



STUDENT-ATHLETE CONDUCT CODE

The following Student-Athlete Conduct Code language serves as a supplement to the Student Conduct Code administrative regulation that is part of the Catalog Common Pages. The language is posted at: www.maricopa.edu/publicstewardship/governance/adminregs/students/2_5.php#discipline

When you participate for South Mountain Community College (SMCC) in intercollegiate athletics you are a representative of your team, the community and the college. As a member of an SMCC athletic team you are expected to demonstrate acceptable behavior at all times. As a SMCC student and athlete you are expected to follow the Student-Athlete Conduct Code and the MCCC Student Conduct Code (See Student Conduct Code 2.5.2). The MCCC Student Conduct Code along with administrative regulations is printed each year in the SMCC Student Handbook. The MCCC Student Handbook can be obtained in the Student Life and Leadership office located in the Student Union Building.

A. Athletic Department Conduct Code Guidelines:

1. Citizenship – Student-athletes must recognize and be mindful that in the classroom, at practice, at games, or in the community, they represent SMCC. SMCC student-athletes must strive to set personal examples and become positive role models. Student-athletes must demonstrate respect for self and others. Student-athletes through their actions can teach others honesty, loyalty, and trustworthiness. The character and the expectations of SMCC student-athletes is one of integrity, focus and commitment.

2. Social Networking – While social networking websites are a way to communicate with others you need to be aware that the information and pictures you post, or others post about you, may have implications. Examples of implications include: your personal safety, personal and institutional image, violations of NJCAA ethics code (See NJCAA Handbook & Casebook at <http://www.njcaa.org/>), violations of MCCC Student Conduct Code and SMCC's athletic department Student-Athlete Conduct Code. As a SMCC student-athlete you should take into account your future career and professional opportunities when using social networking. Any actions which are deemed inappropriate that compromise the image of the college and SMCC athletic programs as well as behaviors which violate the college's Student Conduct Code, Student-Athlete Conduct Code or federal, state and local laws will result in an initial warning. Subsequent violations will result in disciplinary action, possible forfeiture of scholarship and removal from the team. Examples of inappropriate or offensive behaviors posted to social networking websites may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- A. Hazing
- B. Use of alcohol and drugs
- C. Lewd or lascivious behavior

Information and profiles posted on social networking sites are not private. Outside individuals may access this information and profiles may also be used for other purposes. Examples of other purposes: Parents of a prospective student-athlete could check the profiles of current athletes on the team to see what their son or daughter's future teammates are like. A potential employer can review a student-athlete's profile before

making a hiring decision. Faculty, other college personnel and law enforcement agencies can scrutinize a student-athlete's information. Opposing spectators and players can obtain information regarding student-athletes which can then be used to taunt the student-athlete during an athletic contest.

3. Sexual Harassment - The policy of the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is to provide an educational, employment, and business environment free of unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal and/or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment as defined and otherwise prohibited by the state and federal law (See Student Handbook Conduct Code 5.1.8).

The Student-Athlete Conduct Code, in reference to sexual harassment, will refer to the Student Conduct Code (See Student Conduct Code Sexual Harassment for Employees and Students 5.1.8 thru 5.1.11 and 5.1.13 thru 5.1.17). Student-athletes violating this rule will be subject to disciplinary action, possible forfeiture of scholarship and removal from the team.

*****Please note:** Incidents of *sexual harassment should be reported through your Head Coach, Athletic Director or Dean of Student Affairs.*

4. Prohibited Substances - Student-athletes are forbidden from use and possession of tobacco products, alcohol, and all illegal substances or other controlled substances except as expressly permitted by law. Illegal use, possession, manufacturing or distribution of alcoholic beverages or public intoxication is prohibited. Student-athletes violating this rule will be subject to disciplinary action, possible forfeiture of scholarship and removal from the team.

5. Sportsmanship and Respect - Student-athletes are expected to behave with the utmost respect for themselves, their teammates, their coaches, opposing coaches and students, officials, faculty, and spectators. Disrespect or poor sportsmanship in the form of negative verbal expression (including profane or vulgar language), gestures or actions will not be tolerated. Any behavior exhibiting racial, ethnic, religious or sexual harassment is prohibited and are grounds for removal from the program.

*****Please note:** Non-students can be removed from campus by campus security for verbal statements which threaten the personal safety of any faculty, staff, students, or others lawfully assembled on the campus or conduct which is harmful, obstructive, disruptive to or interferes with the educational process or institutional functions.

6. Travel - When transportation is provided by SMCC, all student-athletes must depart from SMCC together while traveling on athletic trips and return together to the college. You are not allowed to take your own vehicle and/or return via other transportation other than the school buses or vans when provided. If alternate travel is needed a "Travel Assumption of Risk & Release of Liability" form must be filled out and turned into the athletic office prior to the scheduled sporting event. The "Travel Assumption of Risk & Release of Liability" form is located in the athletic office.

Student Emergency Information Card – Student-Athletes must fill out an emergency information card and submit it to their head coach prior to the team’s travel. Emergency information card is located in the athletic office.

*****Please note:** *If you do not travel with your team, you are not covered under MCCCC insurance should any accident occur while traveling to or from an event. On overnight trips, SMCC coaches strictly enforce all of our travel rule procedures which prohibit alcohol, drugs, and curfew violations, etc. Violations that occur under these categories will result in dismissal from the athletic team and possible suspension or expulsion from SMCC.*

B. Athletic Department Conduct Code Guidelines Violations:

1. Violation Penalties - The Student-Athlete Conduct Code guidelines will be strictly enforced. Student-athletes are reminded that participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Additional disciplinary actions, above those stipulated by a game official, for any violation of the Student-Athlete Conduct Code guidelines will be assessed by the Athletic Director and Dean of Student Affairs and may vary based on the type and severity of the violation (See Student Conduct Code Article III D.1). Penalties for violation of any part of the athletic department conduct code guidelines may include:

- A. Event disqualification
- B. Future game suspensions, suspension and/or non-renewal of athletic scholarship
- C. Permanent dismissal from the athletic program, and possible criminal action (See Student Conduct Code 2.5.1.B and Article III B).

*****Please note:** Head Coach recommendations will be considered during the review process.

C. Reporting Obligation and Investigation

1. Reporting - Every student-athlete is obligated to report his or her violations of the Student-Athlete Conduct Code to his or her head coach or to the Director of Athletics within 24 hours of such violation. If the Department of Athletics becomes indirectly aware of an alleged violation by a student-athlete of the Student-Athlete Conduct Code the Director of Athletics will take reasonable steps to verify the validity and accuracy of the report. These steps may include interviews of students and employees, non-college persons having knowledge of relevant facts and the examination of documents. The Athletic Director will normally meet the student-athlete prior to the imposition of discipline; however, in extenuating circumstances, the Athletic Director may suspend the student-athlete before the meeting. The student-athlete may have to meet with the Dean of Student Affairs for review if offense violates the Student Conduct Code (See Article III D and Article III A, B, C and D).

D. Grievance Process

1. Due Process - A student-athlete who feels that he or she has been treated unfairly or unjustly by any employee with regard to a non-instructional process such as a student or administrative services has the right to file a formal and written complaint according to the approved procedures. (See Student Conduct Code 2.3.12 Appendix S-8 – Non-Instructional Grievance Process).