SECTION 2.0 - ATHLETICS POLICIES

2.2 Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

2.2.1 Pursuant to approval by the Director of Athletics, each head coach is expected to establish and publish rules and regulations regarding the general conduct of student-athletes in his or her charge. These rules and regulations will cover appearance, practice, classroom attendance, academic responsibility, punctuality, dress code and appearance of student-athletes on team trips, and general standards of behavior. It is a policy of the Department of Athletics that each coach makes clear to the student-athletes in his or her charge the acceptable standards of behavior and conduct for student-athletes that are expected. Each coach also will make clear that appropriate disciplinary action will be enforced by the coaches when these standards are not observed.

It is the responsibility of the coach that student-athletes realize their responsibilities. A student-athlete must realize and understand that he or she is an amateur athlete and that financial aid has strict limitations as governed by the University and appropriate conference and/or association (NCAA). The student-athlete also must realize that as an athlete representing an intercollegiate sport, he or she is much more in the "limelight" than the average student. It is important that the student-athlete has a sense of responsibility to represent his or her sport in the classroom and on the campus in a manner that will reflect credit on athletes in general and certainly on his or her team in particular.

The head coach in conjunction with the Compliance Office must brief his or her squad on university, conference (if applicable), and association rules and regulations prior to practice or on the first day of practice. It is required that summaries of these rules be furnished to student-athletes in writing through the Student-Athlete Handbook to prevent misunderstandings.

2.2.2 Policy Regarding Good Sportsmanship

One of your responsibilities as a student-athlete is to always display good sportsmanship in practice and at all athletic events. Don’t enter a competition worried about your opponent’s performance. Enter a competition with the idea of giving your best performance. Compete hard but play fair. Treat your fellow competitors equally and with respect. Don’t make excuses or discuss a teammate’s shortcomings. Support team efforts by encouraging team work and mutual effort. Enter each competition expecting fairness.

When you attend other athletic events, remember that you are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship there as well.

The Department of Athletics expects sportsmanlike conduct of its student-athletes and will not tolerate any of the following behaviors:

- Physically abusing an official, coach, athlete, opponent or spectator
- Throwing of objects at an individual, spectators, or across a field or arena
- Seizing equipment or cameras from officials or the news media
- Inciting players or spectators to violent action or any behavior which insults or defiles and opponent’s traditions.
- Encouraging Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi fans to “boo” an opposing team when introductions are made
- Using obscene or inappropriate language or gestures to officials, opponents, team members or spectators
• Making public statements which are negative, controversial, or not in compliance with the Department’s policy on media relations (see Sports Information…section in this handbook)

• Violating generally recognized intercollegiate athletics standards or the values and standards associated with Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi as determined by your Head Coach and approved by the Director of Athletics

Your coach may have more specific expectations concerning behavior, dress or sportsmanship. If so, he or she will inform you of these.

Support your coach and your University and concentrate on playing well. Good sportsmanship comes easily if you are proud of your performance.

2.3 Student Grievance Policies

2.3.1 Rules and Regulations
Students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi are expected to comply with the rules and regulations of the University. The University Catalog is the primary source of information on academic rules. The Student Handbook and the Code of Conduct provide all the pertinent information regarding a student’s Rights and Responsibilities and Rules and Regulations. This information is available on the University Web site under Student Services.

NOTE: This grievance procedure does not cover grievances related to financial aid or harassment. All financial aid issues are handled by the Financial Aid Office. Details of the student-athlete financial aid grievance policy can be found in the Financial Aid section. All harassment issues are addressed in University Rule 34.01.99.C1: Harassment, which is posted on the University Rules Web site located at: www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm.

2.3.2 Grievance Procedures within the Department of Athletics
The Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi Department of Athletics recognizes the importance of providing an efficient procedure for a timely and fair resolution of any non-academic grievance which occurs within the Department of Athletics. It is the expectation of the Department that every attempt be made to resolve any complaints or grievances via informal procedures before filing a formal grievance. However, if a satisfactory resolution of the problem proves impossible through the informal mechanism, the student-athlete may choose to use the formal grievance procedures. The Grievance Procedures are meant to resolve matters affecting the student-athlete's performance or participation in or eligibility for participation in the University's athletic programs; i.e., (1) complaint involving an athletic team, coach or employee of the Department of Athletics, (2) athletic administrative policies or procedures, (3) dismissal/suspension from a team.

2.3.2.1 Grievance Procedures
A. Informal Process
Most problems or complaints can be resolved through discussion between the student-athlete and the person with whom they have the problem. Therefore, the student-athlete is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the person. Sometimes it might be advisable to seek the assistance of another person in the department to advise or provide informal mediation to both parties. In those instances in which the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student-athlete may follow the steps below for a formal grievance.

B. Formal Process
1. The student-athlete should submit, in writing, the complaint to the individual with whom they have the grievance and submit a copy to the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance. This statement should contain a brief summary of the grievance, the remedies sought, and a request for a meeting with the individual. The complaint should be submitted within ten (10) class days of the action or event. (The Associate Athletic Director for Compliance will assist in resolving matters regarding NCAA regulations.)