



NJCAA Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

Introduction

The purpose of this contract is to set out the goals and objectives, regulations, policies and procedures of the NWC Athletic Program. It is intended to assure a systematic and efficient organization and operation.

NWC requires all student-athletes to demonstrate good moral conduct and ethical judgment which reflects favorably upon themselves, the college, and the NWC community at large. Student-athletes are subject to the policies and procedures as set out in this contract, as well as federal, state and local laws.

It is important to note that due to the high visibility and increasing public scrutiny of all athletic programs, student-athletes are expected to meet higher standards of personal conduct and appearance.

Expectations of Student-Athletes

NWC student-athletes have a responsibility to be students first, with the primary goal of earning a degree. Understand that personal accountability is the foundation not only of each individual's successful academic and athletic experience, but their personal life as well. All student-athletes must be mindful that **at all times** they represent Northwest College and its athletic department, as well as their individual teams. Upperclassmen have the responsibility to serve as exemplary role models for new student-athletes.

Each Student-Athlete Shall:

- Be officially enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) semester credit hours during each semester they are in attendance at NWC.
- Meet all academic responsibilities including attending class regularly, turning in assignments, interacting appropriately with faculty, meeting with college and faculty advisors and making a commitment to academic integrity.

Athletic Eligibility

A student-athlete will be eligible to represent NWC provided he or she meets the provisions as set out in the official NJCAA Handbook. The main provisions are outlined below, however, this list is not all-inclusive and student-athletes are encouraged to discuss questions about eligibility with their respective coaches. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to know and understand the basic rules that govern athletic eligibility.

Basic Eligibility Criteria

- Shall be a high school graduate, or the class year of which they were a member shall have graduated.
- Have a GED.
- Shall be officially enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours or the equivalent during their last semester of enrollment at any post-secondary institution, except that this provision shall not apply to the initial semester of entry into post-secondary education.

Second Year Participation

- To qualify for eligibility to participate in a second season of any sport, a student must have earned a minimum of twenty four (24) semester hours, starting with and including the first semester of participation. In addition, the second year athlete must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 during any semester of participation. The 2.00 GPA must be for all college credits beginning with the first semester of enrollment in the first year of participation.

Summer School

- By attendance at summer school, a student-athlete can regain qualification for meeting the 24 credit-second year participation and also the 2.00 GPA eligibility requirements.

Athletic Information

The following forms must be on file in the coach's office at the beginning of the season, or at any other time during the academic year as required by the coach.

- Notice of Student's Responsibility for Health and Accident Form.
- Current physical exam signed by a doctor.

Insurance

The student and their parents agree to release Northwest College, its Board members, agents and employees, from liability arising out of accidents and resulting injuries occurring while participating in intercollegiate athletics while at Northwest College. **The College is not financially responsible for student injuries nor does it cover student athletes while training, practicing, or participating in athletic events.**

As a full-time student, you are automatically covered under a secondary "accident only" policy offered through UnitedHealthcare **StudentResources**. The "accident only" policy covers you twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Specific dates of coverage will be listed in information you will receive directly from **StudentResources**. More information can be obtained from the Residence Life Office in the DeWitt Student Center.

Financial Aid

Athletic Scholarships: In addition to athletic scholarships, student-athletes may be eligible for federal financial aid and student employment. The responsibility for awarding athletic

scholarships rests with the head coach. To receive athletic aid and remain eligible for it, the student-athlete must be registered as a full-time student (12 credit hours) and meet the academic standards as set by both NWC and NJCAA Division I.

Other financial aid eligibility is based on maintaining the specific requirements as outlined for federal, NWC or private assistance. Complete information is available in the Financial Aid Office.

Code of Conduct

All team members of the NWC Athletic program shall adhere to the following rules and standards of conduct in addition to the NWC Code of Student Conduct.

- Drug and Alcohol Use: It is the policy of NWC to prohibit the unlawful use, sale, dispensing, transfer or possession of controlled substances, alcoholic beverages or drugs not medically authorized. The use or possession of drugs and/or alcoholic beverages by any student during any practice, activity or competition is prohibited and will result in the participant being removed from that activity. Any athlete involved in the unlawful use of drugs or alcohol or who violate the alcohol or drug policies in the Northwest College Code of Student Conduct may face suspension or dismissal from the team and /or NWC, as well as legal action. All student-athletes are subject to all local, state and federal laws.

As a student-athlete you are a highly visible representative of the college. It is very important that you act in a manner that will not embarrass either yourself or the college. Therefore, in addition to any college sanctions that may be imposed for misconduct, student-athletes may be considered for suspension or dismissal from participation for any of the following:

- Academic dishonesty.
- Violation of NWC rules.
- Arrest for any crime other than a minor traffic offense.
- Possession of any illegal drug, including the unlawful possession or consumption of alcohol.
- Unauthorized possession of any steroid.
- Fighting with, threatening the safety of, or harassing any individual.
- Destruction or theft of NWC property.
- Unauthorized entry into any NWC building.
- Any conduct that reflects unfavorably upon NWC or its Athletic Program.

Head coach, or designated appointee, will be responsible for imposing disciplinary sanctions. The sanction imposed may also be indefinite pending the outcome of an investigation, hearing, or other future event.

First Offense: May result in suspension from the next contest or removal/dismissal from the team depending on the severity of the misconduct and the surrounding circumstances. The cancellation or non-renewal of an athlete's scholarship for any act of misconduct may occur.

Second Offense: May result in suspension from team activities and removal/dismissal from the team. Students on scholarship may be required to pay back all tuition and fees covered by the athletic scholarship.

Subsequent Offense: In most cases, may result in suspension or dismissal from the team. Student will receive no further athletic scholarship and may be required to pay back all tuition and fees covered by the athletic scholarship. Each situation will be handled on a case by case basis.

Disciplinary Appeals: Should a student-athlete believe that he or she may have a grievance subject to appeal, that student-athlete may file a written appeal with the Athletic Director describing the specifics of the grievance. The Athletic Director will then hold an informal meeting with the student-athlete and the head coach. If the Athletic Director and the coach are one and the same, then the Vice President for Student Affairs will hold an informal meeting. If the complaint is not resolved, the student-athlete has a right to request a hearing with the Student Appeals Board.

Team Conduct During Travel

Student-athletes are expected to adhere to the following travel rules:

- Instructors must be informed prior to the trip and all efforts must be made to assure assignments are complete.
- Be on time at scheduled departure times and location.
- To travel to and from a school authorized event in school authorized transportation unless released by the head coach.
- To conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as an official representative of Northwest College.
- Any damage done to hotel/motel rooms is considered a violation and will be paid for by the student.

Summary

The information contained in this Code of Conduct and Contract is not intended to be all-inclusive. Each Northwest College student-athlete is encouraged to speak with his or her coach whenever any problem, concern or questions arise regarding their academic or athletic experiences at NWC.

The College reserves the right to inform parents, guardians or immediate family members of students who are found to be in violation of the Student Athlete Code of Conduct. This is to be used primarily for, but not limited to, alcohol, drug, or threats of harm to self and others.

I also grant permission for the coach, or designated appointee, to provide information on either my academic performance or my financial account, to my parent/guardian.

By my signature below, I attest that I have read, understand and have received a copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct. My coach has explained the team rules to me and I agree to the terms mentioned above.

Printed name of Student Athlete

Date: _____

Signature of Student Athlete

Date: _____

Signature of Coach

Date: _____

Signature of Athletic Director