

Montana Tribal College Athletic Association

Student Athlete Code of Conduct

BUILDING STRONGER STUDENTS and SMARTER ATHLETES

Mission:

The mission of the MTCAA Athletic Department is to provide students who meet National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) guidelines the opportunity to compete in intercollegiate athletics with other Region teams. MTCAA is committed to the growth, and development of participating student-athletes, the MTCAA athletic department will provide students with the leadership, coaching, and facilities necessary to successfully achieve their educational and athletic goals.

Vision:

The MTCAA envisions the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual development of MTCAA student athletes. The Athletic Department staff in collaboration with other MTCAA personnel will continually work toward providing the necessary resources for student success both academically and athletically.

Values:

- The Montana Tribal College Athletic Association values integrity, a strong work ethic, and continued growth & development

Goals & Objectives:

1. MTCAA Athletics will have a strong value based emphasis
 - The coaching staff will actively serve as mentors to student-athletes
 - The student-athletes will have athletic and academic goals in accord with those of the college
 - Ethical and value based principles will be incorporated into all activities
2. MTCAA Athletics will support, encourage and promote the educational mission of the college.
 - The academic progress of student-athletes will be monitored
 - Tutoring service, study tables, and counseling services will be available, and utilize to assist student-athletes in the effort to maintain a high GPA.
 - Student-athletes achieving academic excellence will be rewarded
 - The coaching staff will actively pursue professional development opportunities in an effort to achieve, and maintain excellence, in coaching, leading, mentoring, and educating.

Strategies

Montana Tribal College Athletic Association

1. We will develop a systematic athletic program and evaluation process based on defined outcomes
2. We will implement drug and violence abstinence programs
3. We will established community involvement programs to support athletics
4. We will implement programs and practices to ensure on time graduation by athletes
5. We will establish practices and procedures to ensure students completion of athletic season
6. We will establish practice and procedures to ensure students qualify for participation in athletic programs
7. We will develop opportunities for both coaches and athletes to ensure their ability to meet the requirements of their sport

Introduction

The purpose of this contract is to set out the goals and objectives, regulations, policies and procedures of the Athletic Program. It is intended to assure a systematic and efficient organization and operation.

The organization requires all student-athletes to demonstrate **good moral conduct and ethical judgment** that reflects favorably upon themselves, the college, and the MTCAA community at large. Student-athletes are subject to the policies and procedures as set out in this contract, the MTCAA student handbook, as well as federal, state and local laws.

It is important to note that due to the high visibility and increasing public scrutiny of all athletic programs, student-athletes are expected to meet higher standards of educational excellence as well as personal conduct and appearance.

Expectations of Student-Athletes

MTCAA student-athletes have a responsibility to be **students first**, with the primary goal of earning a degree. Understand that personal accountability is the foundation not only of each individual's successful academic and athletic experience, but their personal life as well. All student-athletes must be mindful that **at all times** they represent MTCAA College and its athletic department, as well as their individual teams. Upperclassmen have the responsibility to serve as exemplary role models for new student-athletes.

Each Student-Athlete Shall:

- Be officially enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) quarter credit hours during each quarter they are in attendance in a Montana Tribal College.
- Meet all academic responsibilities including attending class regularly, turning in assignments, interacting appropriately with faculty and staff, meeting with college and faculty advisors and making a commitment to academic integrity.
- May be drug tested once per quarter and then randomly throughout the season.

Athletic Eligibility

Montana Tribal College Athletic Association

A student-athlete will be eligible to represent MTCAA provided he or she meets the provisions as set out in the Student-Athlete Conduct Handbook. The main provisions are outlined below, however, this list is not all-inclusive and student-athletes are encouraged to discuss questions about eligibility with their respective coaches. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to know and understand the basic rules that govern athletic eligibility.

Eligibility

You must be registered full-time (12 hours or more) at all times.

End of First Quarter: At the end of your first quarter of attendance, you must have completed a minimum of **9 quarter hours** and received a **1.75 GPA** or higher.

After the First Quarter: Complete **12 quarter hours each quarter** with a quarterly **2.00 GPA** or higher *Or* Have a cumulative number of hours equal to **12 credits times the number of quarters attended with a 2.00 cumulative GPA**

After the First Season: You must have passed **33 hours with a minimum 2.00 GPA**

After the Second Season: You must have passed a minimum of 36 hours for a cumulative total of **69 hours with a minimum 2.00 GPA**

After the Third Season: You must have passed a minimum of 36 hours for a cumulative total of **105 hours with a minimum 2.00 GPA**

Each student/athlete will be required to have instructors fill out progress reports three times per quarter and return them to the athletic coordinator. Student/athletes will then meet with athletic coordinator to discuss quarterly progress and concerns.

Student/athletes may request an exemption for the minimum credit rule, which will be review by the director of athletics. Recommendations will then be made to the academic vice-president for final approval.

Class Attendance and Course Work

Absence from class because of athletic competition does not excuse an athlete from any course requirement.

Students must clear any absence related to athletics with his or her professor well before the absence. Most faculty members are very supportive of students' extracurricular or personal interests and are willing to work with you regarding accommodations – especially if you are already a diligent and responsible student and if you manage any requests for accommodation in a mature fashion. At the beginning of the quarter, students who are seeking some kind of accommodation due to athletics scheduling should:

Montana Tribal College Athletic Association

- Introduce themselves to their professor (in person – not by email); identify themselves as a student-athlete; provide the professor with a schedule (and invite them to attend a game); explain the conflict and inquire if alternatives can be arranged.
- Please make every effort to do this in person and at the very beginning of the quarter.
- Please do not assume that your sport participation automatically excuses you from any academic commitment.
- Always be prepared to put academic obligations before your team commitments. Your coach and teammates will understand and are prepared to work around these conflicts when they do arise.

Insurance

The student and their parents agree to release MTCAA, its Board of Directors and employees, from liability arising out of accidents and resulting injuries occurring while participating in intercollegiate athletics while attending a Tribal College. **The College is not financially responsible for student injuries nor does it cover student athletes while training, practicing, or participating in athletic events.** Students covered by tribal health/IHS should provide a copy of eligibility while attending and participating in Tribal College Athletics.

Financial Aid

Athletic Scholarships: MTCAA does not provide athletic scholarships; student-athletes may be eligible for federal financial aid and student employment.

Other financial aid eligibility is based on maintaining the specific requirements as outlined for federal, MTCAA or private assistance. Complete information is available in the Financial Aid Office.

Code of Conduct

All team members of the MTCAA Athletic program shall adhere to the following rules and standards of conduct in addition to the Code of Student Conduct.

- **Drug and Alcohol Use:** It is the policy of organization to prohibit the unlawful use, sale, dispensing, transfer or possession of controlled substances, alcoholic beverages or drugs not medically authorized. The use or possession of drugs and/or alcoholic beverages by any student during any practice, activity or competition is prohibited and will result in the participant being removed from that activity. Any athlete involved in the unlawful use of drugs or alcohol or who violate the alcohol or drug policies in the MTCAA College Code of Student Conduct may face suspension or dismissal from the team and /or MTCAA, as well as legal action. All student-athletes are subject to all local, state and federal laws.

As a student-athlete you are a highly visible representative of the college. It is very important that you act in a manner that will not embarrass either yourself or the college. Therefore, in addition to any college sanctions that may be imposed for misconduct,

Montana Tribal College Athletic Association

student-athletes may be considered for suspension or dismissal from participation for any of the following:

- Academic dishonesty.
- Violation of Tribal College rules.
- Arrest for any crime other than a minor traffic offense.
- Possession of any illegal drug, including the unlawful possession or consumption of alcohol.
- Unauthorized possession of any steroid.
- Fighting with, threatening the safety of, or harassing any individual.
- Destruction or theft of MTCAA property.
- Unauthorized entry into any MTCAA building.
- Any conduct that reflects unfavorably upon MTCAA or its Athletic Program.

Head coach, student services, or designated appointee, will be responsible for imposing disciplinary sanctions. The sanction imposed may also be indefinite pending the outcome of an investigation, hearing, or other future event.

First Offense: May result in suspension from the next contest or removal/dismissal from the team depending on the severity of the misconduct and the surrounding circumstances. *The cancellation or non-renewal of an athlete's aid for any act of misconduct may occur.*

Second Offense: May result in suspension from team activities and removal/dismissal from the team. Any aid received as a student/athlete may be subject to payback.

Subsequent Offense: In most cases, may result in suspension or dismissal from the team. Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Disciplinary Appeals: Should a student-athlete believe that he or she may have a grievance subject to appeal, that student-athlete may file a written appeal with the Athletic Coordinator describing the specifics of the grievance. The Athletic Coordinator will then hold an informal meeting with the student-athlete and the head coach. If the Athletic Coordinator and the coach are one and the same, then the Vice President for Academics will hold an informal meeting. If the complaint is not resolved, the student-athlete has a right to request a hearing with the Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Transportation

All athletes and coaches must travel with the team to and from all intercollegiate contests. Athletes must return to campus with their team unless the coach has granted permission. Team members may only leave the team with members of their immediate family.

Dress Code

Athletes should be aware of their status as representatives of Salish Kootenai College and

Montana Tribal College Athletic Association

dress accordingly. Coaches may also have specific dress codes for their teams.

Lodging

Charges for hotel rooms and tax are the responsibility of each Tribal college; incidental expenses such as telephone, room service and pay movies are to be paid by the room occupants. Hotels and coaches may prohibit telephone calls and pay movies from being charged to hotel rooms.

Team Conduct During Travel

Student-athletes are expected to adhere to the following travel rules:

- Instructors must be informed one-week prior to the trip and all efforts must be made to assure assignments are complete.
- Be on time at scheduled departure times and location.
- Travel to and from a school-authorized event in school authorized transportation unless written released by the head coach.
- To conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as an official representative of MTCAA.
- Any damage done to hotel/motel rooms is considered a violation and will be paid for by the student and subject to disciplinary action.

Community Service

The Department of Athletics encourages student-athlete participation in community service and promotional activities, which benefit worthy causes. Community service is an element of life, which fosters positive growth and development, and as an avenue for the student-athlete to ‘giveback’ to a supportive community.

Summary

The information contained in this Code of Conduct and Contract is not intended to be all-inclusive. Each MTCAA College student-athlete is encouraged to speak with his or her coach whenever any problem, concern or questions arise regarding their academic or athletic experiences at MTCAA.

By my signature below, I attest that I have read, understand and have received a copy of the Athletic Code of Conduct. My coach has explained the team rules to me and I agree to the terms mentioned above.

Printed name of Student Athlete

Date: _____

Signature of Student Athlete

Date: _____

Signature of Coach

Montana Tribal College Athletic Association

Date: _____

Signature of Athletic Director/Student Services