

Ursinus College Department of Athletics
Student Athlete Code of Conduct

The Ursinus College Department of Athletics (the “Department”) has adopted this Code of Conduct (“Code”) to ensure that all student-athletes comply with Ursinus College standards and the Department standards, and that all student-athletes understand the potential consequences associated with failure to comply with these standards.

1. Social Responsibility of the Ursinus Student-Athlete

- a. *Responsibility* - Student-athletes are highly visible representatives of Ursinus College (“Ursinus” or the “College”) and are required to abide by all College policies and regulations, including, but not limited to, the policies set forth in the Ursinus College Student Handbook (the “Handbook”). Student-athletes are also required to abide by all rules and regulations set forth by the NCAA, the Centennial Conference, the Department, specific intercollegiate team rules, regulations and policies and federal, state and local law. In addition, student-athletes, by their participation in intercollegiate athletics at Ursinus, understand and agree to abide by the Department Code.
- b. *Discrimination and Misconduct* - As an athletics community, we share the college’s commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning, living, and working environment for all students, faculty, and staff. All College Community members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others. Student-athletes are encouraged to be active bystanders in social settings, which will help keep the campus environment safe. In addition to that responsibility, all student-athletes are required by the NCAA and the college to take part in annual sexual violence prevention education.
- c. *Sportsmanship* - Student-athletes are expected to conform to well-understood expectations for sportsmanlike conduct in intercollegiate athletic competition, both on and off the playing field. Acts of fair play include, but are not limited to, showing respect toward all who are in attendance at an athletic event including officials, coaches, athletes, opponents, spectators, and the media. Student-athletes are responsible for understanding good sportsmanship and fair play in the context of their sports as well as defined by their coach. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate behavior in language, gesture, or action which demeans, physically intimidates, or endangers others. Student-athletes are expected to conform to the established guidelines of sportsmanlike conduct at all times, including, but not limited to practices, scrimmages, competition, team travel, team meetings, and other team, College, Centennial Conference and NCAA events.

2. Academics

- a. Student-athletes are students first and, as such, are responsible for knowing and following all regulations and responsibilities for academic life, as outlined in the Handbook.
- b. Student-athletes are also responsible for maintaining their academic NCAA eligibility, by maintaining full-time enrollment (at least twelve credits) and remaining in good academic standing, as defined by the College, in its sole discretion.

NCAA Academic Eligibility To be eligible to compete in collegiate athletics, you must:

- i. Be enrolled as a full-time student, 12 credits minimum.
- ii. Be in good academic standing, as defined by Ursinus College.

You are eligible to compete in 4 seasons of your sport, and you have 10 full-time semesters to complete those 4 seasons.

Missed Class Time. A student-athlete shall not miss class for the following:

- (a) Practice activities in any segment;
- (b) Competition in the nontraditional segment.

Exceptions. A student-athlete may miss class for practice activities in the following circumstances:

- (a) When a team is traveling to an away-from-home contest and the practice is in conjunction with the contest; and
- (b) Student-athletes representing the host institution shall be permitted to miss class time for practice activities scheduled in conjunction with an NCAA championship.

****In these circumstances, student-athletes must request permission from faculty members, permission is not guaranteed!**

3. NCAA compliance

- a. Student-athletes shall read and sign the required NCAA compliance forms on an annual basis. These forms include the Student-Athlete Statement Concerning Eligibility, the Buckley Amendment consent, the Promotion of NCAA Championships permission, and Results of Drug Tests release. Other forms may be required in certain circumstances.
- b. Student-athletes shall abide by all NCAA rules and regulations, including, but not limited to those rules and regulations pertaining to Ethical Conduct, Amateurism, Drug Testing, Transferring and Eligibility.
- c. **Ethical Conduct – Sports Wagering:** You are not eligible to compete if you knowingly participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card, online site or any other method employed by organized gambling. The NCAA defines a wager as “any agreement in which an individual or entity agrees to give up an item of value (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) in exchange for the possibility of gaining another item of value.” This is NOT allowed if you’re a student-athlete or an athletic department staff member.
- d. **Transferring:** To grant another Division III school permission to contact you about a potential transfer (or for you to be able to contact the school), complete the Permission to Contact: Self-Release form that is available on the student-athlete home page of the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org. You can also ask Associate Director of Athletics, Marqus Hunter, to be entered into the transfer portal.

To contact Division I or Division II schools, you must seek permission from Associate Director of Athletics, Marqus Hunter, to be entered into the transfer portal.

4. Online Social Networking and Digital Platforms

- a. Student-athletes are not restricted from using on-line social media sites and/or digital platforms. Any content posted by a student-athlete via on-line social networks or digital platforms, shall comply with all policies, rules and regulations of the College, the Centennial Conference and the NCAA, as well as with federal, state and local law. Failure to comply with said policies may subject the student-athlete to discipline as set forth in the Code and the Handbook.
- b. Student-athletes should remember to be thoughtful before posting content to social media and respect the purpose of the community where you are posting. Remember, that there is no such thing as a “private” social media site. Comments can be forwarded or copied, and the archival systems save information even if you delete a post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it is suggested that you delay posting until you are calm and clear-headed.
- c. Student-athletes shall not post content to social media sites on behalf of the College, the Department or any intercollegiate athletic team.
- d. Student-athletes shall exercise appropriate caution if they choose to participate in social media sites. Student-athletes are reminded that all policies listed in this Code and in the Handbook apply to the virtual environment, including social media sites.

5. Hazing

- a. Ursinus College does not tolerate hazing. Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student or willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation, admission into, or affiliation with, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education or as a condition for continued membership in said organization.
- b. In addition, the NCAA defines hazing as “any act committed against someone joining or becoming a member or maintaining membership in any organization that is humiliating, intimidating or demeaning, or endangers the health and safety of the person. Hazing includes active or passive participation in such acts and occurs regardless of the willingness to participate in the activities. Hazing creates an environment/climate in which dignity and respect are absent.”
- c. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual
 - ii. Any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual
 - iii. Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.
 - iv. Requiring new members to perform duties not assigned to other team members or to participate in activities in which the full membership is not willing to participate;
 - v. Any requirement or pressure put on an individual to participate in any activity which is illegal, perverse, publicly indecent, or contrary to the individual’s morals and beliefs.

6. Athletic Training protocols

- a. The Ursinus College Athletic Training Department operates under the guidelines set by the NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook and follows standard operating procedures created by Ursinus College's staff of licensed athletic trainers in conjunction with the Ursinus Wellness Center physician and the Department team physician.
- b. All student-athletes shall read and complete the required medical forms prior to participation in any athletics activity. Full disclosure and honesty are required for safety and liability protection of all student-athletes, coaches and medical staff members.
- c. Student-athletes must have primary insurance coverage to participate in intercollegiate athletics. The College provides secondary insurance coverage for student-athletes, who are injured during an official, coached practice or game. Students and their families must work with the athletic training staff for insurance claims through the secondary policy.

7. Hosting Prospective Students on campus

- a. Any student-athlete who is serving as an overnight host for a recruit must abide by all Ursinus College rules and regulations, including, but not limited to the policies regarding visitors and minors, contained in the Handbook.
- b. The prospective student-athlete is not permitted to consume any alcohol during their visit. The student-athlete who is hosting the prospective student-athlete takes responsibility for the welfare of the prospect during the visit, and therefore must follow the itinerary provided by the coach, remain with the prospect during all social events and shall not provide the prospect with alcohol. Further, student-athletes, at all times, shall comply with the College's alcohol policy.

8. Team Policies/Rules

- a. In addition to the expectations outlined in the Code, each student-athlete shall also abide by the specific team policies and rules, consistent with College policies, for their respective team. The head coach of each athletic team has authority to impose sanctions for violations of team policies and rules, consistent with College policies.

9. Student-Athlete Feedback Process

- a. At the conclusion of each sports season, the Department provides all student-athletes an opportunity to share perceptions of their experience. These questionnaires are very valuable to the continued improvement of the Department and student-athletes are encouraged to honestly and thoughtfully complete this process. In addition, senior exit interviews and sophomore chats will be conducted with a sampling of student-athletes from each team. Participation in this process is also valuable and encouraged.

10. Failure to Comply Procedure

- a. Student-athletes who fail to abide by the Code may be subject to disciplinary action from the head coach and/or the Department, consistent with College policies. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, sanctions up to and including possible termination of athletic participation.
- b. This process is subject to Department policies, and is separate and distinct from the College's conduct process. To the extent the College's conduct process has been initiated, the Department will defer to the College's conduct process.
- c. When a violation is suspected the Director of Athletics, Associate Athletic Director, the head coach and/or any pertinent staff members will take reasonable steps, to initiate an investigation, to verify the validity, reliability and accuracy of the report. In most cases, a meeting will be held with the student-athlete to discuss the facts before any disciplinary action is imposed.
- d. Possible sanctions, per this Code and College policy, may include, but are not limited to:

- i. Written warning
 - ii. Probation – limited participation/status for a set period of time
 - iii. Required educational or counseling sessions
 - iv. Drug testing
 - v. Restitution
 - vi. Suspension – removal from some or all athletic activities for a set period of time
 - vii. Expulsion – permanent removal from all athletic activities
- e. Sanctions may be appealed to the Vice President for Student Affairs. Appeals must be made in writing and submitted within seven days of the decision. The Department retains the authority to implement the sanction pending the appeal.

Concerns? Director of Athletics, Erin Stroble; and Associate Athletic Director, Marqus Hunter are available to all student-athletes with concerns, questions or issues regarding this code of conduct and/or any part of their athletic experience. **Agreement/Waiver**

I understand and agree that, as a condition to participate in the intercollegiate athletics program, I am required to know, understand, and follow the standards contained in the Ursinus College Student Athlete Code of Conduct and the College policies. I understand the sanctions that may be imposed due to a violation of these standards. If I have further questions regarding this Student Athlete Code of Conduct I understand that I can ask my coach, Director of Athletics, or Associate Athletic Director.

SPORT(S): _____ DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME, IMAGE, LIKENESS, VIDEO AND AUDIO RELEASE AND AUTHORIZATION

I hereby grant Ursinus College, its trustees, officers, employees, agents, volunteers and independent third party photographers hired by Ursinus College, the unrestricted right to record my picture and voice on photographs, films and audio and videotapes, to edit these recordings at the discretion of the College, and to incorporate these recordings into movie and sound films or audio and videotapes, webcast, streaming, social media sites, broadcasts, (radio and television, including cable and satellite transmissions), programs or otherwise, to use in any manner of media whatsoever, including unrestricted use for purposes of publicity, advertising, and other promotional activities, and to use my name, image, likeness, or voice in connection therewith.

I hereby release the College from any and all claims for damages, for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, false light or any other claim based on the use of the above-described materials. I further waive any rights conferred under state law, federal copyright laws or any other rights I might otherwise have in the materials and the subsequent broadcast or commercial, educational, or other use by the College. I understand that the recordings are the exclusive property of the College, and the College owns all rights to these recordings regardless of the form in which they are produced or used.

All such uses shall be consistent with state and federal law and all applicable NCAA and Centennial Conference rules and regulations. I agree that neither I nor my heirs shall be entitled to any compensation for the use of my name, photograph likeness or other image of myself.

☐

I authorize Ursinus College to permit College groups ONLY to use my name, image, likeness, picture or appearance in accordance with state and federal law and NCAA and Centennial Conference rules for charitable and educational promotions

☐

I authorize Ursinus College to permit College and non-College groups to use my name, image, likeness, picture or appearance in accordance with state and federal law and NCAA and Centennial Conference rules for charitable or educational promotions.

I understand that I am not required to execute this release and authorization, and that by NOT executing this release and authorization that the College shall not use my name, image, likeness, picture or voice for any charitable or educational promotions, including but not limited to promotions associated with my intercollegiate athletics team.

DATE: _____

Signature

Signature must be of athlete over
18 years of age. If under 18,
please have it signed by a parent or
guardian.

Date of birth

Parent or guardian