

Augusta University

Policy Library

Sportsmanship and Code of Conduct for Intercollegiate Athletic Events

Policy Owner: Department of Athletics

POLICY STATEMENT

Augusta University's responsibility for the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics program includes responsibility for the actions of its faculty, staff, and students as well as for the actions of any other individual or organization engaged in activities promoting the athletics interests of the institution. As a member of the Peach Belt Conference (PBC), the university adheres to the Peach Belt Conference Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDER AND ORGANIZATION(S)

This policy applies to all employees of Augusta University.

DEFINITIONS

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PROCESS & PROCEDURES

All hosts and guests of university intercollegiate athletic events are expected to adhere to the following general principles:

- Respect the rights and dignity of all persons.
- Strive to ensure the personal safety and well-being of all persons.
- Refrain from conduct that adversely affect others.
- Act responsibly at all times.

In addition to the principles referred to above, university administrators and staff, officials, student-athletes, student spirit groups, and spectators are expected to observe the following guidelines:

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

University administrators are expected to develop and promote the attitude that visiting teams and spectators will be treated with courtesy and respect. The host game manager will welcome the visiting coach and team and extend courtesies as the host would expect to receive. The host athletic director will communicate to game management staff, coaches, student-athletes, and spirit groups that their roles should reflect a courteous demeanor at all times.

COACHING STAFF

Coaches are visible and influential representatives of the institution. As such, coaches are expected to set a respectable standard for others to follow including the use of appropriate language with, and treatment of, officials, players, and spectators. Coaches have the greatest influence over their team with the team often reflecting the attitude of the coach. Coaching staff should exert control over the conduct of their team at all times and be prepared to remove team member who show disrespect for opponents, officials, and spectators.

OFFICIALS

Game officials are expected to carry out their duties and address misconduct in strict accordance with both the rules of their sport and the rules of the PBC. Officials should recognize that the PBC encourages and promotes good sportsmanship.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

As highly visible representatives of Augusta University, student-athletes must honor the responsibilities that accompany the privilege of participating in the institution's intercollegiate athletics program. Profanity, inappropriate gestures, and negative statements or actions toward opposing players, officials or spectators, especially taunting and baiting, will not be tolerated.

SPIRIT GROUPS

Like student-athletes, spirit groups are visible representatives of the institution and are expected to present exemplary behavior. The role of any spirit group is to encourage and support teams and assist in creating a festive environment. Members of spirit groups may not make negative comments about visiting players or spectators during the course of the athletic contest. The following outlines specific standards of conduct for recognized spirit groups:

- Cheerleaders should project a positive influence upon the spectators and participants during the contest. A positive influence can be manifested in the content of the cheers, the timing of the cheers, and the positioning of the squad during the game. In general, cheer content should not contain language or gestures that are of questionable taste. The squad may not position themselves behind the goal in an attempt to affect play, including free throw shooting. Further, the squad should position themselves in front of their own crowd before the game, during time-outs, and at half-time. Megaphones may only be used for voice amplification.
- Dance teams provide entertainment for the home and visiting spectators, which must be in good taste and suitable for family viewing. Dance teams will not be permitted to sit in the opposing teams' spectator seating or behind the opposing teams' bench.
- The pep band may only play during time outs and intermissions. Any attempt to drown out opposing spirit groups or jeers from the band members will be deemed an act of unsportsmanlike conduct. Athletics administration will ensure that positioning of the pep band will be a reasonable distance from the visiting team and spectators' seating by placing the band in either a neutral area or an area contiguous to the home team spectators' seating. At no time will the pep band be permitted to sit behind the visiting team's bench.
- Student pep groups should follow the spirit of the guidelines set forth for cheerleaders and pep bands. Groups should sit in their teams' spectator seating. At no time will a pep group be permitted to sit in the opposing teams' spectator seating or behind the opposing team's bench. The content of pep group cheering should not be confrontational, profane, or otherwise in poor taste and judgment.
- The role of the mascot is to foster fan support for teams. Any gesturing or positioning should occur to serve that end—it should not impair the progress of the game or confront the opposing players or spectators in a negative manner. At no time should the mascot antagonize or enter the vicinity of the opposing team's bench. Any good-natured humor involving officials should be limited to times when the officials are idle with no game activity taking place. All gesturing and actions must be in good taste and suitable for family viewing.

SPECTATORS

It is understood spectators may make occasional, negative comments about officials and opponents. However, individuals who use profanity or vulgar gestures or word, display a blatant disrespect for others, or orally abuse officials, opponents, or other spectators will be refused admission to athletics contests by the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. Artificial noisemakers, air horns, and electronic amplifiers are not permitted during NCAA championship events hosted by the university.

CROWD CONTROL

Augusta University Police will be present at all basketball and baseball events hosted by Athletics. All other sports will be monitored by Athletics administrative staff. The Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Chief of Police will work together to ensure the appropriate number of police officers are on-site at least one (1) hour prior to the official start time of each event. University police will prohibit the following:

- Possession, consumption, or sale of alcoholic beverages at on-campus facilities;
- Possession, consumption, or sale of illegal drugs;
- Possession of a weapon, explosives, or dangerous chemicals;
- Intoxication of any kind;
- Destruction of property; and
- Spectators running on the competition field or floor.

Augusta University Police and Athletics staff will comply with all NCAA and PBC event rules as it relates to officials, student-athletes, coaches, spirit groups, sports medicine staff, support staff, and guest of both the home and visiting teams. The NCAA and PBC sportsmanship announcements will be made prior to the start of each contest.

In addition to sanctions imposed by the PBC, a violation of this policy may result in initiation of the university conduct process as outlined in the Augusta University Student Code of Conduct or the Augusta University Employee Manual.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[Peach Belt Conference Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct Code](#)
[Augusta University Student Code of Conduct](#)
[Augusta University Employee Manual](#)
[Jaguar Student-Athlete Handbook](#)

RELATED POLICIES

NCAA Division II Article 2.4 The Principle of Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct, available at <https://web3.ncaa.org/lstdbi/>

APPROVED BY:

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Augusta University
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President, Augusta University and CEO, AU Health System Date: November 9, 2018