

Negative recruiting, including derogatory statements about another member institution, its personnel or its athletic program to a prospective student-athlete, the prospect's parents, high school coach or other persons interested in the prospective student-athletes.

Any violation of local law, federal law or generally recognized standards of good conduct by any individual.

Specific Requirements of Coaches:

Coaches are expected to support the officials of a game and any public criticism of a game official is a violation of the League's Code of Conduct. In that regard, coaches are to avoid making any comments to the media concerning game officials. Coaches are not permitted to enter or attempt to enter the locker room of a game official preceding or following a contest.

Coaches are to remain in their designated coaching and team areas and refrain from any action that would incite others in attendance at the contest. Coaches are expected to make reasonable efforts to discourage spectators from engaging in poor sporting behavior during athletic events.

Coaches are expected to promote standards of fair play and good sporting conduct by their student-athletes by disciplining them for acts of misconduct or unethical behavior during games, practices and related functions.

Coaches are to be mindful that a determination regarding the continuation of play of any scheduled contest is the responsibility of the game officials and that taking a team from any playing area is not the coach's prerogative. However, in instances where institutional policies related to safety direct a coach to vacate a playing area, the coach should respond accordingly.

Patriot League Award of Good Sporting Conduct:

In the spirit of ethical conduct and sporting behavior, the Patriot League has established an Award of Good Sporting Conduct to recognize and honor exemplary sporting behavior. All Patriot League student-athletes, coaches, a team as a whole and staff members associated with a member institution's intercollegiate athletic program are eligible for the award. The definition of good sporting conduct is left to the discretion of the member institution with the understanding that the behavior should be at a standard beyond what is normally expected during the course of play. Award recipients will receive an Award of Good Sporting Conduct certificate, will be listed on the League's website and will be publicly recognized at an institutional event.

(This is an abridged version of the Patriot League Code of Conduct. Please contact the League office or refer to the League's Policies and Procedures Manual for the complete text of the Code of Conduct.)



Code of Conduct

Purpose:

The Patriot League was founded upon the principles of fairness, equality and excellence in academics as well as in athletic participation. It strongly supports the NCAA's core principle: promoting character development of participants and fundamental values such as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. The Patriot League member institutions will ensure that their athletic programs promote and require the highest standards of sporting behavior and ethical conduct by all participants (student-athletes, coaches, staff and faculty). Additionally, the member institutions will require and demand the highest standards from all supporters (bands, cheerleaders, spirit groups, student bodies and spectators).

Host institutions must provide venues that foster an environment of fair play and civility. This will allow the conducting of sporting events that properly showcase the student-athletes, member institutions and the Patriot League as a whole.

The Executive Director of the Patriot League is empowered to monitor and require member institutions to enforce this Code of Conduct.



Institutional Responsibilities:

Institutions will ensure that good sporting behavior and ethical conduct is promoted at all times. Each institution will actively support the Patriot League Code of Conduct and ensure that the policy is presented to all members of the institution on a yearly basis. Contents of the Code of Conduct will be included in an annual meeting with coaches and administrators. This information will also be provided at the annual orientation of incoming student-athletes and reviewed with all other student-athlete groups at the beginning of each academic year.

Each institution will promote sporting and ethical conduct throughout the year. Institutional representatives and event management staff will be most vigilant during the conduct of any game or athletic event. In that regard host institutions will:

1. Ensure that an administrative representative of the host institution is present (or readily accessible) at all Patriot League contests and that he/she is charged with the enforcement of the League's code of conduct. The representative will identify him/herself to the visiting coach or administrator prior to the start of the contest.
2. Provide for adequate security, police and other game management measures necessary to protect the safety of student-athletes, coaches and officials, and to maintain adequate crowd control during home athletic events.
3. Announce a statement promoting good sporting behavior before each home sporting event where a public address system is utilized and/or print the announcement in the game program. Public address announcers will be directed to announce the game in an impartial manner and assist event management with the promotion of good sporting conduct throughout the game.
4. Reserve or protect the seating or spectator areas immediately behind the visiting team bench for fans of the visiting team, where possible.
5. Ensure that members of the institution's band, cheerleading squad and other such spirit groups in attendance at athletic events adhere to the League's code of conduct. The home team's band is to be seated in areas on the home team's side or half of the playing venue.
6. Report incidents of poor sporting behavior or unethical conduct by student-athletes, coaches or institutional representatives to the institution's Director of Athletics within 48 hours of the incident.
7. Provide a written report of incidents that are a direct violation of Patriot League Standards as defined below to the Executive Director within 48 hours of the incident. The report will include the identities of the individual(s) involved and the Director of Athletics' recommendation for a penalty and/or remedial action. The Executive Director is authorized to approve or alter the recommended penalty and/or remedial action.
8. Report in writing the removal or suspension of a student-athlete or institutional personnel from a contest for fighting or flagrant behavior to the Executive Director within 24 hours following the contest. The Director of Athletics will administer an immediate suspension of that individual(s) from the next intercollegiate contest, including Patriot League or NCAA championship competition, or if the last contest of the season, the suspension will be extended to the beginning of the next season. If warranted, the Executive Director may impose additional penalties for repeated suspensions by an individual within the same sport season.

Patriot League Responsibilities and Procedures:

The Council of Presidents is responsible for approving and modifying the Patriot League Code of Conduct. The Council of Presidents will invest authority in the Patriot League's Executive Director to ensure that all member institutions abide by the League's Code of Conduct and the authority to impose sanctions as deemed appropriate.

The Executive Director will ensure that all facts regarding an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct are reported promptly following the incident. After all interested institutions and affected individuals have had an opportunity to present any facts or arguments regarding the violation, the Executive Director may issue a directive to an institution to take action on the violation. This action may include an admonishment or warning, a private or public reprimand, suspension of any person from attendance or participation in one or more events or games, forfeiture of any game or other actions as the Executive Director deems appropriate.

Patriot League Standards:

The Patriot League requires the highest ethical conduct by all personnel and demands the highest commitment to integrity, ethical behavior and fair play in all athletic endeavors. In this regard, the following actions are considered to be inconsistent with the high standards the League strives to represent and instill:

Publicly criticizing or making derogatory statements of an official, the Patriot League personnel or its policies, another member institution or any of its personnel, especially student-athletes. This includes comments with respect to their conduct, character, competence, integrity or appearance.

Striking, attempting to strike or otherwise physically abusing an official, coach, student-athlete, cheerleader, mascot or other person in attendance at an athletic event. This includes throwing objects at an individual or onto the playing surface.

Acts dangerous to others, unsafe behavior, inciting participants or spectators to violent or abusive action, obscene gestures, profanity or provocative language or action toward an official, student-athlete, coach, spectator, bench or score-table personnel.

Defacing, destruction or theft of property associated with an athletic event, including property of the opposing team or contest officials.

Taunting by spectators or cheering sections directed at opposing players, officials or coaches. Taunting includes disrespectful cheers focusing on an opponent's race, religion, sexual orientation or physical characteristics, or any "cheer" which is vulgar or obscene.

Displaying signs or banners that contain offensive language or pictures, particularly displays that may be vulgar or obscene.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages or public drunkenness by any individual at an athletic event.

Cheating by coaches, staff or student-athletes in connection with any athletic event. This includes the use of drugs or unauthorized substances.