



BOV Policy #16 (2015) Student-Athlete Discipline

Policy Title:	Student-Athlete Discipline
Policy Type:	Board of Visitors
Policy No.:	BOV Policy # 16 (2015)
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Responsible Office:	Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
Responsible Executive:	Athletics Director
Applies to:	Student-Athletes

POLICY STATEMENT

Each member of the Norfolk State University (NSU) community shares in the responsibility for his/her personal conduct and in some cases, may assume reasonable responsibility for the behavior of others. All students are required to engage in responsible conduct that positively reflects the University community and themselves. The NSU Board of Visitors (BOV) is required to establish rules and regulations addressing the conduct of students while attending the University (*Code of Virginia* § 23.1-1301) and [BOV Policy # 06 \(2014\) Statement on Code of Student Conduct](#) directs the administration to establish and publish the rules pertaining to student conduct [Code of Student Conduct \(Administrative Policy # 27-02 \(2014\)\)](#). The *Code of Virginia* § 23.1-1303 (B)(7) also requires that the Board of Visitors establish a policy for the discipline of students who participate in varsity intercollegiate athletics. This policy specifically addresses the conduct of student-athletes and the disciplinary and reporting requirements involving varsity collegiate athletics at the University.

Infractions of policy or law by student-athletes will be adjudicated as follows:

- a. Under the NSU [Student-Athlete Handbook](#), which governs the student's privilege and permission to participate in any aspect of sports competition, such as NCAA or MEAC. This policy must be included in the Student-Athlete Handbook.
- b. Under the [NSU Student Handbook](#) and [Student Code of Conduct](#), which govern an individual's status as a student and the ability to participate in the academic programs of the University.
- c. In state or federal civil or criminal courts.



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DEFINITIONS

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC): a collegiate athletic conference consisting of historically Black institutions from the mid-east region¹.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA): a membership-driven organization dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of student-athletes and equipping them with the skills necessary to succeed on the playing field, in the classroom and throughout life. NCAA members—mostly colleges and universities, but also conferences and affiliated groups—work together to create the framework of rules for fair and safe competition. Those rules are administered by NCAA national office staff, which also organizes national championships and provides other resources to support student-athletes and the schools they attend².

Student-Athlete: a student who participates in varsity intercollegiate athletics at Norfolk State University.

Student: A person who has been admitted to or has enrolled at the University and has not completed a program of study for which she/he has enrolled; or has completed a program of study and has satisfied all academic requirements for the program but has not been awarded a degree at the time of the offense. Student status exists regardless of whether the University is in session (i.e. spring break and summer).

¹ MEAC Website: [About the MEAC](#) (2020).

² NCAA Website: [What is the NCAA?](#) (2020).



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CONTACT(S)

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics officially interprets this policy and is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions as required by BOV Policy # 01 (2014) *Creating and Maintaining Policies* through the appropriate governance structures. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

POLICY CONTENTS

Student-athletes and team success contribute to the overall image of the University. Because of the visibility of collegiate athletics, student-athletes have additional responsibilities which include but are not limited to: performing to the best of their ability—both academically and athletically; and contributing on and off the field in a manner that reflects positively on the student, athletic team, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the University as a whole. Student-athletes, like all students, are held accountable under all institutional policies and procedures, such as the NSU Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct. Discipline for violations of these policies and procedures will be administered through the Dean of Students Office as prescribed.

Student-Athletes are also governed by requirements of the Norfolk State University Student-Athlete Handbook and the rules and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)—of which NSU maintains membership as a Division I institution. Discipline for violations of the Student-Athlete Handbook, rules and regulations of the NCAA and MEAC are administered through the office of the Athletics Director in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics as prescribed.

The applicable rules and regulations govern student eligibility to participate in sports, including *but not limited to* behavior specific to athletes such as academic and athletic eligibility, unsportsmanlike behavior, non-therapeutic drug use and drug testing, gambling and bribery, and the acceptance of non-permissible awards, benefits and expenses, as well as other forms of misconduct.

Each student-athlete must be provided with an electronic copy of the NSU Student-Athlete Handbook and NSU Code of Student Conduct upon entry into an athletic program and at the start of each academic year when the student is planning to participate in athletic competition. Student-athletes are responsible for knowing the additional responsibilities that are inherent in membership on an athletic team. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics will maintain a record of all student-athletes receiving a copy of the Student-Athlete Handbook and NSU Code of Student Conduct each academic year.



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The Department shall report on this requirement and on enforcement actions taken pursuant to these handbooks and Codes, and pursuant to law, include statistical data or analysis on policy or rule violations in an annual report to the Board of Visitors and the President at the end of each academic year.

EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE

Educating student-athletes about NCAA, MEAC and university rules and expectations is a vital part of the department's ongoing commitment to ensuring a positive experience for student-athletes while upholding the standards of the institution and Division I membership. The student-athlete handbook provides specific information to student-athletes regarding NCAA academic requirements for eligibility, plus department and university academic requirements. Information regarding institution and department behavior expectations and outcomes for violations of department and university rules is included in the handbook as well.

The department conducts mandatory education sessions at the beginning of each academic year for every student-athlete and provides an electronic copy of the Student-Athlete Handbook and Student Code of Conduct in advance of the meeting. Student-athletes are required to sign an acknowledgement form indicating they have received the link to each document and reviewed the contents of the handbook and code of conduct before they are cleared to begin team practice. A separate session is held in the spring for student-athletes that enroll in the spring semester.

PUBLICATION

This policy shall be widely published or distributed to the University community. To ensure timely publication and distribution thereof, the Responsible Office will make every effort to:

1. Communicate the policy in writing, electronically or otherwise, to the University community within 14 days of Board approval;
2. Submit the policy for inclusion in the online Policy Library within 14 days of Board approval;
3. Post the policy on the BOV Website; and
4. Educate and train stakeholders and appropriate audiences on the policy's content.

Failure to satisfy procedural requirements does not invalidate this policy.



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REVIEW SCHEDULE

- Next Scheduled Review: March 2024
- Approved by, date: Board of Visitors, March 19, 2021
- Revision History: December 11, 2015; March 17, 2016; September 15, 2017; December 11, 2020
- Supersedes: *None*

RELATED DOCUMENTS

[BOV Policy # 06 \(2014\) Statement on Code of Student Conduct](#)

[NSU Code of Student Conduct, Administrative Policy # 27-02 \(2014\)](#)

[NSU Student-Athlete Handbook \(2015\)](#)

[NSU Student Handbook](#)

FORMS

There are no forms associated with this policy.