

Northern Michigan University Athletic Code

1.0 Philosophy

It is a privilege for a Northern Michigan University student to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Student athletes represent Northern Michigan University, therefore their behavior is expected to reflect high standards on all levels: social, academic, and athletic.

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 The purpose of this publication is:

- .01 To inform the student athletes and the Northern Michigan University community of acceptable standards of behavior for student athletes;
- .02 To outline a process to evaluate student athlete behavior that is not considered acceptable;
- .03 To allow for the imposition of disciplinary action against a student athlete whose behavior is not acceptable.

1.2 Definitions

- 1.2.1 The Athletic Code Violation Review Committee will consist of the Athletic Director, Director of Public Safety, and the Dean of Students, or their designees.
- 1.2.2 Criminal Activity is defined as Felony level offenses; or serious Misdemeanor level offenses which include, but are not limited to, criminal activity that involves violence, assaultive behavior, stalking behavior, sexual assault, and drug or alcohol offenses.
- 1.2.3 Student athletes as defined in this document refers to those students engaged in the intercollegiate athletics programs of Northern Michigan University.
- 1.2.4 Team activities are defined as any association with other team members for the purposes of furthering the interests of the team in the pursuit of participation in intercollegiate athletics, team meetings, team practices, recruitment of new student athletes, or the participation as part of the team in intercollegiate athletic activities.

1.3 Scope

Student athletes whose behavior does not comport with the acceptable standards expected of Northern Michigan University student athletes will be subject to review by the **Athletic Code** Violation Review Committee.

- 1.3.1 All student athletes will be given a copy of the **Athletic Code** and will be required to sign a document indicating that they understand that participating in intercollegiate athletics while they are a student at Northern Michigan University is a privilege and that they agree to the standards of behavior outlined in the **Code**.
- 1.3.2 All student athletes will be required to acknowledge that they are under obligation, as a condition of their participation in intercollegiate athletics at Northern Michigan University, to immediately self-report any violations of the **Athletic Code** to their coach or the Athletic Director. Failure to self-report any violations of the **Athletic Code** will subject the student athlete to possible disciplinary action by the Athletic Code Violation Review Committee.
- 1.3.3 Any action taken pursuant to the **Athletic Code** will be considered separate and distinct from any action that may be taken by the Office of the Dean of Students, other administrative action taken by the University (including, but not limited to, action taken under **The Drug and Alcohol Education/Assessment/Counseling Policy and Program for Student Athletes Engaged in the Intercollegiate Athletics Program of Northern Michigan University**), or any action taken by law enforcement or criminal justice agencies against the student athlete.

- 1.3.4 All student athletes will be subject to review under the **Athletic Code** if the athlete:
 - .01 Is in violation of Northern Michigan University's **Student Code**,
 - .02 Is in violation of **The Drug and Alcohol Education/Assessment/Counseling Policy and Program for Student Athletes Engaged in the Intercollegiate Athletics Program of Northern Michigan University**;
 - .03 Has committed criminal activity that consists of an act or acts prohibited under municipal, state, or federal law as defined in this document,

1.4 Procedures

- 1.4.1 The Athletic Code Violation Committee will either confer or hold a meeting review and investigate all alleged violations of this code pursuant to sections **1.2.4.01-03** above. Members of the committee shall initiate the review process upon becoming aware of an alleged violation. The committee should confer or meet within three working days of becoming aware of alleged violation.
- 1.4.2 Coaches shall notify the Athletic Director of all alleged violations of the *Athletic Code* on becoming aware of the alleged violation.
- 1.4.3 The Athletic Code Violation Review Committee, after conferring or meeting to review an alleged violation of the *Athletic Code*, should receive input from the coach or any other party who has relevant information that is pertinent to the alleged violation of the *Athletic Code*.
- 1.4.4 The Athletic Code Violation Review Committee shall determine, based upon the seriousness of the alleged violation, whether a student athlete will be suspended from team activities pending the resolution of the alleged violation.
- 1.4.5 Once alleged charges are resolved, the Athletic Code Violation Review Committee shall review the outcome of the charges to determine the appropriate University response or action.
- 1.4.6 The Athletic Code Violation Review Committee shall determine the disciplinary action or penalty to be imposed on the student athlete under sections **1.4.4** and **1.4.5**, including but not limited to: (1) a permanent or limited suspension from all team activities; and (2) partial or permanent revocation of athletic scholarships.
- 1.4.7 In the event that the Athletic Code Violation Review Committee cannot reach consensus as to what action to take on an alleged violation of the *Athletic Code*, the matter will be referred to the Associate Vice President for Recreation and Athletics to determine what action, if any, should be taken against the student athlete.
- 1.4.8 The Athletic Director shall provide notices of disciplinary action taken by the Athletic Code Violation Review Committee to the Associate Vice President for Recreation and Athletics, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the President, the student athlete's coach, and the Athletic Council Chairperson within two business days. Members of the Athletic Code Violation Review Committee will be available to the Athletic Council to provide a briefing on the action taken by the committee. It will also be the Athletic Director's responsibility to notify the student athlete of any disciplinary action taken by the Athletic Code Review Committee.
- 1.4.9 Student athletes may appeal disciplinary action taken by the Athletic Code Violation Review Committee within 72 hours to the Associate Vice President for Recreation and Athletics, or in cases decided by the Associate Vice President, to the Vice President for Finance and Administration.