, campus, and larger community. Behavior that reflects negatively on themselves, their team, the Department of Athletics, or the University may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Social Networking

As a representative of the Department of Athletics and Niagara University, you are always in the public eye. Please keep the following in mind as you participate on social networking:

- Anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any text or photo placed online is out of your control the moment it is placed online—even if you limit access to your site.
- You will not post any information, photos, or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, the Department of Athletics, or Niagara University. This includes information, photos and items that may be posted by others on your site. Posting of photos with alcohol, drugs, or immoral behavior are strictly prohibited.
- Behavioral expectations in the online world are the same as in the real world. Student-athletes could face discipline or sanctions as described below for policy violations revealed online.
- For more information about Niagara University's policies regarding the use of technology, please go to <http://www.niagara.edu/resnet-acceptable-use-policy/>

VI. Disciplinary Process and Sanctions

The Department of Athletics disciplinary process supplements the University Student Conduct process. Sanctions levied by Athletics may occur over and above those levied by the Dean of Students Office. Sanctions will vary depending on the type and circumstances of the violation, but may include loss of eligibility and/or scholarship.

When the Department of Athletics becomes aware of an alleged violation of this Code of Conduct, from any source, including Academic or Student Affairs, the Director of Athletics or designee will take reasonable steps to verify the validity, reliability, and accuracy of the report. These steps may include interviews of students, employees and non-University persons having knowledge of facts; examination of documents (i.e. incident report or discipline record); and other steps necessary to determine the merits of the report.

Upon completion of the review, the Director of Athletics shall issue appropriate discipline. At that time, any previous incidents, actions, and/or violations of the Code, or any other Standards of Conduct, shall be a factor in determining the severity of the discipline. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to:

- Warning: Issuance of a written warning.
- Probation: Special status with conditions imposed for a limited time.
- Community Service: As required by the Director.

- Restitution: Payment for damaged property.
- Temporary Suspension: Removal of a student-athlete from some or all Athletics Department activities, including athletics participation in team events, for a limited period of time.
- Suspension: Removal of a student-athlete from some or all Department of Athletics activities, including athletics participation in team events, for a specified period of no less than one season.
- Dismissal: Permanent removal from a team and/or Department of Athletics activities.
- Withdrawal of Financial Aid: Termination of athletics-related financial aid at first opportunity allowable by NCAA regulations.
- Parent notification

Referral to Counseling: Student-athletes who, in the judgment of the Director of Athletics, require professional counseling will be referred to appropriate counseling resources either on or off campus. In some cases, the Dean of Students Office will be notified of the referral for follow up. It is the student-athlete's responsibility, and financial obligation, to meet this requirement before returning to the team as a member in good standing. In some cases, the Department of Athletics may notify the student-athlete's parents.

VII. Drug Testing

NCAA policy, as a condition of participating in intercollegiate athletics, mandates that student-athletes consent in writing to drug testing. Failure to provide such consent shall result in immediate suspension and possible permanent expulsion from the team.

The Athletics Drug Testing policy can be found in the Athletic Training section of www.purpleeagles.com. Student-athletes from each team will be drug tested throughout the year at random. A student-athlete may also be tested if there is reasonable suspicion to believe the student-athlete is using a prohibited drug. Student-athletes who test positive for drugs will continue to be tested throughout their career at NU. Failure to appear at a drug test will be considered a positive test. For information about NU Athletics' Safe Harbor program, please contact the Assistant AD for Sports Medicine.

VIII. Appeals

Student-athletes who are interested in appealing sanctions that result from a violation of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct or other Department of Athletics policies should contact the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students also chairs the Athletics Appeals Review Board. The procedure for an appeal can be found under "Athletic Appeals" on policies.niagara.edu.

VIII. Acknowledgment

I, the student-athlete signing below, acknowledge that I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN BEHAVIOR. I sign this Code of Conduct understanding that no friend, teammate, parent, or other person is to blame for any choice I make that does not uphold the values, standards, and rules in this Code.

I hereby acknowledge that I am at least 18 years of age and permitted to make this representation on my own behalf. If I am under 18, my parent or guardian is also signing this document in acknowledgement that it governs my behavior as a Student-Athlete.

Signature of Student-Athlete

Date

Please Print Name

Sport

Signature of Student-Athlete's Parent or Guardian
(if Student-Athlete under 18)

Date