

# GREAT NORTHEAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

## ***Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct***

The Great Northeast Athletic Conference, in conjunction with the NCAA and other member conferences, view the issues of sportsmanship and ethical conduct among the most important issues for the future of intercollegiate athletics. According to the NCAA's official statement on sportsmanship and ethical conduct: ***“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 athletic programs and events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty, and responsibility. These values should manifest not only on athletics participation but also in the broad spectrum of activities affecting the athletics program.”***

The member institutions of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference all agree that the conference should incorporate such a statement governing all of its student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and fans for all GNAC events. The members of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference agree that there is no place in or around intercollegiate athletics for any acts that may be deemed unsportsmanlike. Thus, all participants in any GNAC event should be aware that such behavior or actions will not be tolerated. These unsportsmanlike actions include taunting, profanity, fighting, cheating, and vulgar gestures.

The Ethics Committee of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference has been given the charge of appropriately disciplining any individual, team, or institution that engages in any unsportsmanlike action or behavior. Such discipline could include suspension of individuals from league contests, player or team ineligibility for post-season play, or institutional fines.

Because of the severity of this issue, the members of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference have agreed to make mandatory the signing of a document of recognition of the conference's goals regarding sportsmanship and ethical conduct. All student-athletes and coaches must sign the attached document, which verified that the participant has read, understood, and had the opportunity to inquire about the statement, and is aware of the importance of the issue, the conference's adherence to its policy, and the potential of disciplinary action in the event of a failure of compliance with the Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct Code.

**GREAT  
NORTHEAST  
ATHLETIC  
CONFERENCE**

***Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct Code***

The Great Northeast Athletic Conference's member institutions unanimously agree that sportsmanship and ethical conduct are of paramount importance in intercollegiate athletics. It is agreed that the members of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference will in no way tolerate behavior or actions that do not exemplify sportsmanship and ethical conduct, both on and off the playing site. All student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and spectators are expected to exhibit responsible conduct.

In conjunction with the NCAA, the Great Northeast Athletic Conference's member institutions agree that taunting, vulgarity, fighting, cheating, profanity, obscene gestures, and any other unsportsmanlike or unethical behavior or actions could be brought to the attention of the conference. Further, it is understood that the conference may issue disciplinary sanctions against any individual, team, or institution, which is found in violation of the GNAC's sportsmanship and ethical conduct code.

The Ethics Committee of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference will hear any complaints, render decisions, and issue any needed disciplinary action regarding violations of the code. These sanctions could include, but are not limited to, suspension of individuals from league contests, player or team ineligibility for post-season play, or institutional fines.

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**This document is a statement of concern by the members of the Great Northeast Athletic Conference. By signing this form, the person listed below acknowledges that they have read and understand the code and the GNAC's stand on the issues of sportsmanship and ethical conduct. Member institutions have agreed to include this document with the student-athlete's eligibility forms. Finally, no student-athlete or coach will be eligible for competition in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference without the completion of this form.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student-Athlete or Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sport

\_\_\_\_\_  
Institution