
Student-Athlete Conduct Policy

Participation in intercollegiate athletics at the **University of Arkansas** is a **privilege** and a unique opportunity. As a Razorback student-athlete, you benefit by developing your potential as a skilled performer, being a productive team member, and growing emotionally, socially, and intellectually. This experience provides opportunities to develop strong character traits through successfully meeting the challenges inherent in NCAA Division I athletics.

For the purpose of this policy, a **student-athlete** is defined as any member of a Razorback team, whether on scholarship or not.

Expectations and Responsibilities

With privilege comes **responsibility**. Student-athletes must conduct themselves, **on and off the field**, as positive role models who represent the University of Arkansas with integrity.

Key expectations include:

- Demonstrating academic honesty and integrity
- Striving for the highest degree of athletic performance
- Acting as responsible citizens of the University and broader community
- Complying with **NCAA**, **SEC**, and **University of Arkansas** rules and regulations

Student-athletes are also subject to the **University of Arkansas Student Code of Conduct**, found in the annual **Catalog of Studies**, along with all applicable campus policies.

Note:
Questions about this code should be directed to your sport administrator or the Deputy Athletics Director for Integrity & Student Success.

Standards of Conduct

As a public figure, you are often under public scrutiny. Your behavior must always reflect positively on yourself, your team, and the University of Arkansas.

Student-athletes, coaches, and staff are expected to uphold the values of:

- **Respect**
- **Fairness**
- **Civility**
- **Honesty**
- **Responsibility**

Misconduct

Misconduct is defined broadly and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Legal Violations**
    - Violation of any **civil or criminal law** of any state.
    - Violation of the **University of Arkansas Student Code of Conduct** or related policies, including:
        - Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy
        - Hazing Policy
- **Gambling & Improper Influence**
    - Gambling on athletic events of any kind.
    - Providing inside information to gamblers or "bookies."
    - Participation in bribery or any attempt to improperly influence the outcome of athletic contests.
- **Alcohol and Substance Use**
    - Violation of the University's **Student Alcohol Policy**.
    - Violation of NCAA policies on banned substances, alcohol, or tobacco.
- **Team Rule Violations** *(Examples include, but are not limited to):*
    - Conduct that reflects negatively on the team, athletics program, or University.
    - Unexcused absences or tardiness for practices, meetings, or competitions.

- Excessive class absences not related to illness, injury, or team travel.
- Noncompliance with:
  - Team dress codes
  - Prescribed treatment for athletic injury
  - Proper decorum during team travel
  - Policies related to conduct, appearance, or the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco
  - Departmental policies outlined in this handbook
- Unethical conduct (see below).

NCAA Definition of Unethical Conduct

According to NCAA bylaws, unethical conduct by a student-athlete may include, but is not limited to:

- Refusal to provide information relevant to an NCAA investigation.
- Involvement in fraudulent academic activity, such as arranging false transcripts or credits.
- Offering or providing improper inducements or extra benefits to a prospective or enrolled student-athlete.
- Providing false or misleading information to the NCAA or the University regarding possible rule violations.

Disciplinary Procedures

1. Temporary Suspension

The Athletic Department may **temporarily suspend** a student-athlete for up to **seven (7) business days** if their continued presence poses a threat to:

- Themselves
- Others
- The normal operation of the team

Temporary suspensions are effective **immediately and without prior notice**.
An **administrative review** will be conducted during the suspension period to determine next steps.

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2. Administrative Review

If information suggests a violation of:

- Civil or criminal law
- University of Arkansas policies
- This Student-Athlete Conduct Code
- NCAA or SEC rules

The Athletic Director or designee will conduct an **administrative review**.
If evidence supports further action, disciplinary sanctions will be imposed.

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3. Disciplinary Sanctions

Following review, the Athletic Director or designee may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

- **Reprimand:**
  Written warning of misconduct with possible activity restrictions or conditions imposed.
- **Suspension:**
  Temporary separation from the team for a specified period.
- **Dismissal:**
  Permanent separation from the team and intercollegiate athletics at the University.

Note: Dismissal may result in the withdrawal of athletic scholarship support by the University Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee.

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4. Appeal Process

If a student-athlete wishes to appeal disciplinary sanctions:

1. Submit a **written appeal** to the Athletic Director's office within **seven (7) business days** of receiving notice of the sanction.
2. An **Appeals Committee** will review the case, consisting of:
    - Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)
    - At least two of the following:
        - Athletic Director
        - Administrative Designee(s)
        - Sport Administrator
        - Senior Woman Administrator (SWA)
3. The committee may request an in-person meeting.
4. A written decision will be provided within **seven (7) business days** of review.
5. The committee's decision is **final**.

Only the **University Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee** has authority over athletic scholarship withdrawal.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship reflects **integrity, respect, and fair competition**. Razorback student-athletes must uphold these values in all competitive situations.

Sportsmanship Guidelines

- Communicate respectfully with officials and opponents.
- Maintain composure in emotionally charged situations and assist teammates in doing so.
- Respond positively to aggressive actions by opponents.
- Treat all players, officials, and coaches with **courtesy and respect**.
- Accept victory and defeat **graciously**.
- Respect coaching decisions and voice concerns privately through proper channels.
- Exhibit dignity in behavior and appearance when representing the University.

Travel Rules

Team travel is a critical part of competition at the highest level.

- The **head coach** will set specific rules and provide them before the season begins.
- Athletes are **expected to travel to and from events with the team** in official University vehicles.
    - *Exceptions require special mitigating circumstances and prior approval*.
- While traveling, athletes represent the **University of Arkansas** and must conduct themselves with professionalism and integrity.

Grievance Policy

The Athletic Department is committed to resolving complaints **fairly, promptly, and confidentially**.

1. **Initial Discussion:**
   Attempt to resolve the issue directly with the person(s) involved.
2. **Escalation:**
   If unresolved, contact your:
    - Sport Administrator
    - Senior Woman Administrator (SWA)
    - Assistant AD for Student-Athlete Development & Administration
3. **Formal Review:**
   If still unresolved, the complaint will be escalated to the **Athletic Director**, who may:
    - Conduct interviews with involved parties
    - Schedule a formal meeting, if needed
    - Issue a written decision within **five (5) business days**

Note:
Allegations involving harassment, discrimination, or disability accommodations should be

directed to the **Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance** or **Center for Educational Access**.

Summary

As a Razorback student-athlete, your actions reflect directly on:

- Yourself
- Your team
- The University of Arkansas

Upholding these policies ensures that you maximize your athletic, academic, and personal development while maintaining the integrity and reputation of Razorback Athletics.