



WHEELING
JESUIT
UNIVERSITY

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

DIVISION II PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Colleges and universities in Division II place highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and on the successful completion of all students' academic programs. They seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete's educational experience. They also seek to establish and maintain an environment that values cultural diversity and gender equity among their student-athletes and athletics staff.

ACCEPTING THE RISK OF SPORTS

As an athlete at Wheeling Jesuit University, one must be aware of and accept the risk of injury associated with participation on an intercollegiate sports team. Student-athletes are recommended to do their part in reducing the risk of injury by keeping themselves in the best possible physical condition and following the advice of team trainers with respect to treatment and rehabilitation of injuries.

DO NOT USE FAULTY EQUIPMENT. Anytime a student-athlete feels his/her equipment is not fitting properly or feel that it is not providing proper protection, e/she should report to the coaching staff for a fitting check.

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Wheeling Jesuit regards intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of the total educational experience of the student. The Wheeling Jesuit Athletics Department contributes to the institutional mission of Educating for Life, Leadership and Service with and Among Others by providing its student-athletes with the confidence, support, encouragement, and training to succeed in both the classroom and on the playing fields.

The athletics department assigns the highest priority to the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of its student athletes. We are committed to providing equal participation opportunities for all students across a broad range of competitive offerings and actively encourage its participants to exhibit the highest levels of sportsmanship, scholarship and ethical conduct at all times.

The welfare of the student-athlete and collective student body must be kept in clear focus in determining what is best for the athletics department. Each student-athlete must meet normal college standards in regard to admissions, financial assistance, academic standing, and student life policies as defined in the college catalog and student handbook.

Intercollegiate athletics is a source of enthusiasm for the entire college as well as the community of Wheeling. It builds esprit de corps and evokes pride for the institution.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

1. To provide a quality athletic program that provides equal opportunity for both men and women.
2. To promote the continuing commitment to the academic integrity of our athletics program. Student-athletes are students first and foremost.
3. To encourage and maintain excellence in sportsmanship and competitive attitudes through properly organized and directed practices and competition.
4. To recognize that the athletic arena provides an environment for the teaching of positive, strong values. Education must always be our ultimate goal.
5. To promote and maintain athletics staff unity and morale in a cooperative effort.
6. To strive for excellence as a primary objective through honest hard work and maximum effort on the part of the coaches and student-athletes.
7. To promote concepts of wellness, including an awareness of the dangers involved with the use of alcohol, drugs and steroids.
8. To promote and maintain a positive and cooperative relationship between athletics and the academic areas of the college.
9. To recruit qualified student-athletes in collaboration with the Office of Admissions.
10. To serve as good-will ambassadors for the college.
11. To work with the Sports Information Director and Development Office to promote the athletics department to alumni, parents and the Wheeling community.
12. To abide by the policies and practices of the NCAA and West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

STUDENT ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the philosophy of the Wheeling Jesuit Athletics Department that athletes representing WJU are here to achieve a complete collegiate experience. The most important aspect of that experience is the awarding of a degree. Having the privilege to represent WJU through intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of the total college experience for the student-athletes.

We recognize that student-athletes hold a special position on the Wheeling Jesuit campus. They have a responsibility beyond that of the student who chooses not to participate in co-curricular activities. General responsibilities include:

1. Positive action and words
2. Role model socially; be a positive influence in your residence hall and daily living

area.

3. In the public eye, you represent your team, your school, and your family.

Academic

1. Attend every class— There will be times that you will be excused from class due to an athletic event. Your goal should be to miss no other classes, even though the instructor's policy may allow a stated number of unexcused absences. The student-athlete is responsible for communicating with the instructor on make-up work and/or tests.
2. Advise your advisor — The academic advisor is there to assist you and make recommendations. The student-athlete has a responsibility to communicate with the advisor of their participation on an intercollegiate team. Utilize your advisor positively and communicate your needs.
3. Develop a good rapport with your instructors – They do care. Be polite. Be prepared and attentive in class. Be on time.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

A student-athlete must be enrolled as a full-time student, which is defined as enrollment of 12 credit hours, in order to be eligible to compete. **During your season of participation, if at any time your enrollment drops below 12 hours, you become ineligible immediately. Never withdraw from a course without first talking to your instructor, advisor & coach.**

A student-athlete must also be in good academic standing to participate in intercollegiate athletics. For a student-athlete to be in good academic standing, he/she must achieve or exceed both NCAA requirements and the more stringent university requirements. Wheeling Jesuit University requires that all student athletes have a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or above to practice and compete in intercollegiate sports.

When a student-athlete falls below a cumulative 2.0 GPA, that student is no longer in good academic standing and is placed on academic probation. Student-athletes placed on academic probation are ineligible to participate on any college athletics team (including both traditional and non-traditional seasons) or club sport team. If a student-athlete is eligible according to NCAA requirements, but not according to WJU requirements, they have the opportunity to appeal the ineligibility decision to the Academic Life Committee.

If a student-athlete has a question about his/her eligibility status, whether it involves a rule interpretation, an appeal for hardship, transfer requirements, or how to regain eligibility, etc., the student-athlete should take the question to the head coach. The head coach in turn will confer with the Athletic Director and/or Compliance Director. Athletic Financial Aid appeals are made to the Financial Aid Office.

DISCIPLINARY APPEAL PROCESS

Any student athlete who has received disciplinary sanctions from their coach and feel these sanctions are unjust or excessive may appeal the decision to the Director of Athletics.

PARTICIPATION & TEAM

Once the competitive season begins, all members of the team are expected to attend the scheduled contests. The only excused absence is injury, personal circumstances, or emergency. The head coach must be notified should any of these situations occur. Absence due to social events, i.e. formals, non-academic initiations, could result in the player being suspended from the team indefinitely until the case is reviewed by the Athletic Director. The review could result in dismissal from the team. Team members **MUST** commit to the full length of the season, including any WVIAC, NCAA or post season competitions. Also, due to inclement weather and post season competition, those student-athletes participating on varsity teams during graduation weekend may be required to compete on graduation day.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

Student-athletes are encouraged to use the resources that are available to assist with your academic work. One of the primary resources is the college's Academic Resource Center, located in Ignatius Hall. The ARC is available to all WJU students and provides services to assist you in developing your skills and achieving your academic potential. The ARC is there to assist all levels of students and their individual needs. If you need assistance or have questions, do not hesitate to contact the ARC. They are there to help you!

CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Wheeling Jesuit University is dedicated to the personal growth of its students. We believe that a liberal arts education is the best possible preparation for life in a global society.

Accordingly, we provide a setting in which students will be enabled to enrich and expand their knowledge and to refine their skills, understanding and values. Student –athletes at Wheeling Jesuit maintain a commitment to academic and athletic excellence. When balanced with the demands of their academic and athletic activities, we encourage and

support choices that allow their academic and athletic activities, we encourage and support choices that allow the student athlete to become involved in campus and community life.

PRINCIPLE of SPORTSMANSHIP

SPORTSMANSHIP is the ideal which should guide all athletes. Sportsmanship is evident in attitudes and behaviors. While there seems to be a general understanding of what “Good Sportsmanship” and “Poor Sportsmanship” consist of, it is harder to define and explain the concept of sportsmanship in general. All teams, sports and institutions have specific rules which help to instill attitudes and behaviors which are associated with sportsmanship, but sportsmanship goes beyond prescriptive regulations.

The guiding principle of **SPORTSMANSHIP** is respect. **Sportsmanship** means:

RESPECT for oneself

RESPECT for the sport

RESPECT for opponents

RESPECT for coaches and officials

RESPECT for spectators and fans

RESPECT for the college

RESPECT for governing institutions **SPORTSMANSHIP**, as an ideal, infuses and guides all aspects of an athlete’s life, both on the field and off.

POLICY STATEMENTS

STATEMENT ON HAZING AND SEXUAL AND DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT

The Wheeling Jesuit Athletics Department does not condone hazing by athletic teams or their individual members. Hazing can be defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation to any student that causes or creates a substantial risk of mental or physical harm to any person. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another.

Mutual respect, understanding for others, and a high standard of conduct are at the foundation of intercollegiate athletics. The Wheeling Jesuit Athletics Department is committed to providing an environment that is free of sexual discrimination and discriminatory or sexual harassment.

HOSTING OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Student-athletes may be asked to host prospective student-athletes for overnight visits. Serving as a student host is an important responsibility and must be taken seriously. As a host to a prospective student-athlete, you and the prospect are under our conduct code. Hosts and prospects are not to be involved in the use of drugs and alcohol or take prospects to any establishments that sell or serve alcohol. It is permissible to patronize a local restaurant with a prospect with the understanding that alcohol will not be purchased or consumed. College sponsored activities are permissible; if alcohol is present it should not be bought or consumed. Students who are of legal age ARE NOT to purchase or consume alcohol while serving as hosts or visiting with prospects.

Financial Aid Appeals

Athletic aid is renewable on a yearly basis. A student must be informed of any and all cancellation or non renewal of aid in writing prior to July 1 He/She will have the right to an appeal to the Financial Aid Committee in writing within 5 days of receipt of the letter.

BREAK HOUSING AND MEALS

Student-athletes who are require to participate with their teams during college breaks, i.e. Fall break, Christmas break, Spring break, or post semester will be properly housed and provided with meals or a per diem. Per diems will be approved by the Athletics Director in consultation with the head coach.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The athletic department presents two departmental awards to seniors at the annual senior honors dinner. They are:

- 1) Charles L. Currie, S.J. Senior Scholar Athlete Award—Presented to the senior student athlete with the highest overall grade point average.**
- 2) Intercollegiate Athlete of the Year — Presented to a senior selected by a vote of the athletic department’s head coaches.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Student-athletes are often asked to volunteer for community service. This theme of “service to others” is a very important part of the education that student-athletes receive at Wheeling Jesuit University. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged that all athletic teams participate in community service activities. Community activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

Hospital visits
Reading to Children

Free Sports Clinics
Tutoring or volunteering at Big Brothers/Big Sisters and/or House of the Carpenter
Catholic Charities

Soup Kitchen
The Salvation Army

STUDENT –ATHLETE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAAC) PURPOSE

Encourage unity, common purpose and camaraderie between teams and among all athletes.

Evaluate the Wheeling Jesuit University athletic programs and recommend suggestions to enhance the overall student-athlete experience.

STRUCTURE

A - Coach appoints two (2) representatives annually.

B - Officers are elected in the spring and may serve consecutive terms. An individual must serve as a representative for one year before being eligible to become an officer.

C - SAAC will meet monthly

D - SAAC meetings are open. However, only team reps and officers will vote.

E - Parliamentary procedures will be followed.

F - There are two officers: President and Vice-President

G - The officers will create the meeting agenda. The President will chair the meetings. In his/her absence, the Vice-President will chair the meeting.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES & EVENTS

Hall of Fame – The Wheeling Jesuit University Athletic Hall of Fame was started in 1987. WJU has a Hall of Fame banquet honoring former student-athletes, coaches, faculty or administrators on an annual basis.

DRUG TESTING

Per NCAA rules, Wheeling Jesuit conducts student-athlete drug testing. A copy of the random drug testing policy is on file in the Athletic Directors office and the training room.

STATEMENT ON ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO

The Wheeling Jesuit University Athletics Department is concerned with the physical, mental and emotional well-being of its student body and especially those who participate in intercollegiate athletics. The use and/or misuse of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs are not condoned by the College or the Athletics Department and are recognized as potential problems for all students. A student-athlete experiences unique pressures due to his/her involvement in intercollegiate athletics and is at risk to the experimentation of drugs, alcohol and the use of tobacco.

While representing Wheeling Jesuit, Athletics administrators, coaches, athletic trainers, student-athletes, cheerleaders, and managers will conduct themselves in such a way as to reflect credit on the institution, on their sport and on themselves. Thus, when practicing, competing, or traveling to and from an event, teams will be expected to place sportsmanship and exemplary personal behavior above all else. At all other times, athletes will be held to the same code of conduct as is specified by specific rules placed upon them by their coaches and/or the College Creed.

NUTRITIONAL ERGOGENIC AIDS

1. Wheeling Jesuit understands that many athletes use nutritional supplements. It is imperative that these supplements be cleared for use by a university trainer before being ingested.
2. Contents of many of these compounds are not represented accurately on the list of ingredients and may contain impurities or banned substances, which could cause a student-athlete to test positive in a drug test. Positive drug test appeals based on the claim the student-athlete did not know the substances they were taking contained banned drugs have not been successful.
3. Members of the athletic and sports medicine staff do not distribute or endorse “nutritional” supplements.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Student-athletes are subject to the regulation and procedures set forth in the Wheeling Jesuit University Student Handbook. In addition, student-athletes are subject to all rules and regulations that are required for individual participation on a specific team. A coach has the discretion to take disciplinary action for any insubordination