



NIRA Student Athlete Code of Conduct

Introduction

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

NWC and the Rodeo Program require all student-athletes to demonstrate good moral conduct and ethical judgment which reflects favorably upon themselves, the college, the NIRA, and the NWC community at large. Student-athletes are subject to the policies and procedures as set out in this contract, 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 personal conduct and appearance.

Expectations of Student-Athletes

NWC 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 Northwest 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) semester credit hours during each semester they are in attendance at NWC.
- Be a current NIRA cardholder.
- Meet all academic responsibilities including attending class regularly, turning in assignments, interacting appropriately with faculty, meeting with college and faculty advisors and making a commitment to academic integrity.
- **Attend all practice sessions. Coaches must be notified prior to practice if an athlete is unable to attend. If you don't attend practices or turn in required academic progress reports on time, you don't practice or rodeo!**

Athletic Eligibility

A student-athlete will be eligible to represent NWC provided he or she meets the provisions as set out in the official NIRA Rule Book. 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.

- **Basic Eligibility Criteria**

- Shall be a high school graduate, or the class year of which they were a member shall have graduated.
- Have a GED.
- Shall be officially enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours or the equivalent during their last semester of enrollment at any post-secondary institution, except that this provision shall not apply to the initial semester of entry into post-secondary education.

- **Second Year Participation**

- To qualify for eligibility to participate in a second season of any sport, a student must have earned a minimum of twenty four (24) semester hours, starting with and including the first semester of participation. In addition, the second year athlete must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 during any semester of participation. The 2.00 GPA must be for all college credits beginning with the first semester of enrollment in the first year of participation.

Note: **Under NIRA eligibility rules, when calculating grade point average, (+)'s and (-)'s are not factored in to the calculation.**

- **Summer School**

- By attendance at summer school, a student-athlete can regain qualification for meeting the 24 credit-second year participation and also the 2.00 GPA eligibility requirements. However, the grade point **for all** summer school credit hours attempted must be calculated into the cumulative grade point average.

Athletic Information

The following forms must be on file in the coach's office at the beginning of the season, or at any other time during the academic year as required by the coach.

- Notice of Student's Responsibility for Health and Accident Insurance Form
- Vehicle Use Authorization Form (if considering transporting animals to NIRAs rodeos).
- Rodeo Information Form

NIRAs Insurance & Student Insurance

Students are covered by a secondary insurance policy when they purchase their NIRAs card. This policy covers accidental injuries sustained by an athlete while participating in intercollegiate official practice and rodeos.

The NIRAs insurance policy is a supplemental policy, which means that allowable benefits will be paid for those expenses not payable by other coverage plans. If an athlete is injured while practicing for or participating in intercollegiate athletics he/she must submit a claim to his/her own insurance company first, then to the NIRAs insurance company. After other insurance plans have provided their maximum benefits; the NIRAs insurance carrier will then consider the balance of the bills remaining. Insurance forms are provided by the coach and must be signed by the coach.

As a full-time student, you are also automatically covered under a secondary accident only policy offered through UnitedHealthcare **StudentResources**. The accident only policy covers you twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Specific dates of coverage will be listed in information you will receive from **StudentResources**. More information can be obtained from the Residence Life Office in the DeWitt Student Center.

It is strongly recommended that students and parents carefully review the above-mentioned policies as well as their own family health insurance to determine whether or not they have appropriate coverage. The College is not financially responsible for student injuries nor does it cover insurance.

Financial Aid

Athletic Scholarships: In addition to athletic scholarships, student-athletes may be eligible for federal financial aid and student employment. The responsibility for awarding athletic scholarships rests with the head coach. To receive athletic aid and remain eligible for it, the student-athlete must be registered as a full-time student (12 credit hours) and meet the academic standards as set by both NWC and NIRA.

Student-athletes must meet both NIRA and NWC eligibility requirements to retain their athletic scholarship.

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

Rodeo Code of Conduct

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

- Drug and Alcohol Use: It is the policy of NWC 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 or rodeo is prohibited and will result in the participant being removed from that activity. Any athlete involved in the unlawful use of drugs or alcohol will face suspension or dismissal from the team and/or NWC, as well as legal action. All student athletes are subject to the laws of the City of Powell, Cody, Park County, as well as state and federal law.

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, student athletes may be considered for suspension from participation in the Rodeo Program for any of the following:

- Violation of NIRA or NWC rules.
- Academic dishonesty.
- Arrest for any crime other than a minor traffic offense.
- Possession of any illegal drug, including 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 NWC property.
- Unauthorized entry into any NWC building.
- Any conduct that reflects unfavorably upon NWC or its Rodeo Program.

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

➤ **First Offense:** Suspension from the next rodeo and/or removal from the team depending on the severity of the misconduct and the surrounding circumstances. May result in the cancellation or non-renewal of athletic scholarship.

➤ **Subsequent Offense:** May result in removal/dismissal from the team. Students on scholarship may be required to pay back all tuition and fees covered by the student's athletic scholarship. 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 Vice President for Student Affairs describing the specifics of the grievance. The Vice President will then hold an informal meeting with the student athlete and the head coach. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the student athlete may then request a formal meeting with the Student Appeals Board.

Team Conduct During Travel

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

- Instructors must be informed prior to the trip and all efforts must be made to assure assignments are complete.
- Be on time at scheduled departure times and location.
- To travel to and from a school authorized event in school authorized transportation unless released by the head coach.
- To conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as an official representative of Northwest College.
- Curfew regulations are to be strictly adhered to as directed by the coach (generally 11:30 p.m.)
- Women and men are to remain in assigned rooms after curfew.
- Coach will periodically perform room checks.
- Curfew violations are considered a violation of the Rodeo Code of Conduct.
- Any damage done to hotel/motel rooms is considered a violation and will be paid for by the student.

Summary

The information contained in this Rodeo Program Student Code of Conduct and Contract is not intended to be all-inclusive. Each Northwest 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 NWC.

By my signature below, I attest that I have read, understand, and have received a copy of the NWC Rodeo Code of Conduct. My coach has explained the team rules to me and I agree to the terms mentioned above. I choose to participate in the Northwest College Rodeo program.

The College reserves the right to inform parents, guardians or immediate family members of students who are found to be in violation of the Student Athlete Code of Conduct. This is to be used primarily for, but not limited to, alcohol, drug, or threats of harm to self and others.

I also grant permission for the coach, or designated appointee, to provide information on either my academic performance or my financial account, to my parent/guardian.

Printed Name of Student Athlete

Date: _____

Signature of Student Athlete

Date: _____

Signature of Coach

Witness – College Official

On the _____ day of _____, 200____, I witnessed the execution of the above agreement.

Signature of School Official

Position