



## **Student Athlete Code of Conduct**

Participation in intercollegiate athletics at the Georgia Institute of Technology 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 cataloguing 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.

**Exhausted Eligibility:** Any student enrolled at the Institute and receiving athletically related financial aid following the completion of four seasons of NCAA athletics eligibility.

**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.

**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.



**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, etc.

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

### **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 normal student conduct process.

The following additional expectations 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 may require follow-up to their head coaches (e.g., housing issues, campus incidents, etc.).

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.



## **Sanctions**

Student-athletes are subject to the following sanctions:

- Immediate suspension from all athletically related activity pending further review by the Director of Athletics or his/her designee, and/or the Conduct Review Panel in concert with appropriate campus authorities following arrest or charge of any of the following:
  - a felony
  - sports wagering
  - illegal possession of a weapon, or
  - sexual assault
  - other serious matters as determined by the Director of Athletics and/or Conduct Review Panel in their sole discretion
- Hazing will not be tolerated by any team and/or individual student-athlete. Hazing activities 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. Sanctions will be dependent on the findings surrounding the case.
- Sanctions as determined by the Director of Athletics or his/her designee and/or the Conduct Review Panel for arrest and/or charge with a misdemeanor offense.
- Immediate suspension for no less than the next 10% of scheduled competition and referral to the Office of Student Integrity and the Conduct Review Panel for arrest and/or charge with a DUI.
- Suspension from athletically related activities, including practice and/or competition, upon a charge, conviction or plea of guilty, or admission of responsibility to any of the following:
  - Any violation of local, state or federal law involving alcohol, drugs, or violence.
  - Other serious matters as determined by the Director of Athletics and/or the Conduct Review Panel in their sole discretion.
- Suspension from athletics activities, including practice and/or competition, for failure to follow recommendations made under the Drug/Alcohol Education, Testing and Treatment Program.
- Suspension for the next 20% of the competitive season, wrapping around to the following season if necessary, for a Second Positive finding under the *Drug/Alcohol Education, Testing, and Treatment Program*.
- Immediate and permanent suspension from the associated team and all athletically related activities and loss of athletically related financial aid at the start of the next academic-year term (e.g., fall/spring semester) for a Third Positive finding under the *Drug/Alcohol Education, Testing, and Treatment Program*.

The Conduct Review Panel may uphold, increase, or decrease these recommended sanctions.



### **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 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.

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 a 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 advisor to the hearing. The student-athlete must identify the



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advisor 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 case history to the Appeals Committee in advance of the student-athlete joining 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 advisor is present, the advisor may communicate privately with the student-athlete, but they may not participate in the hearing. If an advisor disrupts proceedings, they may be asked to leave.
- The Appeals Committee will ask questions of the student-athlete if necessary.
- The student-athlete and advisor 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.