



Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

Participation in intercollegiate athletics at the Georgia Institute of Technology (the “**Institute**”) is a privilege extended to a gifted few. As the Institute’s most visible ambassadors, student-athletes are expected to uphold, at all times, high standards of integrity and behavior that reflect well upon them, their families, coaches, teammates, the Georgia Tech Athletic Association (“**GTAA**”), and the Institute.

The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct (Code) sets expectations for how student-athletes represent the Institute and outlines potential consequences for failure to adhere to these standards. The Code supplements, but does not supersede any Institute, ACC, or NCAA policies.

Student-athletes must acknowledge receipt of and agree to comply with the Code in order to participate in athletics. GTAA reserves the right to make changes to the Code. By signing the consent form, the student-athlete also acknowledges that it is the right of each sport team to develop and administer team-specific policies that may prohibit additional behavior and provide for more severe sanctions than this Code.

Definitions

Code of Conduct Administrator: Individual identified annually and responsible for executing the Code, including but not limited to coordinating all Conduct Review Panel activities, serving as primary conduct contact with campus entities (e.g., Office of Student Life, GTPD, etc.), receiving, communicating, and cataloging all non-academic conduct cases administered by the Office of Student Integrity and the Department of Housing, and producing an annual report.

Conduct Review Panel: A group of individuals designated by the Director of Athletics to monitor the implementation of the substance use and conduct policies, identify trends, and adjudicate cases.

Conduct Unbecoming: At all times Georgia Tech student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves responsibly within the Athletic Department, campus, and larger community. Any conduct by student-athletes which, in the sole judgment of the Director of Athletics or the head coach of the student-athletes’ team, which judgment is reasonably exercised, is: (1) seriously prejudicial to the interests of the Institute or GTAA; (2) violates the Institute or GTAA’s mission; or (3) creates negative public attention on themselves, their team, the Institute, or GTAA may all be grounds for disciplinary action.

Hazing: Conduct, whether on or off Institute property, which exceeds the normal expectations of athletics participation and which a) endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student as a condition of affiliation with a group or organization and/or b) which is sufficiently severe or pervasive enough to interfere with academic responsibilities. Hazing will not be tolerated by any team and/or individual student-athlete. Hazing activities are prohibited by the Georgia anti-hazing law, known as the [Max Gruver Act](#), and are subject to federal, state, and local law enforcement as well as Institute regulations and will be immediately referred to the Office of Student Integrity and the Conduct Review Panel, and/or local law enforcement. Sanctions will be dependent on the findings surrounding the case.

Involvement in sports wagering: Knowingly (1) Providing information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition, (2) Soliciting a bet on any intercollegiate team, (3) Accepting a bet on any team representing the institution, (4) Soliciting or accepting a bet on any intercollegiate competition or any professional competition in a sport sponsored by the NCAA for any item that has tangible value (*e.g.* cash, clothing or equipment, meals), and/or (5) Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.

Student-Athlete: Any student enrolled at the Institute who meets any one of the following conditions: appears on the active roster of a sponsored program, is declared eligible for practice and/or competition, or receives athletically related financial aid regardless of roster status, medical non-counter, exhausted eligibility, aid after departure of head coach, etc.

- Exhausted Eligibility: Any student enrolled at the Institute and receiving athletically related financial aid following the completion of four seasons of NCAA athletics eligibility.
- Medical Non-counter: Any student enrolled at the Institute and receiving athletically related financial aid following the designation of medically unable to participate as a student-athlete at Georgia Tech.
- Aid After Departure of Head Coach: Any student enrolled at the Institute and receiving athletically related financial aid as a non-counter to complete their degree after the departure of their head coach.

Suspension: Prohibition of student-athlete participation in practice and/or competition.

Team Obligations: Student-athletes are expected to complete training requirements; arrive promptly for team practices, meetings, and departures for away games and other team events; attend team functions; and otherwise fulfill their responsibilities as team members. Absences must be excused in advance by the Head Coach unless an unforeseeable emergency arises.

Student-Athlete Rights and Responsibilities

All student-athletes are expected to adhere to the Georgia Tech Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/student-conduct>) and for those student-athletes living on-campus, the Housing Contract (<https://housing.gatech.edu/contracts>).

Student-athletes are subject to the Institute's student conduct process as administered by the Office of Student Integrity. For more information, click here: [link](#)

The following additional requirements apply to student-athletes:

- Report any detention (*e.g.*, arrest) by a law enforcement agency or criminal charges filed by any agency to their head coach within 24 hours.
- Report any conduct-related incidents that involve a violation of this code of conduct to their head coaches (*e.g.*, housing issues, campus incidents, etc.)
- Participation in the GTAA Drug/Alcohol Education, Testing and Treatment program as outlined in the Student-Athlete Handbook within 24 hours.

Prohibited acts for student-athletes include:

- Criminal acts in violation of federal, state, county or municipal laws
- Violations of the Georgia Tech Alcohol and Drug Policy, found here: [link](#)
- Violations of the Georgia Tech Sexual Misconduct Policy, found here: [link](#)
- Violations of the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code, found here: [link](#)
- Violations of the Georgia Tech Student Code of Conduct, found here: [link](#)
- Hazing
- Involvement in sports wagering
- Unexcused class absences
- Failure to meet Team Rules
- Disrespectful behavior
- Conduct Unbecoming of a Georgia Tech student-athlete

Additionally:

- The Code of Conduct Administrator and/or other GTAA designee will be notified of alleged Institute incidents and violations (e.g., Office of Student Integrity, Georgia Tech Police Department, Georgia Tech Housing, etc.), including investigations, allegations, charges, and results.
- Head coaches must report any known detainment or criminal charge information to the designated sport administrator, Director of Athletics, or Conduct Program Administrator immediately after becoming aware of such legal issues.
- The Director of Athletics, his/her designee and/or the Conduct Program Administrator will immediately notify the appropriate campus entities (e.g., Division of Student Life, Office of Student Integrity, Office of the President, etc.) of any known or reported incidents that may constitute violations of the Georgia Tech Student Code of Conduct.
- The Director of Athletics may impose additional sanctions and/or refer cases to the Conduct Review Panel for assessment and recommended action/sanctions. The Conduct Review Panel will review all referred cases to determine the necessity of sanctions and/or other corrective action based on the totality of circumstances.
- Head Coaches may also propose additional disciplinary sanctions to the Conduct Review Panel.

Disciplinary Process and Sanctions

The GTAA disciplinary process is independent of, and supplements, the Institute Student Conduct and Honor System processes. Sanctions levied by GTAA may occur over and above those levied by the Dean of Students Office. Sanctions will vary depending on the type and circumstances of the violation, but may without limitation include loss of athletics program eligibility and/or scholarship.

When the Department of Athletics becomes aware of an alleged violation of this Code of Conduct, the Conduct Review Panel will convene to review and adjudicate cases. The Conduct Review Panel will review the full scope of the student athlete's performance at Georgia Tech with the purpose of considering the appropriateness and scope of the recommended sanction guidelines outlined in this policy. It will consider all case details, including student history, medical factors, academic performance, and campus conduct history to issue final sanctions, including appropriate suspension, team status, and athletically related financial aid. These steps may include interviews of students and employees, or of non-Institute persons

having knowledge of relevant facts; examination of documents; and other steps necessary for the AD to determine the merits of the report.

Upon the Conduct Review Panel's satisfaction that they have sufficient information to proceed, sanctions, if applicable, shall be issued. At that time, any previous violations of the Code, or any other Standards of Conduct, shall be a factor in determining the gravity of the violation, and the appropriate sanction. **Possible sanctions include but are not limited to:**

- **Warning.** The issuance of a written warning.
- **Probation.** Special status with conditions imposed for a limited time.
- **Community Service.** As required by the Conduct Review Panel.
- **Restitution.** Payment for damaged property.
- **Temporary Suspension.** Removal of a student-athlete from some or all Athletic Department activities, including athletic participation in team events, for a limited period of time.
- **Expulsion.** Permanent removal from a team and/or Athletic Department activities.
- **Withdrawal of Financial Aid.** Termination of athletic-related financial aid at first opportunity allowable by NCAA regulations.

Conduct Review Panel

The panel, as defined above, may include, but not be limited to the following individuals:

- Code of Conduct Administrator
- Representative from the Division of Student Life
- Sport administrator(s)
- Other designated Georgia Tech and/or GTAA staff

The Conduct Review Panel will prepare an annual report on all aspects and activity associated with these conduct policies and the educational programs designed to support positive student-athlete behavior. This report will be submitted to the Director of Athletics and President.

Appeal

A student-athlete who receives sanctions under this Policy will be entitled to an appeal hearing. A student-athlete may request an appeal to challenge sanctions only based on the following:

- To allege procedural error;
- To consider additional information not available during initial review; or
- To allege the sanction was inconsistent with the infraction.

Requests for such a hearing must be made in writing to the Director of Athletics and/or the Code of Conduct Administrator within forty-eight (48) hours of notification of a sanction. If the forty-eight (48) hour period ends on a weekend or holiday, the request must be made by noon on the next business day.

If granted, the appeal hearing should be scheduled expeditiously and in consideration of sanctions that impact participation in practice and/or competition. When an appeal hearing is granted:

- The student-athlete may prepare written materials to present to the Appeals Committee. Written materials should be submitted to the Code of Conduct Administrator in advance of the hearing by the deadline established by the Code of Conduct Administrator.

- The student-athlete may bring an adviser to the hearing. The student-athlete must identify the adviser to the Code of Conduct Administrator by the deadline established by the Code of Conduct Administrator.
- All sanctions shall remain in place pending the outcome of the appeal.

The Appeals Committee will be designated by the Director of Athletics and will consist of individuals internal and external to GTAA, including but not limited to the following individuals:

- Director of Athletics
- Faculty Athletics Representative
- Representative from the Division of Student Life
- Team Physician

The student-athlete granted an appeal hearing will be notified in writing of the hearing date and Appeals Committee members. The student-athlete may challenge the participation of an Appeals Committee member on the grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the Code of Conduct Administrator by the deadline established by the Code of Conduct Administrator. The request will be reviewed and if bias is found, the member will be replaced.

The Code of Conduct Administrator will convene Appeal Hearing proceedings. The Code of Conduct Administrator will present the case history to the Appeals Committee before the student-athlete joins the hearing. The Code of Conduct Administrator will introduce the case and the basis for appeal.

The student-athlete will present their case for appeal. If an adviser is present, the adviser may communicate privately with the student-athlete, but they may not participate in the hearing. If an adviser disrupts proceedings, they may be asked to leave.

The Appeals Committee will ask questions of the student-athlete if necessary.

The student-athlete and adviser will be dismissed and the Appeals Committee will deliberate the case. The Appeals Committee may affirm the original sanction, issue a sanction of lesser severity, or dismiss the sanction.

The proceedings shall be confidential. The decision by the Appeals Committee regarding the sanction to be imposed shall be final.