



Allegany College of Maryland

Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence



Philosophy

Membership on an athletic team at Allegany College of Maryland is considered a privilege. In order to maintain that membership, student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, honesty, integrity, and respect for others, as well as abide by all college policies, team rules, the rules and policies of the NCAA, NJCAA, and the MDJUCO, in addition to state and federal laws.

Student-athletes, as representatives of the college, are among the most visible students on campus and in the community. Because of America's fascination with sports, and those who play, a unique platform exists to be a role model, mentor, or spokesperson. The college, the athletic program, and the student-athlete benefit from this exposure. However, this platform brings with it a set of privileges and responsibilities. Personal deportment of student-athletes, both on and off campus, becomes public knowledge.

To this end, the Athletic Department has adopted a standard of excellence and behavioral expectations for all student-athletes at Allegany College of Maryland. A balanced student-athlete will be a responsible citizen, who achieves academically and performs athletically. Violation of this standard of excellence is a significant event and calls for corrective action.

Responsible Citizenship

One of the primary purposes of a college is to educate young men and women to be responsible and productive citizens of good character. Character is knowing what is right (awareness), committing to what is right (attitude), and doing what is right (behavior). Good character is knowing of, caring about, and acting upon the ethical values of respect and responsibility for oneself and others, plus important derivative values such as fairness, honesty, trust, decency, and compassion. It means having personal integrity and possessing the will, the courage, the determination, and the persistence to do the right thing despite pressures and temptations to the contrary.

The Athletic Department firmly believes that good character is necessary for athletic excellence. Accordingly, student-athletes are expected to:

- Abide by all government laws, college regulations, Athletic Department rules
- Accept personal responsibility, exercise good judgment and self-discipline on and off the playing field/court and on and off campus
- Take seriously the duty of being a good role model, including prudent personal associations, and exerting a positive influence on others --- especially young people
- Honorably represent oneself, one's team, and the college by exhibiting pride in dress and behavior while playing in and traveling to and from sports events
- Present a positive and respectful demeanor at all times on and off the campus
- Present a positive and respectful demeanor of themselves and the athletic programs, and College on social media.
- Show respect for all members of the college and community
- Treat people with civility and cooperate with the people in authority
- Refrain from and be intolerant of physical abuse, harassment, and intimidation
- Demonstrate responsible citizenship and good sportsmanship

The college is proud of its well-earned reputation as a high quality regional institution of higher education and is resolute about protecting its integrity. Student-athletes will be held accountable for conduct that is detrimental to the College and the Athletic Department. This means that one shall not embarrass, disgrace, or discredit Allegany College of Maryland.

Academic Responsibilities

In keeping with the mission of the college, a priority for the Athletic Department is to augment and support every effort that will foster intellectual development and graduation for student-athletes. While several levels of support exist at the college, the ultimate responsibility for success rests upon the shoulders of the student-athlete. As a result, each student-athlete is expected to:

- Set a primary goal of obtaining a degree
- Seek assistance from instructors and Athletic Staff before and/or when academic difficulties occur
- Be a responsible member of each class, which includes attending, being prepared, completing requirements, and participating at the level expected of all students
- Meet with the academic advisor and academic staff as required
- Adhere to the college's policies regarding academic integrity and honesty
- Participate in diagnostic testing as required by Academic Services or the Athletic Department
- Participate in the Specialized Student-Athlete Advising Plan.

Athletic Responsibilities

As athletic ambassadors of the college, student-athletes are expected to:

- Behave with dignity, respect, and proper etiquette before (pregame, announcements, and national anthem), during, and after athletic contests.
- Conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship during games and competition
- Reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that should characterize participation in competitive intercollegiate athletics
- Conduct themselves in a manner reflecting positively on themselves and on the reputation of the college, both on and off the "field of play," in pre-game and post-game comments, and when traveling and participating at other institutions
- Maintain an attitude of respect towards opponents
- Look for ways to encourage and appreciate quality play and effort, regardless of whether it is exhibited by a teammate or an opponent

As members of an athletic team representing Allegany College of Maryland, student-athletes are expected to:

- Adhere to applicable NCAA rules and policies as addressed in the NCAA Student-Athlete Statement.
- Adhere to all MDJUCO rules and policies governing student-athlete conduct and behavior
- Comply with individual sport team rules, as established by the Head Coach and/or the Athletic Department
- Adhere to their particular team's dress code, nutritional needs, and curfew

While intense and emotional game action and conduct is certainly a part of intercollegiate athletic contests, a student-athlete should never demean the dignity and individuality of the opponent. To this end, student-athletes are expressly prohibited from engaging in the following behavior at any intercollegiate athlete events:

- Inappropriate behavior with the intent to demean opponents, game officials, and fans
- Disrespectful attitude toward opponents, game officials, or fans
- Inciting crowd hostility
- Vulgar language and/or gestures

Health and Medical Responsibilities

Participation in athletics is contingent upon medical approval by the Athletics Team Physicians and the Sports Medicine staff. Student-athletes are recommended to show evidence of proper medical insurance and provide a current medical history for the Sports Medicine staff and/or Team Physicians. Participation in all department-sponsored student enhancement seminars or functions, which may include but are not limited to; counseling, drug testing, drug education, nutrition and alcohol education is required. Student-athletes are expected to keep themselves in top physical condition and are responsible for continuing training program prescribed by medical and coaching staff.

Alcohol consumption is highly discouraged at all times. Maryland state law sets the minimum age for the purchase and drinking of alcoholic beverages at 21 years of age. Underage drinking is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and the Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence. Student-athletes are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages whenever appearing as official representatives of the college for athletic competition (including travel time), community and public service events (all sports contests, recognition banquets, speaking to youth groups, participating or presiding at camps/clinics, visiting hospitals, and any other event affiliated with the Athletic Department or college).

The use of illegal and/or “performance enhancing” drugs is totally inconsistent with the purpose of intercollegiate athletics and creates a danger to the health and safety of student-athletes and their teammates. The Athletic Department will not tolerate the use of those products. Violations of this policy are subject also to those guidelines set forth in the department’s drug education and screening program.

Compliance Responsibilities

Student-athletes must participate in all mandatory educational programs, and assist the Department of Athletics administration by providing information regarding certification of eligibility and NCAA compliance issues whenever sought. Information on automobile registration, summer and academic employment is to be filed with the Compliance Coordinator.

- Student-athletes should be aware that they are prohibited under NCAA rules from receiving extra benefits
- It is an express violation of NCAA rules for a student-athlete to solicit or place a bet on any intercollegiate athletic team, to accept a bet on any team representing the college, to alter performance or to provide information benefitting individuals involved in organized gambling activities or intercollegiate athletic competition
- Student-athletes are responsible for notifying the Compliance Coordinator if they know of, or suspect, the violation of NCAA rules by self, a teammate, a coach, a member of the athletic staff, or any other person.
- The abuse (inappropriate awarding or sale) of a student-athlete’s complimentary tickets is a violation of this Standard of Excellence, in addition to possible violation of NCAA rules

Violations of these and any other applicable NCAA or MDJUCO rules will be considered violations of the Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence.

Procedures for Handling Violations of the Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence

Allegations of violation of the Standard of Excellence may come from several sources. In those cases involving MDJUCO and NCAA rules, or legal authorities, the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and the Compliance Coordinator must be notified. The Head Coach is responsible for reviewing the Standard of Excellence violation allegations and determining if a violation occurred. If a serious violation did occur, a report must be filed with the Athletic Director and the Compliance Coordinator. This report will list the pertinent facts, the actions taken or the penalties recommended by the Head Coach.

The Head Coach, subject to review and approval of the Director of Athletics, may bar a student-athlete from participating in team activities for a prescribed period of time for violations of the Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence. This sanction shall be imposed as soon as the Head Coach notifies the student-athlete of the violation, gives the student-athlete a chance to explain what happened, and determines that a sanction is justified after consideration of the student-athlete’s statement. The level of progressive discipline is at the discretion of the Head Coach. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to: probation, ineligibility to practice, ineligibility to start in contests, sitting out games, suspension and/or continued suspension from the team, permanent dismissal from the team, and, as provided under NCAA rule, discontinuation or non-renewal of athletic scholarship. In addition, student-athletes may be required to participate in assistance program to address behavioral problems.

The sanction for any violation shall be subject to the review, approval, and/or modification by the Athletic Director.

Athletic actions imposed by the Head Coach and/or Athletic Director are independent of any disciplinary action which may be imposed by the College pursuant of the Code of Student Conduct.

In those cases involving MDJUCO and NCAA violations, the Compliance Coordinator is responsible for the investigation and submission of findings. **IF** it has been determined that a violation has occurred, the student-athlete may be suspended from competition and/or other team activities pending review and resolution of recommended penalties by the Athletic Director.

Any violation of the Standard of Excellence which results in permanent dismissal from an athletic team shall be promptly reviewed by the Athletic Director, and upon request by the student-athlete, the Athletic Director will arrange a hearing to appeal with the Athletic Department Faculty and the Compliance Coordinator to examine the nature of the violation and subsequent dismissal from the team.

Athletically Related Financial Aid

An athletic scholarship is defined by the NJCAA as “any financial assistance awarded to the student athlete from any source b/c of his/her athletic capabilities.” The student-athlete’s letter of intent/scholarship agreement form is prescribed by the NJCAA and is in effect for a period of one academic year, defined as 8/1 to 7/31 [of the following year].

Failure to abide by the Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence or team rules and regulations may be grounds for non-renewal, reduction, or cancellation of athletic aid. Sanctions involving reduction or termination of athletically-related financial aid during the period of the award will be imposed pursuant to the relevant NCAA procedures. Student-athletes will be given written notice of the proposed decision, and will have the right to a hearing before the Athletic Appeal Panel appointed by the President.

Such athletic action is independent of any award by the College’s Financial Aid Office and/or federal Department of Education financial aid regulations.

Procedures for Dealing with Criminal Violations of Local, State, and Federal Laws

All sanctions will be commensurate with the severity of the violation as determined by the Head Coach and Athletic Director. In addition, student-athletes may be required to participate in assistance programs to address behavioral problems.

- Charge of Misdemeanor – If charged with a misdemeanor, a student-athlete may be suspended from athletic participation by the Head Coach, pending the Athletic Director’s investigation. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken which may include such progressive discipline as ineligibility to practice, ineligibility to start in contests, sitting out games, and suspension and/or continued suspension from the team, and dismissal from competition.
- Conviction of Misdemeanor – Once a student-athlete has been convicted of a misdemeanor, the student-athlete will be suspended from his or her team until the Athletic Director or his/her designee determines disciplinary action be taken. The Athletic Director or designee may elect to confer with three-member group of Athletic Department Faculty and Compliance Coordinator appointed by the Athletic Director.
- Charge of Felony- If charged with a felony, a student-athlete will be automatically suspended from athletic participation by the Head Coach, pending the Athletic Director’s investigation. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken which may include such progressive discipline as ineligibility to practice, ineligibility to start in contests, sitting out games, and suspension and/or continued suspension from the team, and dismissal from competition.
- Conviction of Felony – If convicted of a felony, a student-athlete will be immediately expelled from his or her athletic team. Any appeals of this action will be addressed by the Athletic Department. In cases where a student-athlete is expelled from an athletic team, any remaining athletic aid will be terminated immediately, and the student-athlete shall be notified of his or her right to a hearing before the Athletic Appeal Committee appointed by the President.
- Student-athletes are required to report all violations of law to the Athletic Director

Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence and the Athletic Department

The Athletic Department is designed to be a group of individuals with whom the Athletic Director may consult regarding sensitive Standard of Excellence issues. This body may also serve to hear any student-athlete appeals regarding progressive discipline as described above. It is convened by the Athletic Director as needed. In cases dealing with violations of the Standard of Excellence, the role of the Athletic Department is to review relevant information, and on the basis of this information, make recommendations to the Athletic Director. While hearing student-athlete appeals, the Athletic Department will make the final determination. If the Athletic Director is not available, the Dean of Student and Legal Affairs may convene the group.

Standard of Excellence Duration

The Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence applies to each student-athlete when s/he signs a letter of intent or is deemed a member of an Allegany College of Maryland athletic team; it continues between semesters and ends when the student graduates, transfers, formally withdraws from the College, or otherwise ceases participation on the team.

Policy Review

This policy is subject to review by the Allegany College of Maryland Athletic Department. The frequency of the review will be every three years or as determined by the Athletic Director or his/her designee.

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Student-athletes are among the most visible students on campus as well as in the community. Because of America’s fascination with sports and those who play, a unique platform exists to be a role model, a mentor, and a spokesperson. The college, the athletic program, and the student-athlete will benefit from this exposure. However, this platform brings with it a set of privileges and responsibilities. Personal deportment of student-athletes, both on and off campus, becomes public knowledge.

As a student-athlete who represents the college in intercollegiate athletic competition, I

- Understand that participation in intercollegiate athletics is a privilege.
- Pledge to demonstrate responsible citizenship, sportsmanship, honesty, integrity on and off the field or court, on the campus, in the local community, and to otherwise represent the college in a manner that brings pride to me and the college.
- Will make the attainment of an academic degree a high priority.
- Will be a responsible member of each class, which includes attending, being prepared, completing requirements, and participating at the level expected of all students in the class.
- Will abide by the rules and policies of the NCAA and the MDJUCO.
- Will abide by all college regulations and policies including those of the residence dining hall, the campus residence halls, the bookstore, the Financial Aid office, and in the parking authority.
- Will abide by all sport-specific team rules, and the rules and policies of the Athletics Department governing student-athlete conduct, which are fully contained in the Student-Athlete Handbook and the Policies and Procedures of the Athletics Department.
- Acknowledge that any violation of the Standard of Excellence will result in appropriate discipline as determined by my Head Coach, the Athletic Director, and/or recommended by the Athletic Department. The process by which this discipline will be administered is fully contained in the Student-Athlete Standard of Excellence.

PRINT NAME (STUDENT-ATHLETE)

STUDENT-ATHLETE SIGNATURE

SPORT

DATE