STUDENT-ATHLETE CONDUCT AND ETHICS

Individuals employed by, or associated with, a member institution to administer, conduct or coach intercollegiate athletics and all participating student-athletes shall act with honesty and sportsmanship at all times so that intercollegiate athletics as a whole, their institution and they, as individuals, shall represent the honor and dignity of fair play and the generally recognized high standards associated with wholesome competitive sports.

The NCAA

Student-athletes are subject to the rules and regulations of the NCAA governing unsportsmanlike behavior, non-therapeutic drug use, gambling and the acceptance of non-permissible awards, benefits and expenses, as well as any other form of misconduct. These rules and regulations can be found within the NCAA Manual at www.ncaa.org.

USC Upstate Department of Athletics

Student-athletes must abide by all rules and guidelines set forth in The University of South Carolina Upstate Student-Athlete Handbook. All student-athletes will be asked to sign a statement indicating they have read and understand the rules and regulations outlined in the handbook for all student-athletes.

Each Head Coach has established team rules for their individual sport. These rules are approved annually of the Director of Athletics. Student-athletes are responsible and accountable for these rules as well. Team rules may be stricter than general athletic department rules and student-athletes will be held accountable for those standards set by the Head Coach.

General Rules and Regulations

The expectation is that all student-athletes uphold all state and federal laws and the USC Upstate Code of Student Behavior. Student-athletes are held accountable to the same policies and procedures as other university students outlined in the student handbook. In addition to the sanctions that may be imposed by the university, student-athletes may face additional sanctions imposed by the athletic department.

Curfew, drinking (except for underage), study hall and other rules are determined by each individual team’s regulations and will be supported by the athletic department.

While overall behavior for student-athletes is covered by the USC Upstate Student Handbook, student-athletes should pay special attention to the following violations:

1. Academic Integrity
   Under the Code of Academic Integrity, students are on their honor not to cheat, lie or steal, and if they witness another student doing so, it is their responsibility to report the individual and the circumstances to the instructor or the dean of students.
A. Bribery
The offering, giving, receiving or soliciting of anything of value to obtain a grade
or consideration a student would not expect to achieve from his or her own
academic performance.

B. Cheating Examples include:
1. Any conduct during a program, course, quiz or examination that involves the
unauthorized use of written or oral information, or information obtained by any
other means of communication.
2. The buying, selling, sharing of questions or theft of any examination or quiz
prior to its administration.
3. The unauthorized use of any electronic or mechanical device during any
program, course, quiz or examination or in connection with laboratory reports
or other materials related to academic performance.
4. The unauthorized use of notes, laboratory reports, term reports, theses and
written materials in whole or part.
5. The unauthorized collaboration on any test, assignment or project.

C. Lying
Lying is the deliberate misrepresentation by words, actions or deeds of any
situation or facts, in part or in whole, for the purpose of avoiding or postponing the
completion of any assignment, duties, test or examination in a course, internship
or program.

D. Plagiarism
Plagiarism, or literary theft, in any writing assignment: using others’ words or
ideas without consistent, correctly formatted acknowledgement. This includes
sources the student knows personally-friends, other students, relatives, etc., as
well as all text, internet, and other sources. Students are required to properly
acknowledge sources as follows: students may not present as their own ideas,
opinions, images, figures, languages or concepts of another, including those
of other students. Students must acknowledge all sources such as magazines,
journals, internet sites, records, tapes, films and interviews. Papers and other
materials bought from “term paper writing services,” if submitted as the work of
anyone except the writing service, constitute a violation of the principles of this
document. Further, violation of any of the following standards may be cause for
disciplinary action.
The common specific uses of source material are:
Direct Quotation: Word-for-word copying of a source. Direct quotation must be
accurate, must not misrepresent the source in any way and must be properly
acknowledged.
Paraphrase: A recasting into one’s own words material from a source, generally
condensing the source. A direct quotation with only a word or two changed,
added or omitted should not be passed off as a paraphrase. A paraphrase restates
the source but does not misrepresent it and must be properly acknowledged.
Use of ideas: The use of an idea from a source must be properly acknowledged,
even when one’s application of that idea varies from the source.
Use of figures, tables, charts, statistics, images, photographs and other similar
sources: These items must be fully acknowledged, and any changes must be
clearly indicated. If a student has received any kind of help (except that permitted by an instructor) in the preparation of a project, that help must be fully acknowledged.

2. Alcohol Policy:
Unauthorized possession, distribution or consumption of alcohol. Violating any other provision of the Student Code of Conduct while under the influence of alcohol is a violation of this Alcohol Policy. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, public intoxication, providing alcohol to underage persons, etc. (refer to the USC Student Handbook for the complete Alcohol and Drug Policy).

3. Compliance with General Laws:
Students or student organizations involved in violations of any federal, state, or local laws may be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action imposed by the University may precede and/or be in addition to any penalty imposed by an off-campus authority.

Athletic regulations regarding student athletes are as follows:
*Felony Charge:* Any student-athlete arrested and charged with a felony may be suspended from practice and participation until the charges are dropped, dismissed or resolved.

*Misdemeanor Charge:* A student-athlete charged/convicted of a misdemeanor charge may be subject to the following penalties:
- Suspension from practice and competition
- Restriction of athletic facilities and services
- Dismissal from the team

4. Drug Policies:
The unauthorized possession, use, manufacture, sale, or distribution of any counterfeit, illegal, dangerous, “designer,” or controlled drug or other substance is prohibited. This includes prescription medications. Violating any other provision of the Student Code of Conduct while under the influence of any illegal or illegally obtained drug is also a violation of this policy (Refer to the USC Upstate Student Handbook for the complete Alcohol and Drug Policy). The possession of drug paraphernalia is also prohibited (i.e., pipes, bongs, etc.)

5. Hazing:
Defined as any act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, faculty member or other University official. This includes the removal of public, private property for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with or as a continued membership in a group or organization.

The NCAA provides the Hazing Test to help captains of teams and student leaders to think about issues of hazing when planning activities:
• Is this a team or group activity in which members are encouraged or expected to attend and in which minors are consuming alcohol?
• Will current members refuse to participate with the new members?
• Does the activity risk emotional or physical abuse?
• Is there a risk of injury or a question of safety?
• Would you have any reservations describing the activity to your parents, coach, professor or university official?
• Would you object to the activity being photographed for the school newspaper or local television news?

http://www.neaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/74b5a8804e0db159a9fd91ad6fc8b25/hazinghan
dbook0108.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=74b5a8804e0db159a9fd91ad6fc8b25

6. Sexual Assault: (See the USC Upstate Student Handbook for complete policy)
Stalking
Definition: a pattern of conduct that is intended to cause or does cause a person to fear:
(1) Death or death of others important to that person; (2) Assault or assault of others important to that person; (3) Bodily injury or bodily injury of others important to that person; (4) Sexual assault or sexual assault of others important to that person; (5) Involuntary restraint or involuntary restraint of others important to that person; (6) Damage to property or damage to property of others important to that person; (7) Confinement or confinement of others important to that person; (8) Threats of harassment via electronic devices (e.g., e-mail, phone, fax). The relationship between the perpetrator and the victim may be a current or former partner or spouse, dating relationship, acquaintance, or stranger.

Non-Consensual Sexual Contact
Definition: occurs when there is coerced, manipulated or unwanted touching, directly or through clothing, of an intimate part of a person (i.e., the genital area, groin, inner thigh, anus, buttocks, mouth or breasts) that occurs against one’s will, or without one’s consent, including when one is unconscious, intoxicated or otherwise unable to give consent.

Non-Consensual Sexual Assault
Definition: occurs when there is unwilling or nonconsensual penetration of any bodily opening with any object or body part. This includes, but is not limited to penetration of a bodily opening without consent through use of coercion or manipulation.

Forced Sexual Assault
Definition: occurs when there is unwilling or nonconsensual penetration of any bodily opening with any object or body part that is committed either by force, threat, intimidation, or through exploitation of another’s mental or physical condition of which the assailant was or should have been aware. Providing or making available to a victim, and/or using any substance (e.g. alcohol, GHB, Rohypnol, etc.) will be considered by the Administrative Hearing Officer, Honor Council, or pre-hearing Officer when determining responsibility and appropriate sanction. Use of these substances
in violating this policy may constitute “Forced Sexual Assault” and result in expulsion from the University. In addition, the use of these substances by an alleged assailant may constitute violation of other University policies, and the student may be charged with these violations as well (e.g. Drugs, Harm to Persons, Disorderly Conduct, Disruptive Activity, Alcohol, etc).

Sanctions

*Felony Charge*: Any student-athlete arrested and charged with a felony may be suspended from practice and participation until the charges are dropped, dismissed or resolved.

*Misdemeanor Charge*: A student-athlete charged/convicted of a misdemeanor charge may be subject to the following penalties:

- Suspension from practice and competition
- Restriction of athletic facilities and services
- Dismissal from the team

Arrest of a Student-Athlete

If a student-athlete is arrested (on or off campus) he/she will be subject to local and campus penalties. Student-athletes and coaches must immediately contact Dean of Students Laura Puckett-Boler at 864-503-5108 and Director of Athletics Mike Hall at 864-503-5140.

Hazing

As referenced above, hazing by individuals or organizations is prohibited at USC Upstate. Any action or situation created to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, ridicule, or humiliation is considered hazing and will not be tolerated.

Self Representation - Facebook/Twitter/MySpace

Student-athletes who have active accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Myspace and/or any account of similar nature are responsible for the material posted. Any University personnel or media outlet may have access to these accounts at any time unless it is set to a private setting. Inappropriate postings (pictures, blogs, and comments) are prohibited. Team rules regarding these accounts must be adhered to.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship shall be defined in accordance with the standards of the NCAA, the Atlantic Sun Conference and the University of South Carolina Upstate Department of Athletics. In general, a person exhibiting sportsmanship is one who can take a loss or defeat without complaint, a victory without gloating, and who treats opponents with fairness and courtesy. Sportsmanship is respect for oneself, teammates, coaches, officials, opponents and property. Sportsmanship is also defined as showing self-control.
and not being drawn into or encouraging physical conflict outside the nature of the sport. All student-athletes shall represent themselves, their team, the Department of Athletics, the University and the community with the highest level of sportsmanship. The department takes sportsmanship very seriously and any student-athlete displaying unsportsmanlike conduct can face penalties imposed by the officials as well as possible additional penalties imposed by the head coach or Director of Athletics.

**ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**Class Attendance**
It is Department of Athletics policy that student-athletes attend all classes unless excused, regardless of the course instructor’s policy (see the university class attendance policy below). Viable excuses include athletics participation, documented illness, etc. Coaches are held accountable for excessive absences of their student-athletes. Excessive absences could result in a loss of practice and/or competition privileges. Absences due to illness should have some type of documentation, whether it is from the training room, health services, or from a physician.

The university has a written statement about class attendance for all students in its University Catalog. The statement is as follows:

**Class Attendance**
The resources of the University are provided for the intellectual growth and development of the students who attend. The schedule of courses is provided to facilitate an orderly arrangement of the program of instruction. The fact that classes are scheduled is evidence that attendance is important and students should, therefore, maintain regular attendance if they are to attain maximum success in the pursuit of their studies.

All instructors will, at the beginning of each semester, make a clear written statement to all their classes regarding their policies concerning attendance. Instructors are also responsible for counseling with their students regarding the academic consequences of absences from their classes or laboratories. Students are obligated to adhere to the requirements of each course and of each instructor. All matters related to the student’s absence, including the possible make-up of work missed, are to be arranged between the student and the instructor. Students should understand that they are responsible for all course content covered during their absences and for the academic consequences of their absences. (*USC Upstate 2009 University Catalog, 51*)