

WSC TETON ATHLETICS

Student-Athletes' Code of Conduct

2023-2024

Thank you for being a part of the proud tradition of Teton Athletics. Since 1965, student-athletes who wear the Teton uniform have done great things, on and off the court and field. We hope you enjoy your time as a student-athlete at Williston State and look forward to your helping us continue the tradition of excellence.

This handbook is designed to help student-athletes understand the responsibilities that come with being a student-athlete. It is our goal to provide an environment for all involved in Williston State Athletics that allows each to develop their individual talents so they can reach their full potential.

It is the expectation that the coaching staff will annually review the handbook with their respective teams. Please read through this document carefully. Each student-athlete shall sign, on a form provided by the Director of Athletics, that they have received a copy of the handbook. No student-athlete will be permitted to participate until this policy is reviewed and the signed form is on file.

PHILOSOPHY

Being a member of Teton Athletics is a privilege, not a right. Student-athletes are a very visible part of our campus, our community, our state and our region. Their performance and behavior during athletic competition, in the classroom, and in the community should follow the expectations outlined in this handbook. Each member of Teton Athletics is expected to put forth their best effort in all of these areas and to continue the proud tradition of Teton Athletics. Being a member of Teton Athletics is a privilege, a privilege that allows you to become part of the Teton Family.

POLICIES

Williston State College supports and adheres to the current relevant federal, state and university policies as documented in the WSC Student Code of Conduct. (The WSC Student Code of Conduct is located here: <http://www.willistonstate.edu/Current-Students/Student-and-Resident-Life/Student-Conduct-and-Policies.html>)

Student-athletes, student-trainers, student-managers, and coaches are expected to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in the WSC Student Code of Conduct, to those policies specific to the athletic department, and to those policies specific to their respective team(s).

INNAPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

As representatives of Williston State College and Teton Athletics, student-athletes are responsible for their behavior. It is the expectation that you will not embarrass, disgrace, or discredit Williston State College. Consequences for such behavior may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Suspension from Practice
- Suspension from Competition
- Loss of Athletic Scholarship
- Dismissal from Team
- Referral to local authorities
- Referral to campus judicial officer (VP for Student Services)

LOCAL STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS

Student-athletes who are alleged (including arrested or charged) to have broken local, state and federal laws will be subject to team and department sanctions upon a case by case review. Violations involving physical and/or sexual violence, use of illegal weapons, or driving while under the influence will be subject to immediate suspension from team

activity pending further investigation. The head coach, in consultation with the athletics director (or his/her designee), will impose sanctions.

Team or Athletics Department disciplinary sanctions may be imposed in advance of any campus disciplinary and/or criminal actions. Disciplinary sanctions may include, but are not limited to: admonishment; written reprimand; suspension from the team; and dismissal from the team. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the broader University, including probation, suspension from school, or expulsion.

For the purposes of this code of conduct, suspension from the team means that student-athletes may not represent the team at an internal or external events or compete or travel with any Williston State Intercollegiate Athletics team. However, suspended student-athletes may, with the approval of the coach and designated sport administrator, attend team meetings and retain privileges to access training table, the athletic training room, academic support services and individual use of weight training.

Exceptions to any of these terms may be made by the Athletics Director or his/her designee.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY

The Athletics Department is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all of its student-athletes. Sexual harassment is unlawful and unethical and may subject those who engage in it to department, College and legal sanctions. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, sex-based conduct that is intimidating, hostile or offensive, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is prohibited by the University. Complaints of sexual harassment by a student-athlete will be promptly addressed and should be. Consequences for harassment may include:

1. Verbal and written warning and participation in educational sessions
2. Suspension from the team
3. Loss of eligibility and dismissal from the team
4. Dismissal from the University

Examples of prohibited conduct:

1. Unwelcome sexual flirtation, advances or propositions.
2. Continued or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual nature
3. Sexually degrading language to describe an individual
4. Unwelcome remarks of a sexual nature to describe a person's body or clothing
5. Display of sexually demeaning objects or pictures
6. Offensive physical contact, such as unwelcome touching
7. Coerced sexual intercourse
8. Sexual assault
9. Rape, date or acquaintance rape, or other sex offenses either forcible or non-forcible

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

In keeping with the mission of Williston State College, a priority for the Athletic Department is to augment and support every effort that will foster intellectual development and graduation for student-athletes. While several levels of support exist at WSC, the ultimate responsibility for success rests upon the shoulders of the student-athlete. With the direction of their Head Coach, each student is expected to:

- Maintain 12 Credit Hours at Williston State during each semester. Student becomes ineligible for participation once they go below 12 credit hours. Classes that finish early (regardless of grade in class) continue to count towards the 12 credits.
- Set the primary goal of obtaining a degree.
- Seek assistance from instructors, advisors, counselors and Academic Success Center before and/or when academic difficulties occur.
- Be a responsible member of each class, which is not limited to: Attending and being prompt for all

classes, being prepared, completing requirements, and participating as expected in both in- and out-of-class discussions/meetings.

- Meet with your academic major advisor as required.
- Adhere to WSC policy regarding academic integrity and honesty as outlined in the WSC Student Code of Conduct.

HEALTH & MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Participation in athletics is contingent upon medical clearance by a medical doctor. Student-athletes are required to show proof of medical insurance coverage and provide current medical history; including a current physical exam (prior to any participation) to their Head Coach and/or Athletic Trainer.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE

In today's world, the use of social media/community (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) is a significant part of life. All members of the Teton Athletic Department are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while interacting on these websites. As a part of online social networking, it is imperative that those using these sites understand that all information is public and can be viewed by anyone. Any information posted can be held against you in the event of criminal charges and/or as evidence of violations of campus/athletic policy.

ALCOHOL TOBACCO, and OTHER DRUGS

Alcohol

As a member of the Teton Athletic program, it is your obligation to keep your body in the best condition possible. Alcohol consumption inhibits your ability to perform at a maximum level.

The use of alcohol by student-athletes while involved in any team-related practices, competitions, banquets, travel or other activities is prohibited, regardless of age. Student-athletes under the legal age to consume (21 years of age) in North Dakota are expected to abide by city, state and federal laws. Additional consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Verbal and written warning and participation in educational sessions
2. Required chemical dependency assessment and/or treatment
3. Suspension from the team
4. Loss of eligibility and dismissal from the team

Student-athletes (regardless of legal age) are prohibited from purchasing or consuming alcoholic beverages whenever appearing as a representative of Williston State College for any athletic competition or function, including travel to or from an official function.

Tobacco

Tobacco use is prohibited by all coaches, athletes, and student-managers in all sports during practice, team travel and competition, or when otherwise representing Williston State College.

Marijuana and Other Drugs

The use of illegal and/or "performance enhancing" drugs is inconsistent with the purpose of intercollegiate athletics and creates a danger to the health and safety of student-athletes, and their teammates. The Athletic Department will not tolerate the use of these illegal products. All student-athletes will participate in the Williston State Drug Testing Program. Failure to do so will result in immediate suspension from athletics.

Recruiting Visits

The use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs is not allowed during recruiting visits. We realize that the behavior of the recruit is the responsibility of the recruit, with the support of the head coach, their staff and the student host. The coach and the student host shall verbally and directly ensure there will be no use of alcohol, tobacco and/or other drugs during the recruit's visit.

DRUG TESTING

With their approval of Proposal No. 30 at the January 1986 NCAA Convention and Proposal Nos. 52-54 at the January 1990 Convention, NCAA institutions reaffirmed their dedication to the ideal of fair and equitable intercollegiate competition and at their championships and postseason bowl games. At the same time, they took another step in the protection of the health and safety of the student-athletes competing therein. So that no one participant might have an artificially induced advantage, so that no one participant might be pressured to use chemical substances in order to remain competitive, and to safeguard the health and safety of participants, the NCAA drug-testing program was created.

The program involves urine collection and laboratory analyses for substances on a list of banned-drug classes developed by the NCAA Executive Committee. This list consists of substances generally purported to be performance enhancing and/or potentially harmful to the health and safety of the student-athlete. Notably: • Student-athletes are held responsible for use of all banned substances at all times.

Williston State College will follow the guidelines of the NCAA Drug Testing Program and has implemented the Williston State Drug Education and Testing Program. All athletes are required to participate in the program. Failure to do so will result in immediate suspension.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AND SACTIONS

The Department of Athletics disciplinary process is independent of, and supplements, the campus judicial process. Sanctions levied by Athletics may occur over and above those imposed under the Code of Student Conduct. Sanctions will vary depending on the type and circumstances of the violation.

When the Department of Athletics becomes aware of an alleged violation of this Code of Conduct, the Director of Athletics or his/her designee ("the AD") will take reasonable steps to verify the validity, reliability, and accuracy of the report. A meeting with the student-athlete will typically occur before any discipline is imposed; however, in extenuating circumstances, the AD may impose the sanction(s) on the student-athlete prior to this meeting.

Determination of responsibility will be based on a review 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 investigation of possible violation of this Code of Conduct may itself constitute a basis for disciplinary action.

MINIMUM CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THESE POLICIES

The standards outlined below are minimum standards. At any time, the athletic director may choose to impose stricter penalties as deemed appropriate and as outlined in any of the steps listed below. In all instances, code violations will be reported to the Vice President for Student Services.

First Offense: The student will be required to meet with his or her head coach and the athletic director, at which time the student athlete may be suspended from practice for a length of time determined and agreed upon by the head coach and the athletic director.

Second Offense: The student will again be required to meet with his or her head coach and the athletic director, at which time the student athlete may be further suspended from practice for a length of time determined and agreed upon by the head coach and the athletic director.

In addition, the student athlete will be assigned a minimum of 10 hours of Community Service (to be served in the athletic department and in addition to other community service hours assigned through the campus disciplinary process).

Third Offense: The student will again be required to meet with his or her head coach and the athletic director, at which time he or she will be suspended from a minimum of two games.

Fourth Offense: The student athlete will again be required to meet with his or her head coach and the athletic director, at which time he or she will be suspended from a minimum of 5 additional games.

Fifth Offense: The student athlete will be dismissed from the athletic program.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ARRESTS

Any student-athlete arrested must report the arrest immediately to the Head Coach. The Head Coach must report the arrest immediately to the Athletic Director and Vice President for Student Services. No coaches or athletic department employees are allowed to provide bail money for student-athletes.

This manual is not intended to and does not constitute a contract between Williston State College and its student-athletes. None of the provisions contained herein are intended to be interpreted as contractually binding upon Williston State College. Williston State College retains the right to alter any or all of the terms of this manual whenever it elects to do so.

This handbook is not all-inclusive. Persons needing further information or assistance should contact the WSC Athletic Department.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I have read and understand the policies outlined within this Code of Conduct, and agree to conduct myself according to the guidelines outlined within. By signing I am acknowledging that I have received a code of conduct manual.

Student Athlete _____

Date _____

Sport _____

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