



MCAC Code of Conduct

Student-athletes, coaches, and staff in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference (MCAC) are expected to positively represent themselves, their team, their college, and the conference at all times. It is the responsibility of the individual to demonstrate respect for self and others, and to act with integrity in academic, athletic, or social interactions when on and off campus. All those involved in or attending contests may face sanctions for inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior. These sanctions may be handed out by the institution, MCAC or NJCAA.

Being a student-athlete, coach, or staff member within the MCAC is a privilege and not a right.

All individuals have an increased profile within their campus community, and because of this, the behavior and actions of individuals may be viewed as a reflection of all team members, their college, and the MCAC as a whole. Considering the important role athletics plays in representing individual colleges and the MCAC, it is important to know and understand the standards of behavior expected by each institutions athletic department and the MCAC.

This code of conduct is designed to inform the student-athlete, coach, or staff member of their expected behavior and the potential consequences that poor behavior may have on their status as a participant in MCAC athletics. Athletic administrators and/or on-site event management are responsible for the behavior of spectators.

While each college and athletic department is responsible for monitoring and enforcing conduct, the MCAC may take action under this code of conduct regarding participation in your college's intercollegiate athletics program. This Code of Conduct is intended to complement, not replace, institutional student conduct codes or conduct rules that your sport team has adopted, including consequences for violating college policy or sport team rules. Always remember that athletic administration and/or college administration has the right to impose additional rules and sanctions above and beyond those outlined in this policy.

Student-athletes, coaches, and staff are bound by this Code of Conduct for the entirety of the athletic season and athletic event, including but not limited to:

1. Arriving at the facility for a home event
2. Departing the facility at the conclusion of a home event
3. Departing campus for an away event
4. Arriving back on campus from an away event
5. Social media and other digital content

Student-athletes, coaches, and staff will abide by the following policies:

1. Engage in behaviors and actions that support the mission, vision, and values of the MCAC.
2. Demonstrate respect for self and others and act with honesty and integrity.
3. Exhibit outstanding sportsmanship and encourage others to do the same.
4. For student-athletes, maintain a commitment to academic excellence by attending classes as scheduled, completing coursework and assignments following the timeline outlined by the course instructor, and following all academic procedures established by the MCAC member college, Athletic Academic Advisor, faculty, and coaches.
5. Adhere to all team, athletic department, college, MCAC, and NJCAA policies, rules, and regulations.
6. Follow the policies and expectations provided by your institution for team-related travel and overnight trips.
7. Abide by all local, state, and federal laws. Instances where a student-athlete, coach, or staff member is alleged to have violated a local, state, or federal law will be reviewed on an individual basis and depending on the circumstances may result in immediate suspension from their team and MCAC participation until there is a complete investigation. In suspending the student-athlete, coach, or staff member, the MCAC is not pre-judging guilt or innocence. Rather, the suspension protects the integrity of the league and its institutions, including MCAC student-athletes, when there is an arrest or criminal charge.
8. The use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs while engaged in any athletic function (practice, competitions, travel, team gatherings of an official capacity, etc.) is prohibited regardless of age. Student-athletes and staff under the legal age of alcohol consumption are expected to follow all local, state, and federal laws regarding alcohol consumption. The personal use of alcohol by a student-athlete of the legal age should be handled responsibly. All student-athletes are expected to follow all local, state, and federal laws in regard to tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs.
9. Participation in hazing or initiation is strictly prohibited. Hazing is an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person, subjects the person to public harassment or ridicule, or which destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a student group, organization, or athletic team. Instances where individual student-athletes, coaches, or staff are found to have engaged in any form of hazing will result in disciplinary action from the MCAC and the specific institution.
10. The MCAC is committed to building safe and positive learning and working environments for all members of the community. Sexual violence and other forms of sexual misconduct including harassment and discrimination is prohibited within the league.

Sanctions for Misconduct:

Sanctions for misconduct and violations of the above policies will be determined initially by the local college campus. Additional sanctions may be handed down by the MCAC, the NJCAA Region 13, and/or the NJCAA National office. Sanctions may include the following:

- Violent Ejection from a Contest: minimum two contest suspension.
- Non-Violent Ejection from a Contest: minimum one contest suspension.
- Probation and/or remediation
- Suspension from participating in MCAC events.
- Permanent suspension from the MCAC.
- NJCAA sanctions and suspensions.

Acknowledgement:

This document must be signed by the student-athlete, coach, or staff member prior to participation in an institutionally sponsored athletic event. Misconduct and violations of this code will be reviewed by the MCAC Violations Committee to determine sanctions. There is an appeal process to any sanctions handed out by the MCAC Violations Committee, and that is done through the MCAC Appeals Committee.

By signing below, you are indicating that you have received, read, and understand the code of conduct. In addition, your signature confirms you have received/been directed to, read, and are responsible for knowing the contents of your institution's policies on conduct.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature (if student is under 18 years of age): _____