



STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The intercollegiate athletic program at Weatherford College (WC) advocates the personal growth and education of students through their participation in a comprehensive program of NJCAA Division I sports. As an integral part of the College, the intercollegiate athletic program actively promotes fair equity and diversity, and provides community enrichment. All this gain is not without sacrifice, for student-athletes may lose some individual rights and privileges as they accept the policies of the program when they become members of a team.

To this end, the Department of Athletics has adopted a standard of ethical conduct and behavioral expectations for all athletes at Weatherford College. A balanced student-athlete will be a responsible citizen, who achieves academically and performs athletically. Violation of this code of conduct is a significant event and calls for disciplinary action.

I. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

It is a privilege and not a right to be a student-athlete at Weatherford College. 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 a team, department, College and surrounding community for a duration of his or her tenure as a student-athlete. As a student-athlete at WC, you are expected to conform to all federal, state, and local laws as well as College regulations regarding academics, residence life, and general conduct. Students penalized for violating public laws are not exempt from further prosecution by College authorities if actions also violate College rules. In addition, the athletic department and respective coaches reserve the right to implement additional sanctions.

Weatherford College 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 of the Code of Conduct to his or her Head Coach or to the Director of Athletics within 24 hours of such violation. This obligation is in effect year-round, including semester and summer breaks.

II. DEFINITIONS

A student-athlete is a WC student that has been accorded the status of a varsity athlete. Student-athletes are expected to act in accordance with this Code of Conduct 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.)

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 extending deprivation of sleep or rest; forced consumption of food, liquor, beverage, or drugs; beating or branding; involuntary confinement or imprisonment; or 2) destroys, vandalizes, or removes public or private property.

Sportsmanship shall be defined in accordance with the standards of the NJCAA, the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference, the NIRA, and the WC Athletic Department. Sportsmanship is being able to take a loss or defeat without complaint, a victory without gloating, and being able to treat opponents with

fairness 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 Athletic Department, the College, their families, and their communities, with the highest level of sportsmanship.

III. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Prohibited conduct includes violation of any standards established by the governing authorities identified above. By way of illustration, and without limitation of those prohibitions, student-athletes must not violate any of the policies described below and in the Student Athlete Handbook. This includes dishonesty or falsifying documents, academic dishonesty, possessing, providing or consuming alcohol on campus or campus activities, possessing, providing or using illegal controlled substances (drugs), hazing, violence, sexual assault, disrespect, poor sportsmanship, gambling (in regard to any intercollegiate event), intentional poor academic performance (skipping class), or failing to meet team obligations.

IV. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AND SANCTIONS

The Department of Athletics disciplinary process is independent of, and supplements, the College judicial process. Sanctions levied by Athletics may occur over and above those levied by the College. Sanctions will vary depending on the type and circumstances of the violation on a case by case basis.

When the Department of Athletics (AD) becomes aware of an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct, the Director of Athletics, 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 circumstances, the AD may suspend the student-athlete before the meeting.

Determination of responsibility will be 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 NJCAA investigation of possible violation of this Code of Conduct or NJCAA rules may itself constitute a basis for disciplinary action.

Possible sanctions include but are not limited to:

1. Warning – the issuance of a written warning
2. Probation – Special status with conditions imposed for a limited time
3. Community Service
4. Required educational or counseling sessions
5. Drug Testing
6. Restitution – i.e. Payment for damaged property
7. Suspension – Removal of a student-athlete from all athletic department activities for a limited period of 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 NJCAA 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

Violations 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 playing season, whichever comes first. The Head Coach and Director of Athletics have authority to impose sanctions.

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 Director of Athletics.

Student-athletes arrested for, or charged with, violating the 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 Director of Athletics 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 Director of Athletics. Based on available information, the Director of Athletics may at any time prior to a finding or plea of guilty to a criminal charge may lift or modify the suspension.

A student-athlete suspended from participation as a result of a criminal charge shall not be prohibited from receiving financial aid during the pending of such criminal charge. Upon plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in a felony case, the College shall immediately determine whether the student-athlete's aid shall continue. This policy is applicable to all renewals of current athletic aid commitments and to all subsequently awarded athletic financial aid.

V. APPEALS

A student-athlete who is subject to season-long suspension or expulsion from athletics team participation, or whose athletic grant-in-aid would be affected by a sanction imposed by the Director of Athletics, may request for appeal from these sanctions. The appeal must be made, in writing, to the Director of Athletics within 3 business 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 Appeals Board will assemble as soon as reasonably possible. The Board will be made up of the Director of Athletics or his/her representative, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Weatherford College Compliance Officer, and a neutral coach as designated by the AD. The Board will conduct its investigation by hearing details of the case from the Director of Athletics, the student-athlete's Head Coach, and the student-athlete. 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.

Upon conclusion of the appeals assembly, the Appeals Board will meet privately to discuss the case. The Director of Athletics, or his/her representative, will notify the student as to the result of the appeal.