



## SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT

**Policy Title:** Sportsmanship and Conduct

**Policy Type:** Administrative Policy

**Policy Number:** Administrative Policy # 60-03 (2014)

**Approved:** 05/24/2021

**Responsible Office:** Department of Athletics

**Responsible Executive:** Director of Athletics

**Applies to:** University Community and Outside Organizations

### POLICY STATEMENT

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics provides a standard code of conduct to uphold scholarship and competitive performance through development of an appreciation for fairness, openness and support of coaches and student-athletes, on and off the field of competition. Each member of the Norfolk State University community shares in the responsibility for their personal conduct and in some cases may assume reasonable responsibility for the behavior of others. Student-athletes, department personnel, coaches and fans are required to engage in the responsible conduct that positively reflects the University community.

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE NUMBER</b>
Definitions.....	1
Contacts .....	2
Stakeholder(s) (For Administrative Policy).....	2
Sportsmanship and Conduct: Policy Contents.....	2
Education and Compliance .....	2
Publication .....	3
Review Schedule.....	3
Related Documents .....	3
Forms .....	3

### DEFINITIONS

**Sportsmanship** is defined as the practice of participating in sports with a conduct and attitude considered to be befitting of a participant in that sport, especially fair play, courtesy, striving spirit, and grace in losing. It encompasses both Ethical Behavior and acts of Integrity.

**Ethics** is defined as the principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a group.

It is a system of principles governing acceptable conduct.

**Integrity** is defined as a firm adherence to a code of values that incorporates the principles of honesty.

**Unsportsman-like Conduct** is defined as behaviors by individuals that disrupts the collegial atmosphere of a sporting event. These behaviors include but are not limited to – verbal harassment of other players, spectators or officials before during or after a contest, physical contact (fighting) or threat of physical harm to a player, official or other spectator before, during or after a contest and malicious taunting of a player or official before, during or after a contest.

## **CONTACT(S)**

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and its Compliance Office officially interprets this policy in accordance with NCAA, MEAC and institutional bylaws and guidelines. A designated athletics compliance administrator is responsible for updating or revising this policy to ensure adherence to the most recent definitions and guidelines regarding sportsmanship and conduct with approval from the Director of Athletics. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

## **STAKEHOLDER(S)**

Student-athletes, University Community, Supporters of NSU Athletics and Outside Organizations

## **SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT POLICY CONTENT**

It is the responsibility of student-athletes and individuals employed by or directly associated with the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when representing their institution, especially at intercollegiate athletic contests.

This policy establishes basic guidelines for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics student-athletes, coaches, department personnel and fans regarding sportsmanship and conduct and it is written to help maintain a healthy balance between fair play and safety. Sportsmanship, civility and conduct of student-athletes, coaches, staff and fans are an essential focus on the field of competition.

While the game atmosphere is often competitive, ensuring participant safety and promoting sportsmanlike behavior among participants and team followers are our primary concern. The game atmosphere should remain good natured at all times.

Disciplinary action, to include removal from a contest, shall be assessed to any individual exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct.

## **EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE:**

Student-athlete education regarding sportsmanship is included in the student-athlete handbook which is provided to athletes annually by the Department of Athletics. In addition, the department's policy regarding sportsmanship is read aloud to spectators prior to the beginning of home intercollegiate competitions. It is the responsibility of the head coaches to monitor and ensure student-athletes are exhibiting good sportsmanship during competitions and the

responsibility of the Department of Athletics to ensure spectators are also engaging in a manner that exhibits good sportsmanship.

## **PUBLICATION**

This policy shall be widely published or distributed to the Athletics community. To ensure timely publication and distribution thereof, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics will make every effort to:

1. Communicate the policy in writing, electronically or otherwise, to the University community within 14 days of approval;
2. Post the policy on the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics Website ([www.nsuspartans.com](http://www.nsuspartans.com)); and
3. Educate and train all stakeholders and appropriate audiences on the policy's content, as necessary.

Failure to satisfy procedural requirements does not invalidate this policy.

## **REVIEW SCHEDULE**

- Next Scheduled Review: 04/14/2021,05/24/2024
- Approval by, date: President, 7/16/2014
- Revision History: 6/30/13; 5/27/14
- Supersedes:

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

None

## **FORMS**

None