

Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct

THE PRINCIPLE OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT (NCAA Bylaw 2.4)

For intercollegiate athletics to promote the character development of participants, to enhance the integrity of higher education, and to promote civility in society, student-athletes, coaches, and all others associated with these athletics programs and events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty, and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation but also in the broad spectrum of activities affecting the athletics program. It is the responsibility of each institution to:

- Establish policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct in intercollegiate athletics consistent with the educational mission and goals of the institution.
- Educate, on a continuing basis, all constituencies about the policies in 2.4-(a).

SPORTSMANSHIP (Pac-10 Handbook, Compliance and Enforcement Regulations, Chapter 5)

Statement

The Constitution of the Pacific-10 Conference cites as a purpose of the Conference that its members shall participate in its athletics program on the basis of mutual trust and confidence and based upon high standards, scholarship, and sportsmanship. It adds that the members value quality competitive opportunities for student-athletes, compliance with the rules of fair play, and sportsmanship.

Understanding that realization of those goals requires that opponents respect each other and admire earnest effort made fairly in pursuit of victory, the Conference shall require adherence to the standards it has adopted or which are set forth in the respective playing rules. It will require ethical conduct worthy of the educational stature and the standards of its member institutions.

While victory shall be the expected goal of every competitor, defeat is not a disgrace, and the prospect of defeat is never an excuse for unethical behavior or a lack of sportsmanship.

Adherence to these principles will maximize the benefits and enjoyment of intercollegiate competition for all participants, coaches, and spectators.

Role of Chief Executive Officers

The chief executive officers have directed that all representatives of the Conference's member institutions shall exhibit ethical behavior at each Conference competition and conduct themselves in accordance with the rules of the NCAA and the Conference and the playing rules of the respective sports. They have directed that each member shall create a healthy environment for competition, free of a hostile atmosphere for opponents. This responsibility is to be shared by administrators, coaches, and student-athletes, plus others involved in intercollegiate athletics in the Conference.

They have directed the Commissioner and coordinators of officiating and game officials to apply the playing rules tightly and assess appropriate penalties—not merely issue warnings—when violations occur.

Role of Athletics Administrators

Athletics administrators, led by the director of athletics, must communicate the expectation of good sportsmanship to all representatives of the institution active in intercollegiate athletics. It is particularly imperative that this message is impressed on each coach, along with the intention that the coach will require compliance with the Sportsmanship Statement by each member of the team. The director must ensure that opponents are treated with fairness and respect. All aspects of game management must be controlled to assure such treatment, including crowd behavior.

Role of Coaches

The coach's behavior influences that of the student-athletes and, frequently, the fans. The coach has a responsibility to educate student-athletes concerning their obligations to the coach, the institution, intercollegiate athletics, and themselves. Respect for an opponent can most effectively be conveyed to the student-athletes by the manner in which the coach speaks of and acts toward the opponent.

Role of Student-Athletes

Student-athletes must honor the responsibilities which accompany the privilege of representing a Pac-10 institution by adhering to Conference and playing rules and the Sportsmanship Statement. Student-athletes are expected to treat opponents with respect. They must be aware that significant penalties will be applied for fighting, taunting an opponent, or other unethical conduct.

Role of Public Address Announcer

Each public address announcer should provide an impartial and evenhanded report of the event. Partisanship in this area inflames emotions and can promote poor sportsmanship by participants and spectators.

Role of Spirit Groups and Bands

Like the student-athletes, members of spirit groups and bands are highly visible representatives of Pac-10 institutions. They can influence the behavior of others. Each spirit group should welcome its counterpart group and demonstrate respect for its members. Likewise, it should convey respect for each opponent, student-athlete, and team.

Role of Officials

Although each game official has a demanding and difficult job to officiate the contest, he/she also will be directed to apply without hesitation or reservation the rules governing conduct and sportsmanship during each Conference competition. When doing so as directed, the official will have the support of the Conference, each member institution, and its administrators and coaches.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of intercollegiate athletics is to provide an opportunity for the student-athlete to obtain a college education and degree and to develop his/her potential as a skilled performer in an educational setting. By virtue of becoming a member of an athletic team, however, you become subject to certain responsibilities and obligations which could include the acceptance of the loss of some individual rights and privileges. **It is important that your personal conduct demonstrates sound moral and ethical judgment.** The following ethical considerations must be kept in mind at all times:

- Take it upon yourself to make **good choices**. In the decision making process you always have choices. **Take responsibility for your actions**.
- Adhere to the **spirit as well as the letter of the rules** throughout all games and practices.
- **Respect** all players, officials, coaches, and administrators and treat them courteously.
- **Maintain control** during emotionally charged situations. React in a **positive manner** to an aggressive action by an individual or group.
- **Respect the decisions** of the coach. Direct your questions about such decisions to the coach in private and follow appropriate channels to voice your concern.
- **Exert maximum effort** to attain the highest degree of excellence in the classroom and in all games and practices.
- **Exhibit dignity** in manner and dress when representing the team and University.
- **Maintain personal habits which enhance healthful living**. Refrain from the use of drugs or alcoholic beverages which could affect performance or modify mood or behavior. (Exception would be therapeutic drugs prescribed by a physician.)
- Place **primary responsibility to the team** rather than self.