

# **University of Richmond Department of Athletics**

## **General Policies and Performance Expectations for Student-Athletes**

### **Introduction/Mission Statement**

The mission of the University Of Richmond Department Of Athletics is to develop and maintain a Division I intercollegiate athletic program which attracts national recognition to the University by:

- Exhibiting integrity and academic achievement at the highest level;
- Consistently competing for conference championships and/or earning opportunities for NCAA championships; and
- Providing a positive collegiate experience for its student-athletes.

In order to assist our student-athletes and sport programs meet the goals and objectives of our Mission Statement, the Department of Athletics has adopted General Policies and Performance Expectations for Student-Athletes. These expectations include standards for conduct, health and fitness.

In addition, all student-athletes are expected to abide by the rules and regulations specified by each Head Coach, all other University policies and the rules and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the Atlantic 10 Conference (A-10) and the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). Student-athletes who violate these policies and/or engage in conduct determined to be inappropriate or detrimental to the University are subject to disciplinary action by the Head Coach, Sport Administrator and/or Director of Athletics.

### **Academic Expectations**

The Department of Athletics makes every effort to foster the intellectual development and graduation of its student-athletes. While several levels of support exist at the University of Richmond, ultimately, responsibility for success rests with the student-athlete. As a result, each student-athlete is expected to:

- Set a primary goal of obtaining a degree within four years.
- Seek assistance from the course instructor and University support programs when academic difficulties occur.
- Attend and be prepared for every class except for excused absences.
- Attend study tables, tutorial, counseling, and advising sessions as scheduled.
- Meet regularly with University academic advisor and the academic support staff.
- Adhere to the University's policy regarding academic integrity and the honor code.
- Maintain full-time academic status per NCAA University standards.
- Make academic progress per NCAA and University standards.
- Participate in diagnostic testing as requested by the academic support program.
- Accept responsibility for maintaining athletic and academic eligibility.

### **Sportsmanship**

Student-athletes are responsible for behaving with dignity and shall conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship during games and competition. Behavior at all times must reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that should characterize participation in competitive intercollegiate sports. Student-athletes shall conduct themselves in a manner reflecting positively on the reputation of University of Richmond both on and off the "field of play," in pre-game and post-game comments to media, and when traveling and participating at other institutions.

Student-athletes should always maintain an attitude of respect toward our opponents. As models of good sportsmanship, University of Richmond student-athletes should look for ways to encourage and

appreciate quality play and effort, regardless of whether it is exhibited by a teammate or an opponent. While intense and emotional game action and conduct are certainly a reasonable part of intercollegiate sports contests, the intent of our student-athletes should never be to demean the opponent.

To that end, our student-athletes are expressly prohibited from engaging in the following behavior at any University of Richmond sporting events:

- Fighting opponents, fans, or officials.
- Taunting opponents.
- Exhibiting intolerance for any race, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.
- Celebrating inappropriately with the intent to demean opponents.
- Showing disrespectful attitude toward opponents or officials.
- Inciting crowd hostility toward opponents in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Using profane and/or vulgar language.

### **Health and Fitness Expectations**

Student-athletes are expected to maintain a level of health and fitness determined by the Team Physicians, Sports Medicine Staff and respective Head Coaches.

Participation in intercollegiate athletics at the University of Richmond is contingent upon medical approval by the Team Physician and Sports Medicine staff. In order to receive approval for participation, student-athletes are required to provide a current medical history for the Sports Medicine staff and/or Team Physician, and are required to participate in all departmentally-sponsored student enhancement seminars or functions, which may include but are not limited to, drug testing, drug education, nutrition or alcohol education.

#### Alcohol

Alcohol consumption is highly discouraged at all times. Alcohol abuse is strictly prohibited and cause for disciplinary action by the Head Coach, Sport Administrator and/or Director of Athletics. The University's Alcohol Policy is applicable to all student-athletes, and University methods for treatment and discipline will be followed. The Department of Athletics may issue additional disciplinary actions on the student-athlete for violations of the University's Alcohol Policy. In addition to the University's Alcohol Policy, student-athletes are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages whenever traveling as an official representative of the University of Richmond and prohibited from consuming alcohol at any Department of Athletics sponsored event (banquets, meetings, fund raising events, etc.). Sport programs may have stricter rules that govern consumption of alcohol during the season. Violations of the Department of Athletics or University Alcohol Policy are grounds for disciplinary action to be determined by the Head Coach, Sport Administrator and/or Director of Athletics.

#### Drugs/Drug Testing

The unauthorized use of anabolic steroids, stimulants, diuretics, performance enhancing drugs, marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines and/or any other substance proscribed by federal or state law, by any member of an intercollegiate athletic team is expressly prohibited, regardless of whether such use or abuse occurs before, during or after the team's competitive season.

"Proscribed substances" include but are not limited to those drugs listed on the NCAA Banned Substance List and as may be amended from time to time. The Department of Athletics conducts a drug testing program and all policies and procedures shall be adhered to by student-athletes.

### Tobacco Products

Use of tobacco products during any official Department of Athletics function (i.e., practice/competition, travel for away contests, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Such use will result in an NCAA rules violation of Bylaw 17.1.7 and suspension from practice/competition.

### **Practice/Competition Expectations**

Student-athletes must meet the expectations of the Head Coach with respect to appropriate level of fitness, attitude, and effort in all practices and competitions. If student-athletes do not meet these expectations, Head Coaches may prohibit student-athletes from participating in practice/competition. In addition, student-athletes may be terminated from the team and/or their athletically related financial aid may be reduced or not renewed for the following year.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Student-athletes are encouraged to participate in University extracurricular activities, however, team responsibilities must remain a priority. In other words, the extracurricular activities of a student-athlete should not negatively impact the commitment to his/her team.

### **Criminal Charges / Involvement in Criminal Activities**

Any student-athlete charged with a felony crime will be immediately suspended from intercollegiate athletic participation and will thereafter be eligible only upon subsequent determination by the Director of Athletics. Disciplinary action for any criminal charges, indictments or suspected criminal activity will be reviewed and determined by the Head Coach, Sport Administrator and/or Director of Athletics.

### **Gambling**

Student-athletes may not gamble on intercollegiate or professional athletics in any manner. Gambling includes providing information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics (e.g., injuries, morale, preparation, etc.), using means employed by organized gambling (e.g., bookmakers, parlay cards, etc.), soliciting or accepting a bet on any team, and participation in informal gambling (e.g., rotisserie leagues, fantasy leagues, tournament pools, etc.). Student-athletes found to have gambled on college or professional athletics are ineligible for intercollegiate competition for one calendar year. Those who gamble on the University's own teams are permanently ineligible.

### **Hazing**

All forms of hazing are prohibited. Hazing is defined as the physical and/or psychological degradation of anyone. Specific examples include, but are not limited to, those activities expected of someone on a team (or group) that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Disciplinary action for any form of hazing will be determined by the Head Coach, Sport Administrator, and/or Director of Athletics.

### **Official and Unofficial Visits**

- Student hosts must be current student-athletes enrolled full-time.
- Good judgment is expected of all student-athletes and since all possible activities cannot be listed, the following are some examples of inappropriate activities:
  - Attendance at adult entertainment establishments;
  - Provision of alcohol to under-aged recruits;
  - Arrangement of escort services or any other similar services;
  - Provision of "adult entertainment" involving exotic dancers and the like; and

- Participation in any unethical or illegal activity, such as provision of drugs or participation in gambling activities.
- The Head Coach and the Director of Athletics (or sport administrator) have the ability to terminate a prospect's official visit at any time if it is discovered that the prospect has been involved in any of the aforementioned inappropriate activities or is involved in any criminal activity.
- Providing illegal drugs or alcohol to minors will not be tolerated and is punishable by law.
- Student hosts are required to read and sign a Student Host Instructions/Receipt Form in the Office of Compliance Services prior to receiving host money.
- Student-athletes are subject to disciplinary action should any inappropriate behavior take place during an arranged official or unofficial visit to campus.

### **Use of Internet Profile Pages**

The Department of Athletics expects the responsible use of all internet profile pages (e.g., Facebook, MySpace). Student-athletes who post inappropriate material (e.g., drug use, underage drinking, hazing) to their internet profile page could face disciplinary action by the Head Coach, Sport Administrator and/or Director of Athletics.

### **Student-Athlete Grievance**

Student-athletes concerned about their safety/welfare, or who suspect a Department of Athletics staff member has violated the Department of Athletics Code of Conduct, should consult either their Head Coach, Sport Administrator, Director of Athletics, Faculty Athletic Representative or Assistant Director of Athletics for Academic Support, whomever is most appropriate. These individuals will review the situation and determine an appropriate course of action.

### **Athletically Related Financial Aid**

The Department of Athletics makes recommendations to the University's Financial Aid Office regarding the renewal of athletically related financial aid. The failure to abide by the General Policies and Performance Expectations for Student-Athletes, Code of Conduct, the rules and regulations specified by each Head Coach, all other University policies and the rules and regulations of the NCAA, the A-10 and the CAA may be grounds for non-renewal or reduction of athletic aid. In such circumstances, per NCAA rules and regulations, student-athletes have the right to appeal decisions regarding their athletically related financial aid to the University Committee on Financial Aid.

Non-athletically related financial aid may count toward the NCAA maximum team financial aid limits; therefore, it must be reviewed by the Compliance Office prior to crediting the student-athlete's student account. Athletically related financial aid for summer school aid is not guaranteed, however, such aid will be considered for approval when a student-athlete submits a formal application.

### **Athletic Equipment/Facilities**

Student-athletes are expected to appropriately care for all Department of Athletics equipment/ facilities. Uniforms and equipment should not be altered in any way. Locker rooms are to be kept clean and orderly; and equipment is to be cared for and returned in accordance with equipment room policies and procedures. All institutional apparel and/or equipment issued to student-athletes is not to be sold, bartered, traded, given away or used in transactions at any time. All institutional apparel and/or equipment issued will be collected at the end of the playing and practice season.

### **Complimentary Admissions**

Student-athletes may not receive payment for complimentary admissions from any source or exchange or assign them for any items or value.

### **Appearances**

Student-athletes may not allow their name, picture or appearance to be used to promote a commercial venture. Student-athletes may not make a public appearance in support of any institutional, charitable or educational agency without prior written approval from the Director of Athletics.

### **Residence/Dining Hall Expectations**

All student-athletes are expected to live on campus and required to abide by residence hall and the Heilman Dining Center regulations and policies (see Richmond College and Westhampton College Student Handbooks - Residence Life Policies and Residence Hall Security). The Director of Athletics or Sport Administrator may grant approval for a student-athlete to live and/or eat off-campus under unique and extraordinary circumstances.

### **Compliance/Student Services Expectations**

Student-athletes must participate in all mandatory educational and life skills programs. Student-athletes are to assist the Department of Athletics administration by providing information involving compliance issues such as eligibility, employment and other NCAA rules issues whenever sought. Student-athletes are obligated to report any rules violations of which they are aware and to cooperate fully with any investigation of alleged violations.

### **Travel Expectations**

When traveling as official representatives of the University of Richmond, student-athletes' actions should reflect favorably on the University, their team, and themselves. Student-athletes are expected to adhere to their particular team's dress code, nutritional requirements, and curfew. All student-athletes are expected to depart and return with their team/coach unless they are officially released to their parent through a Department of Athletics release agreement.

### **Violations of the General Policies and Performance Expectations for Student-Athletes**

The Head Coach, subject to the review and approval of the Sport Administrator and/or Director of Athletics, may ban a student-athlete from participating in team activities, permanently dismiss a student-athlete or make a recommendation for reduction or non-renewal of a student-athlete's athletically related financial aid for violations of the General Policies and Performance Expectations for Student-Athletes.

The Sport Administrator, Director of Athletics and/or Faculty Athletics Representative, at the request of the student-athlete, may, at his or her discretion, conduct an inquiry to review the nature of the violation and appropriate disciplinary action.