

Marshall University
Department of Athletics
Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

If a student-athlete is charged with a misdemeanor, felony, a violation of the Marshall Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities (Student Code), or generally exhibits behavior that reflects poorly on the student-athlete's team or the Department of Athletics, the student-athlete is required to inform the appropriate head coach or sport administrator within 24 hours. In all cases, the following policy will be utilized until enough information is obtained to make a final determination for the purposes of Athletic Department sanctions. If charges include a Student Code violation, sanctions may also be imposed by the Marshall University Office of Judicial Affairs. In all cases, the student-athlete will be required to satisfactorily complete all sanctions imposed by the Athletics Department and the University. Failure to do so will result in further sanctions and may result in dismissal from the student-athlete's respective team.

A. Felony Charge

Any student-athlete who is charged with a felony in any jurisdiction will be immediately suspended from all competition until the Director of Athletics and his designee has the opportunity to review all of the information. The Director of Athletics will determine what immediate sanctions are appropriate before the student-athlete is reinstated for competition. The student-athlete may be permitted to continue practicing or working out with his/her respective team and shall retain all athletic grants-in-aid pending resolution of the charges as long as the student-athlete remains academically eligible for continued enrollment at the University. At the discretion of the Director of Athletics, after reviewing all related information available at the time, the student-athlete may be immediately suspended from practice and competition, depending on the gravity of the charges imposed.

B. Felony Conviction

Any student-athlete convicted of or pleading guilty or no contest to a felony charge shall permanently be dismissed from the team. The student-athlete may be required to forfeit all remaining athletic aid for the remainder of the semester at the athletic department's discretion. At the conclusion of the academic semester, the Department of Athletics shall recommend to the Director of Financial Aid that the grant-in-aid shall not be renewed for any succeeding academic years.

C. Misdemeanor Charge and/or Conviction:

Any student-athlete who is arrested, charged and/or convicted of a misdemeanor charge will be subject to a review process. The Director of Athletics and/or his designee will review the charges and all of the surrounding circumstances. The Director of Athletics and/or his designee will impose sanctions delineated in Section G of this policy based upon, but not limited to, the following factors:

- Nature of the charge

- Prior behavior
- Self-disclosure of the act
- Cooperation during the process
- Alcohol and/or drug use

D. Hazing/Bullying

Hazing is defined as: Any action taken or situation created intentionally, whether on or off campus, to produce mental, emotional, or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule.

Hazing is strictly forbidden by Marshall University among students and alumni, both on and off campus. Hazing is further defined and addressed in the Marshall University Student Handbook. Complaints or questions regarding hazing may be registered with any member of the Athletics Department Staff or the Director of Judicial Affairs.

In the event that a student-athlete is found in violation of the University's policy regarding hazing he/she will be subject to both University judiciary sanctions and Athletic Department sanctions as delineated in Section G.

E. Alcohol Consumption

Student-athletes are required to comply with federal, state and local laws. Excessive consumption of intoxicating beverages is strongly discouraged no matter what the student's age. No Marshall Athletics or Team apparel shall be worn in bars or at parties where alcohol is served.

There will be absolutely no alcohol consumed by a student-athlete at any time while on an Athletics road trip. Student-athletes may not consume alcohol while participating in official or unofficial visits, or anytime prospective student-athletes are present. Additionally, no student-athlete will consume alcohol at any Athletics or University function. All aforementioned standards may be overridden by stricter individual team policies.

Violations of the Alcohol Consumption Policy will be subject to sanctions determined by the Director of Athletics or his designee as outlined in Section G of this policy

If a student-athlete suspects that a member of the team has an alcohol problem, he or she should contact a member of the sports medicine staff, coaching staff or administrative staff for guidance. Additionally, the Marshall University Counseling Center provides confidential counseling as well as assistance with information, resources or programs.

F. General Standards of Behavior

Personal conduct or behavior that becomes a distraction or disruption to the student-athlete's respective team or which reflects poorly on Marshall University or its Department of Athletics will not be tolerated, and is subject to sanctions determined by the Director of Athletics or his designee as outlined in Section G of this policy. This behavior may include, but is not limited to: Personal relationships that result in destructive and/or abusive behavior.

G. Sanctions

Sanctions imposed by the Director of Athletics or his designee can include, but shall not be limited to, and may be imposed in no particular order:

1. Warning
2. Restricted use of athletic services or facilities
3. Community Service
4. Suspension from practice and/or competition for a stated period of time
5. Immediate reduction or cancellation of his/her athletic grant-in-aid
6. Dismissal from the team.

H. Written Notification of Athletic Department Sanctions

The Director of Athletics or his designee will notify, in writing, the student-athlete of any Athletic Department sanctions imposed as a result of a felony charge or conviction.

I. Appeal Process

If a student-athlete is sanctioned under this policy, the student-athlete may appeal the sanction(s) as follows:

1. The student-athlete shall file a written appeal with all supporting documentation with the appropriate sport administrator (Associate AD with oversight of the respective sport, or the Director of Athletics for football or men's basketball) within 10 working days of receipt of the notice of the sanction.
2. The sanction(s) imposed shall remain in effect while the appeal is pending
3. The Review Committee comprised of the President or designee, Faculty Athletics Representative, and a Department of Athletics senior staff member who does not oversee the student-athlete's sport.
4. The Review Committee shall consider all relevant material, including witness statements. The Review Committee may permit the student-athlete and/or other witnesses to appear to make a statement before the committee. Any hearing may be recorded.
5. The Review Committee shall not determine whether the legal issue faced by the student-athlete is valid. It shall be assumed, for purposes of the appeal, that the student-athlete was properly convicted of and/or properly plead guilty/no contest to the underlying criminal charges.
6. The student-athlete may have an advisor present whose role is limited strictly to advising the student-athlete and who shall not participate in any other manner unless asked by the Review Committee under Paragraph F (4).

7. The Faculty Athletics Representative shall issue a written decision on the Review Committee's recommendation within 15 days of the receipt of the Appeal. The decision of the Review Committee is final.