



TEXAS A&M BASEBALL
BUILDING CHAMPIONS
2019-2020

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The primary purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with the rules and policies of the Texas A&M University baseball team. You are responsible to read, know and understand the complete contents of this handbook. In the event that there is something in this handbook that you do not understand, please bring it to our attention as soon as possible.

Texas A&M University has established a tradition of ethical conduct at all levels of University life. In accordance with this tradition, all student-athletes involved in the intercollegiate athletics programs are expected to represent the University in an honorable manner at all times. Coaches and professional staff members are expected to instruct student-athletes on appropriate behavior and to assist them with understanding the intent rules and regulations imposed upon them by all relevant governing authorities.

Governing Authorities: Standards of ethical conduct are established and enforced by:

The National Collegiate Athletic Association

Student-athletes are subject to the rules and regulations of the NCAA, which govern sportsman-like behavior, non-therapeutic drug use, non-permissible awards, benefits and expenses, gambling and bribery, and other forms of misconduct. All such rules and regulations are found in the NCAA Manual.

Conference

Texas A&M University Department of Athletics fully endorses the policies of the SEC Conference as they relate to student-athletes conduct, conference championship play and the intraconference transfer of student-athletes.

Texas A&M University

Student-athletes are subject to University rules and regulations, specified in the Texas A&M University "Student Rights and Responsibilities, Aggie Code of Honor," published in the TAMU Undergraduate Catalog.

Department of Athletics

Student-athletes must abide by all rules and guidelines set forth by the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee and the Department of Athletics, as published in the Department's Student Athlete Handbook. Additionally, team rules may be established by each individual sport's head coach and his/her staff within parameters set by the Director of Athletics and the University.

We firmly believe that you have a great desire to win the SEC Championship and are willing to work in order to accomplish this goal.

Successful teams work unselfishly toward team goals, which benefit everyone during the post season play. If we did not believe this thoroughly, either you would not be here or we would not. Our policies have been put in this booklet so you can refer to them from time to time during the course of the season. When the season is over, you will be expected to return this handbook.

This handbook was not made to disrupt the lines of communication between you and your coaches, but to encourage it. This is not our baseball team; it is yours. You have told us that you wish to be a part of a great baseball team and program. This can only be accomplished when you know what is expected of you. This booklet is merely a guideline for your benefit. In the event that you disagree with any policies in this handbook, see us at your earliest convenience. We want the same thing as you, and this is a Championship.

Goals are important to the athlete and the successful people in this world. They give a person direction and purpose in life and they are an athlete's best friend. They are what drives them to greatness. However, wishing for the SEC Conference Championship is not the same as desiring it with an intensity that compels you to do something about it.

The champion is different from the average athlete because the champion has paid the price. He has made the sacrifices necessary to reach his potential, both on and off the field. There are hundreds of athletes with good natural ability who cannot concentrate. They want the splendors of victory, the prestige of winning, but they do not want to pay the price. Winning the SEC Conference Baseball Championship this year will happen with athletes who have a compelling desire to practice, to improve, and to never give up.

In working towards your goals you will experience many setbacks. You will make some physical mistakes; we all make mistakes. We will allow mental mistakes until you know the system, then we must button up. Know the difference between temporary defeats and failure. The learning process consists of trying, failing, adjusting and trying again. Do not blame others for your mistakes nor correct others for their mistakes. Look yourself in the mirror.

Griping and complaining by a few can keep everybody unhappy. Unfortunately, even a few, one or two, can create confusion, detract from our goals and weaken our effort. These undermine and weaken our attitudes and can be and must be resolved among yourselves by persuasion and education. Suppression will not succeed. Any mistakes by a few must be criticized and eliminated by the majority whenever they crop up.

Do not complain about the field, weather, eating arrangements, meal money, etc. instead be positive!

Be thankful that you are alive.

Be thankful you are getting an education.

Be thankful you are at Texas A&M University.

Be thankful that Texas A&M University has great facilities.

You must truly take a stand for the best interest of the team. If you and the team don't handle them properly; and if you and the team relax your guard, the unhappy complaints will grow and eventually destroy any chance of team success.

Sincere feelings by a team member pertaining to what he might consider an injustice should be brought to the attention of the team leaders or the coaching staff.

If we follow through with this, team effort will be of such magnitude that success will be inevitable.

ATHLETICS**PAGE 3**

1. Abide by all team, departmental, University, Conference and NCAA rules.
2. Read, understand and follow all policies, procedures and regulations specified in the Department of Athletics Student-Athlete Handbook.
3. Achieve and maintain optimum physical condition within accepted health standards.
4. Attend all organized practices unless officially excused.
5. Take proper care of equipment and return it in good condition.
6. Treat officials and opponents with respect and avoid undue confrontations.

General Conduct

1. Know and follow the University's "Aggie Honor Code."
2. Obey residence hall policies and regulations.
3. Obey all federal, state and local laws.
4. Abstain from using tobacco, alcohol, and non-therapeutic drugs.

All Texas A&M University students are governed by the standards of behavior and responsibility, individual rights and disciplinary guidelines defined within the Code.

EXPECTATIONS

We expect the following things:

To do the best you can at all times and in all areas. This includes academically, athletically and socially.

To treat others as you wish to be treated as well.

To be the type of person all people can trust.

To be on time to all team activities.

To be responsible for your actions and understand you represent Texas A&M University.

You can expect the following things from the coaches:

To be totally honest.

To make all decisions based on what is best for the team, and then what is best for the individual.

To help you reach your goals.

Know we care about you and have your best interests at heart.

The number one reason you are at Texas A&M University is to get an education. For this reason, we will demand that you go to class. If you fail a class due to your lack of effort, we will reduce or terminate your scholarship, and/or suspend you from the team. All we are asking is your best effort on the field and in the classroom.

Personal Conduct and Responsibilities

The Department of Athletics makes every effort to offer a program which meets the objectives of the University by assisting student-athletes in securing their degrees as they strive to achieve their full potential both on and off the field. The Director of Athletics, professional staff members associated with the various sports programs, individual Head Coaches and the Office of Student Athlete Services work together to develop appropriate standards for personal conduct.

Student-Athletes accepted into the Texas A&M University athletics program are extended the privilege of participating in intercollegiate athletics. This privilege in no way constitutes a right to participate. Therefore, in agreeing to join the intercollegiate athletics program, student-athletes must be willing to accept personal responsibility for behavior. Obligations include, but are not limited to, responsible conduct in the following areas:

Academics

100% CLASS ATTENDANCE and complete all academic assignments.

Sit in the first three rows of each and every class

Talk to your professor once a week mandatory

Do not wear a hat to class and if you do, take it off when you sit down

Communicate to the appropriate parties (e.g. instructors) in a timely manner when an academic/athletic conflict occurs.

Consult with academic advisors and attend study halls or tutoring sessions, as directed.

Maintain an academic load of at least 12 hours per semester and make satisfactory progress toward a degree.

Accept personal responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility.

Strive to obtain a college degree within five (5) years.

Understand and live by the academic regulations of the University as described in the TAMU Undergraduate Catalog.

Principles of behavior that all student-athletes are expected to adhere to are outlined in the code of conduct below:

- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, may result in prolonged ineligibility and/or dismissal from the University, and will be reported to Athletic Compliance and the Aggie Honor System Office.
- Student-athletes must maintain their academic responsibilities throughout the school year. Class attendance is mandatory and all assignments are to be submitted on the assigned date as well as maintaining appropriate conduct in the classroom.
- Student-athletes may not gamble any item of value on practices or competitions involving intercollegiate sports or their professional equivalents. Student-athletes must also never knowingly provide gamblers with information about Texas A&M sports teams. The consequences may include permanent ineligibility.
- Student-athletes will display respect for teammates, coaches, and athletic staff at all times. Failure to do so will result in a warning to the student-athletes and notification of his or her head coach.
- Student-athletes will exhibit positive attitudes and behavior that reflect well on the team as well as the university. This includes behaving in the appropriate manner while traveling with the team and representing Texas A&M University.
- Student-athletes will be required to follow all rules set forth by the University, athletic department, and NCAA relating to competitive play.
- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, may result in prolonged ineligibility and/or dismissal from the University, and will be reported to Athletic Compliance.
- Student-athletes are expected to strictly abide by team rules set forth by coaches for their sport(s). Failure to comply with these rules could lead to loss of privileges, loss of any scholarship and/or dismissal from the team. Student-athletes shall attend and be punctual for all required athletic endeavors.
- Students who are tardy or miss practices, team meetings, and/or competitive events may be subject to disciplinary actions.
- Student-athletes must maintain their academic responsibilities throughout the school year. Class attendance is mandatory and all assignments are to be submitted on the assigned date as well as maintaining appropriate conduct in the classroom. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.
- Student-athletes are not permitted to consume any alcoholic beverages while traveling with teams representing the university. Alcohol is not permitted for anyone under the age of 21.
- Tobacco use is prohibited for student-athletes at all athletic practices and competitions and strongly discouraged at all other time.
- Student-athletes shall not discriminate against others based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical and mental disabilities. Discrimination or harassment will not be condoned by the athletic department or Texas A&M University.
- Student-athletes may not gamble any item of value on practices or competitions involving intercollegiate sports or their professional equivalents. Student-athletes must also never knowingly provide gamblers with information about Texas A&M sports teams. The consequences could include permanent ineligibility. Any personal gambling or contact with those who wager on athletic events could have serious consequences for the student-athlete.
- Student-athletes will be held to the standards set by Texas A&M University regarding prohibited conduct. See Student Conduct Code, Rule 24.3 (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu>) for detailed standards and regulations. Also, see academic standards stated in the Aggie Code of Honor (<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>).

Inability to follow or meet the standards established by the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct or the university's Student Conduct Code could result in the reduction or cancellation of the student-athlete's financial aid. See NCAA bylaws 15.3.4 and 15.3.5.

Research has shown a direct correlation between a student's classroom attendance and academic success. For student-athletes, class attendance is even more critical because of days that might be missed due to athletic competition. It is the expectation all Texas A&M student-athletes attend all classes, exhibit appropriate behavior, and complete all assignments on time. All student-athletes will be subject to the Student-Athlete Class Attendance Policy, with a primary focus on all first-year enrollees and returning student-athletes below a 2.5 GPA. It is each student-athlete's responsibility to attend class every day and be on time.

Class attendance monitoring will be overseen by the Center for Student-Athlete Success (CSAS) staff. Monitoring will include, but will not be limited to: live class checks, personal correspondence with professors by advisors, and academic progress reports.

A CSAS staff member will notify a student-athlete of a reported class attendance issue. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to be aware of possible sanctions for lack of attendance.

ISL (Independent Study Lab) Guidelines ***University Guidelines

A student-athlete enrolled in an SCLX course for remedial reading, writing or math is bound by the more stringent university attendance policy. Absences will be considered excessive upon the fourth (4th) absence or the equivalence. Consideration for withdrawal from Texas A&M University will occur upon the fifth (5th) absence or equivalence. Students who enter the classroom 10 minutes or more after the class beginning are considered absent whether they remain or not. Three tardies equal one absence. Lastly, failure to complete homework when due will result in an unexcused absence for the class date the assignment was due.

I. POINT SYSTEM

Student-athletes will be assessed points for each unexcused absence from each individual class or required academic session each semester. Points accumulate throughout the semester; however, student-athletes start each semester with zero points. Points will be assessed as follows:

Fall and Spring Semesters

- 2 points: Each unexcused absence from each class
- 1 point: Each missed tutor session (Added to all missed classes)
- 1 point: Each missed study hall session (Added to all missed classes)
- 1 point: Each missed academic meeting (Added to all missed classes)

Summer School Terms

- 3 points: Each unexcused absence for 5 week session and intersession classes
- 2 points: Each unexcused absence for 10 week session classes
- 1 point: Each missed tutor session (Added to all missed classes)
- 1 point: Each missed study hall session (Added to all missed classes)
- 1 point: Each missed academic meeting (Added to all missed classes)

Points are applied on a class-specific basis or **total missed sessions** (tutor/study-hall/academic-meeting basis). The points assessed for any one class or total missed sessions (tutor/learning center/academic-meeting) will determine the sanction to be imposed. **Penalties for unexcused absences are as follows:**

II. PENALTIES

Some teams may have a separate attendance policy in which different sanctions are enforced. Those policies must be approved by Management Team. If those policies are approved, each student-athlete participating on that team will receive the policy in writing and will sign a statement indicating that he/she received the policy. It is the student-athletes' responsibility to understand the policies of their respective team.

Sanctions will be imposed on student-athletes who violate this Class Attendance Policy based on the number of points assessed per semester, as follows:

1. **2 - 3 points** – Reported to the Head Coach and designee.
2. **4 - 5 points** – Reported to the Head Coach, designee and Sport Administrator.
3. **6 - 7 points** – Reported to the Head Coach, designee, Sport Administrator and Athletics Director. The student-athlete will be withheld from the next practice opportunity (maximum 4 hours) and will be required to spend monitored time in the CSAS learning center during the scheduled practice time.
4. **8 - 9 points** – Reported to the Head Coach, designee, Sport Administrator and Athletics Director. The student-athlete will be withheld from the next two (2) practice opportunities (maximum 8 hours) and will be required to spend monitored time in the CSAS learning center during the scheduled practice time.
5. **10 – 11 points** – Reported to the Head Coach, designee, Sport Administrator and Athletics Director. The student-athlete will be withheld from 1 game (FB ½ game), beginning with the next consecutive event in the schedule. All sanctions thereafter will be rolled over to the next season of competition if the current season has concluded. The student-athlete may practice but will be prohibited from dressing in uniform for a competition, traveling with the team, or being present in the team area on the day of competition. "Red Shirt" student-athletes will be withheld from one week of practice and will be required to spend monitored time in CSAS learning center during the scheduled practice time.
6. **12 - 13 points** – Reported to the Head Coach, designee, Sport Administrator and Athletics Director. The student-athlete is subject to the sanctions set forth above for 10 – 11 points. In addition, the student-athlete will be withheld from two games (FB 1 game), beginning with the next consecutive event in the schedule.
7. **14 points or more** – Reported to the Head Coach, designee, Sport Administrator and Athletics Director. The student-athlete will be withheld from 10% of the team's season competition schedule, including post-season events, beginning with the next consecutive event in the schedule.

For sports with championship segments spanning across two regular (fall and spring) academic semesters, penalties will be assessed based on the combined total of competitions for both semesters. *(Example: Equestrian has 8 competitions scheduled for Fall 2013 and 5 competitions scheduled for Spring 2014. Any missed competition penalties assessed will be applied based on 13 total competitions for the season).*

If a sanction is being appealed, the sanction is suspended until the appeal process is completed on all penalties. Extended aid and medical exempted student-athletes will be reviewed and may have their athletic aid reduced or terminated.

Example: Student-Athlete #1 misses one class in ENG 101 (2 points) and two classes in MATH 101 (4 points). SA then misses a tutor session (1 point) and learning center (1 point).

Question: How many points does Student-Athlete #1 have for each individual class?

Answer: ENG 101 – 4 points; MATH 101 – 6 points. (The missed tutor or study hall sessions count against each class missed.)

Question: What sanction will be imposed on Student-Athlete #1?

Answer: Student-Athlete #1 will be subject to the sanction established for 6 points.

Question: If Student-Athlete #1 appropriately redeems 1 point by completing additional hours of learning center or tutoring, how many points does he now have?

Answer: ENG 101 – 3 points; MATH 101 – 5 points. (The point redemption is reduced from all class points).

III. POINT REDEMPTION

During the Fall and Spring semesters, a student-athlete may redeem up to a maximum of three (3) points by participating in the following activities approved in advance and supervised at the CSAS by the Scholastic Supervisor:

- 1 point for each two (2) additional hours of learning center; or,
- 1 point for each two (2) additional hours of tutoring sessions

During Summer School terms, a student-athlete may redeem up to a maximum of three (3) points per term by the above approved activities.

Points may be redeemed at any time prior to a sanction being imposed; however, a student-athlete must advise his/her Scholastic Supervisor of his/her intent to redeem points and must complete any activities required to redeem points within seven (7) calendar days thereafter.

IV. PROFESSOR REPORTED ATTENDANCE

Throughout the semester, information regarding student-athlete class attendance may be obtained from professors through midterm progress reports, e-mails and personal correspondence. In situations when a professor indicates a student-athlete has missed any number of classes that were not previously reported, the student-athlete's overall academic record would be reviewed by the Associate Athletics Director for Academics to determine the appropriate course of action.

The current point system will apply to these absences if no prior suspensions or points have been assessed as outlined in this policy. If the student-athlete has not served a previous suspension from the course(s) in question, the maximum punishment that may be enforced is at the eight (8) point level. If the student-athlete has already reached the 6 point level or higher for the course(s) in question, the maximum penalty will be at the 10 point level. Any sanction is suspended until the appeal process is completed.

V. APPEAL PROCESS

If a student-athlete believes the information related to attendance is not accurate, the student-athlete must obtain an appeal form from his/her Scholastic Supervisor. The student-athlete has until the next class session, or designated due date on the appeal form, to submit the appeal to the Scholastic Supervisor. Any appeal form received after the assigned deadline **will not** be accepted, and the student-athlete will forfeit his/her right to appeal that specific absence.

VI. FALSIFICATION ON APPEAL FORMS

Falsification of information is an offense that is taken very seriously. If a student-athlete is found to have submitted a falsified Notice of Appeal Form or supporting documentation, additional sanctions will be applied as follows: the Scholastic Supervisor, in coordination with the Associate Athletics Director for Academics, may assess the student-athlete up to four (4) points, in addition to the points previously assessed for missing classes or academic sessions.

VII. ADMINISTRATION PROCESS

1. The Scholastic Supervisor will provide the Head Coach (or his/her designees) a detailed Weekly Class Attendance Report.
2. A Class Attendance Summary Report will be provided to the Athletics Director and Sport Administrator on a weekly basis.
3. The Scholastic Supervisor will notify each student-athlete electronically via University e-mail or other communication in a timely manner immediately after absences are reported.
4. Upon date sent of electronic notification of attendance issues, the student-athlete may submit a Notice of Appeal Form to their Scholastic Supervisor, or inform their Scholastic Supervisor in writing of their intent to redeem points. The student-athlete must complete all activities required to redeem points within seven (7) calendar days from the date they notify their Scholastic Supervisor of their intent to do so.
5. An asterisk will appear on the Weekly Class Attendance Report to indicate an appeal is in process.
6. Sanctions will be imposed in accordance with this Class Attendance Policy after the appeal process is concluded and a decision has been rendered.

Violation of these rules are also subject to additional penalties through the baseball program:

1. **If you inform us of a missed class—Ball Drill**
2. **If you do not inform us of a missed class—Breakfast Club**
3. **Continued unexcused absences—will be handled individually with possible extra conditioning, suspension and possible reduction in aid.**

Texas A&M University Athletics Department Substance Abuse and Education Policy

1. Philosophy and Objectives

Through the administration of a Substance Abuse and Educational Policy for student-athletes, the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Athletics Department strives to protect the health and welfare of its student-athletes. Therefore, the TAMU Athletics Department does not approve of, excuse, or condone the use, misuse and/or abuse by its student-athletes of:

- Illegal drugs
- Substances found in the NCAA's list of banned classes of drugs
- Prescription drugs when their use is not medically indicated
- Alcohol when used by minors or abused by any student-athlete

The objectives of the Athletics Department Substance Abuse and Drug Education Policy are as follows:

- A. To educate student-athletes on the physical, psychological, social, ethical, NCAA-related and legal consequences of banned drugs and abuse of alcohol;
- B. To implement a drug-screening program, coupled with education, treatment, & sanctions for student-athletes who screen positive.
- C. To identify and deter student-athletes from using substances banned by the Athletics Department.
- D. To provide sanctions that discourage any student-athlete from the use, abuse or misuse of substances referenced in this policy or attempting to compromise the integrity of the testing program;
- E. To offer rehabilitation and counseling services for any student-athlete who may have a drug or alcohol problem; and
- F. To abide by all University, Conference and NCAA policies and procedures, including the NCAA's requirement that any athletics department staff member or employee who has knowledge of a student-athletes use at any time of a substance on the NCAA's list of banned drugs shall follow Texas A&M procedures dealing with drug abuse (See 6-F of this policy) or shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The Drug and Alcohol Review Committee referred to in this policy will include (but is not limited to) the following:

Senior Associate Athletics Director for Student Development
Athletics Department Medical Director (MD)
Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training
Director of Health & Wellness / Substance Abuse Counselor
Licensed Psychiatrist (MD)
Associate Director Student Counseling Service (PhD)
Athletic Department Compliance Member

2. Drug Education

The Texas A&M Athletics Department, through the Sports Medicine Program and the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training, will require:

- A. Every incoming student-athlete to receive education regarding the substance abuse policy and expectations. Annual written consent will be obtained at the conclusion of the presentation and is a requirement for athletics participation at Texas A&M University.
- B. Attendance of incoming first year grant-in-aid student-athletes in a life skills class with a drug education component.
- C. Attendance in at least one (1) of the 3-4 substance abuse presentations each academic year by all student-athletes (student-athletes are encouraged to attend as many presentations as possible). A list of these presentations/workshops will be made available through the Life Skills Coordinator each semester. Attendance will be monitored and reported to the respective coaches and athletics administrators. Failure to comply with the above mentioned educational opportunities will result in increased educational requirements for the student-athlete.
- D. Other educational information to be presented to student-athletes in appropriate forums.

Student-athletes who are taking drugs pursuant to a prescription are required to notify their Athletics Trainer. All prescription medications must include a written statement from the attending physician indicating why the student-athlete is taking the medication and a statement of medical necessity. If the drug is listed on the NCAA's Banned Substance list, alternative medications must be considered. Student-athletes must provide this information at the beginning of each school year and update the information as new prescriptions are received.

It is possible to test positive for banned substances that have been prescribed for medical conditions. Testing positive without a prescription will be considered a violation and the student-athlete will be subject to the appropriate corrective measures. Test results will be cross referenced with known prescriptions to rule out legitimate prescriptions.

It is also possible to test positive for banned substances contained in over-the-counter medications or supplements. Student-athletes should consult with his/her Athletics Trainer or the Director of Performance Nutrition prior to taking any over the counter medications or supplements. Student athletes may also consult with the Resource Exchange Center (REC) online at <http://www.drugfreesport.com/rec/> by using login name: NCAA Division I, and password: ncaa1.

Supplements are not regulated by the FDA and are highly subject to cross-contamination during production. All supplement inquiries with the REC include this disclaimer. Student-athletes are discouraged from taking any supplement unless it is provided by the Athletics Department or approved by the Director of Performance Nutrition. Student-athletes are encouraged to contact their Athletics Trainer and/or Sports Nutritionist prior to taking any supplements. Ultimately, the student-athlete will be held accountable for any banned substance and/or metabolite identified during testing. **The use of supplements is at the student-athlete's own risk.**

3. Drug Testing Protocol

- A. *Test Participant Selection* – All student-athletes who have NCAA eligibility remaining or who receive athletics financial aid may be subject to testing.
- B. *Substances Subject to Testing* – The Texas A&M Substance Abuse Program tests for substances identified by the Athletics Department that are purported to be performance-enhancing and/or potentially harmful to the health, safety or well-being of student-athletes for substances banned by the NCAA, and/or that are illegal under applicable federal or state law. Drug testing is performed by AEGIS Sciences Laboratories, Inc., Nashville, TN using a profiling system. Any, all, or a combination of these profiles may be administered on a single urine specimen. Each profile provides for detection of masking agents as well as the drugs listed below:
 - i. The Recreational Drugs profile detects the following drugs:
 - a. Amphetamine/Methamphetamine: Adderall, Ecstasy, and similar substances.
 - b. Barbiturates and similar substances.
 - c. Benzodiazepines: Valium, Xanax, and similar substances.
 - d. Cannabinoids: Marijuana, THC, and similar substances.
 - e. Cocaine/Crack and similar substances.
 - f. Opiates: Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Codeine, Heroin, and similar substances.
 - g. Phencyclidine (PCP).
 - ii. The Anabolic Steroid profile tests for banned performance enhancing compounds (anabolic-androgenic steroids and related substances) in a manner consistent with the requirements of the International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
 - iii. Specific Compounds may be isolated and tested:
 - a. Synthetics: K2, Spice, etc.
 - b. Ephedra/Ephedrine.
 - c. Alcohol.
 - d. Any single NCAA banned substance.
- C. **Confidentiality** – The collection and coding of specimens is executed in a manner to insure total confidentiality and proper identification.
 - i. Positive analysis results including no-contacts, no-shows for drug tests, refusals to participate in drug tests, or arrests on drug or alcohol related criminal or ticketed offenses are returned to the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training, Athletics Director and/or designee, the student-athlete's head coach and designee, health care providers involved in assessment, counseling and treatment to which the student-athlete may be referred, and the student-athlete's parents.
 - ii. All testing results are returned to the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training for filing in the student-athlete's confidential drug testing file.

- D. **Selection Process for Testing** – Drug testing will be conducted throughout the calendar year. Testing takes a variety of forms:
- i. Announced testing -
 - a. First-year student-athletes – In conjunction with the orientation program held at the beginning of each academic year, freshmen and transfer student-athletes will be drug tested for medical evaluation purposes immediately thereafter (Assessment Test). Assessment Test results indicating the presence of a prohibited substance, including alcohol, shall not be considered a positive test result for purposes of this policy; however, student-athletes will be:
 - (1) Referred for counseling, evaluation and treatment as determined by the Substance Abuse Counselor; and
 - (2) Scheduled for follow-up testing as deemed necessary by the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training to monitor the continued presence and concentration of the prohibited substance in the student-athlete’s system. Decreased levels of the same prohibited substance not otherwise medically expected to have cleared from the student-athlete’s system will not be considered a positive test result.
 - ii. Random Testing – Random testing will take place during the calendar year for all student-athletes enrolled at TAMU. A random list of student-athletes’ names will be computer generated for the sports selected to be included in the testing process. The procedure will be conducted as listed below in the Collection Procedures.
 - iii. Team Testing – Each team will be subject to testing of all of its student-athletes, as a team, at any time.
 - iv. Reasonable Suspicion – Student-athletes may be selected for testing for reasonable suspicion at any time. Such causes for reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to, reports of use by a student-athlete of substances banned by this policy, unusual behavior or academic performance, noticeable change of physical appearance (abnormal weight changes, strength gains, etc.) and previous positive drug testing. Circumstances which may constitute reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to, the following: current or past involvement with the criminal justice system for drug-related activities; prior treatment for drug use or abuse; admission of a current drug problem; prior positive test for any prohibited substance; physiological signs or other reasonable indicia of possible use of or impairment from drugs or alcohol; or a pattern of aberrant behavior.
 - v. Follow up testing – Student-athletes who test positive on any drug test administered by the TAMU Athletics Department, the NCAA, the Southeastern Conference, or any Anti-Doping Agency, may be subject to follow-up testing, at any time, to determine compliance with policy offense sanctions is being maintained.
- E. **Collection Procedure** – The collection of urine samples from student-athletes shall be taken under the supervision of an independent member of the Aegis Drug Collection Team (collector). The collection team will be trained in the appropriate collection procedures by and for Aegis Laboratory. The collection team will inspect and confirm the testing site is safe and free of contaminants. Steps will be taken to insure the integrity of the sample and appropriate chain of custody. The general procedure utilized in the collection process for random testing will be as follows:
- i. Student-athletes will be selected in accordance with Section D - Selection Process, of the TAMU Athletics Department Substance Abuse Policy.

- ii. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training will coordinate the date and time of selection process.

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- iii. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training will coordinate with the collector to identify the selected student-athletes for testing. The selected student-athletes will be notified directly by text message and email. A member of the sport staff will be notified by the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training of those student-athletes selected for testing. The student-athlete will provide a photo ID to the collector. The student-athlete will proceed with the collector to submit a witnessed sample.
- iv. The sample will then be sealed and packaged. The chain of custody paperwork will be completed by the collector in clear view of the student-athlete. Samples are numbered, and no names are placed on the specimen to insure confidentiality.
- v. Sealed samples will be packaged, scheduled for shipping with the designated overnight carrier for pickup and delivery to Aegis Analytical Laboratory for screening and confirmation.
- vi. A urine sample is the matrix of choice for the Texas A&M Athletics Department Substance Abuse Policy. However, a volume level less than 30mL will result in an insufficient volume for collection/screening. If additional volume cannot be collected on the date and time of the test, the University reserves the right to use an alternative collection method to obtain a specimen/sample for testing, e.g. hair or saliva on the date and time of the test. The student-athlete will also be required to submit a urine sample within a 24 hour period. Results will be returned to the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training.
- vii. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training will meet with each student-athlete tested whose results show positive to confirm that it is medically unlikely that the positive test resulted from factors other than illegal drug use.
- viii. Testing consideration – Failure to provide a urine sample at drug test (No Void). Student-athletes who fail or are unable to provide a urine specimen during a drug test (no void) may be prohibited from working out, practicing or participating in competition until a valid specimen is provided.
- ix. A student-athlete who fails to appear for drug testing without good cause shown, or refuses to give a specimen/sample will be considered positive for a banned substance and will be subject to the procedures and sanctions set forth in Section 5. A student-athlete who fails to appear for testing, but provides good cause as determined by the Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training, will be required to submit to an immediate drug test at a time and place designated by the Athletics Department.
- x. Any attempt to substitute, manipulate, adulterate or intentionally dilute a urine specimen will be treated as a positive drug test. Manipulation refers to the use of any product, including excessive water consumption, used for the purpose of providing a dilute urine sample or substitution of a urine sample. Adulteration refers to the use or attempted use of any chemical or product (including water) added directly to the urine sample for the purpose of interfering with the testing procedures used to identify the presence of drugs. A dilute urine specimen will be quantified as having a specific gravity of 1.005 or lower based on the normal standard specific gravity of 1.020. Texas A&M reserves the right to include the collection of additional matrixes including but not limited to oral fluid (saliva) when there is a reasonable suspicion of manipulation or adulteration.

4. Safe Harbor Program (allows for self-referral of substance use without penalty)

- A. **General** – Consistent with the educational mission of the Substance Abuse Policy, the Athletics Department has adopted a Safe Harbor Program to encourage student-athletes to voluntarily seek assistance for drug or alcohol use or abuse. The Safe Harbor Program is designed to allow student-athletes, without fear of disciplinary action, to initiate the process by which drug or alcohol use or abuse issues are identified, confronted, and addressed through voluntary participation in assessment, medical evaluation, counseling, and education. Student-athletes may avail themselves of the Safe Harbor Program one-time during their association with the Athletics Department. Student-athletes may not self-refer for assistance regarding the use of anabolic steroids and similar growth enhancing or performance enhancing substances.
- B. **Procedure** – The Safe Harbor Program shall be conducted as follows:
- i. The student-athlete shall advise the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training and/or authorized physician of his/her desire to self-refer for assistance with drug or alcohol use or abuse. Such notification must be made before the student-athlete is notified he/she has been selected for a drug test pursuant to the Substance Abuse Policy.
 - ii. The student-athlete shall identify the substance(s) prohibited by this policy for which assistance is requested.
 - iii. The student-athlete shall submit to a follow-up drug test to determine the presence and concentration of drugs or alcohol in the student-athlete's system. If the drug test reveals the presence of a prohibited substance not disclosed by the student-athlete at the time of self-referral, the student-athlete shall be automatically removed from the Self-Referral Program and subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the Substance Abuse Policy.
 - iv. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training and/or authorized physician will meet with the student-athlete and arrange counseling and evaluation sessions with the appropriate health care professional.
 - v. The student-athlete is required to abide by all recommendations made by the health care professional to remain in the Safe Harbor Program.
 - vi. The student-athlete will be tested as often as deemed necessary by the appropriate health care professional in order to continuously monitor the level of prohibited substances in the student-athlete's system. If any subsequent drug test reveals the presence of a prohibited substance not disclosed by the student-athlete at the time of self-referral, the student-athlete shall then be automatically removed from the Safe Harbor Program and subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the Substance Abuse Policy.
 - vii. The student-athlete will be allowed to practice and compete after the supervising physician determines the student-athlete is not at any additional risk.
 - viii. The maximum period of time a student-athlete may remain in the Self-Referral Program will be determined by the Substance Abuse Counselor and/or Licensed Psychiatrist. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training may release a student-athlete from the Safe Harbor Program at any time after the student-athlete has completed all required counseling and education and prohibited substances are no longer present in the student-athlete's system. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training may remove a student-athlete from the Safe Harbor Program at any time if it is determined that the student-athlete is not fulfilling his/her obligations under the Safe Harbor Program or that the

student-athlete is continuing to use prohibited substance(s) for which the student-athlete self-referred.

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5. While participating in the Safe Harbor Program, a student-athlete shall not be subject to penalties as otherwise required by the Substance Abuse Policy unless there is reasonable cause to believe the student-athlete may be using a prohibited substance not disclosed by the student-athlete at the time of self-referral, and shall not be subject to disciplinary action for positive test results for drugs or alcohol for which the student-athlete self-referred.
6. A student-athlete's participation in the Safe Harbor Program shall be confidential. However, a student-athlete is encouraged to advise his or her head coach and parents or legal guardian of his or her decision to participate in the Safe Harbor Program. **Procedures and Sanctions for Positive Testing for a Banned Substance that is NOT an Anabolic Agent / Banned Performance Enhancer**
 - A. **First Offense** – Student-athletes testing positive for a substance that is **not** an Anabolic Agent or Performance Enhancer for the first time will be subject to the following:
 - i. Procedures:
 - a. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training will notify the Athletics Director or designee, and the student-athlete's Head Coach or designee.
 - b. The student-athlete will be required to meet with the Athletics Director within forty-eight (48) hours of notice of the positive test unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by the Athletics Director. In the event the student-athlete fails to meet with the Athletics Director in the manner required, he/she will be prohibited from working-out, practicing or participating in competition until a meeting is held.
 - c. The student-athlete will be required to attend counseling sessions, educational programs, and/or rehabilitation activities as specified by a Substance Abuse Counselor and/or the Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training. The Substance Abuse Counselor will determine the term of the counseling session based on the assessment. The counseling sessions are mandatory and will be monitored for attendance. **A STUDENT-ATHLETE'S FAILURE TO ATTEND SESSIONS WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS SET FORTH IN APPENDIX B.**
 - d. The student-athlete is subject to follow-up testing, at any time, in addition to normal random testing for a minimum of one year from the date of the positive test.
 - e. The student-athlete, if under 21 years of age, in conjunction with the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training, and the head coach (or designee), will notify his/her parents or legal guardians of the incident by telephone or in person. The parents or legal guardians will also be informed of the corrective actions being taken. Student-athletes 21 years of age or older are strongly encouraged to notify their parents.
 - B. **Second Offense** – Student-athletes testing positive for a substance that is **not** an Anabolic Agent or Performance Enhancer for a second time following implementation of the first offense sanctions will be subject to the following:
 - i. Procedures:
 - a. Follow procedures for First Offense.
 - ii. Sanctions:

- a. The student-athlete will be required to undergo additional periodic testing as often as deemed necessary.
- b. The student-athlete will be withheld from twenty (20) percent of the team's season competition schedule, including post-season events (e.g. Conference Championships,

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- c. NCAA Championships, and bowl games), beginning with the next consecutive event on the schedule. When calculating the withholding from competition, fractional numbers are always rounded up to the next whole number. The student-athlete may practice but will be prohibited from dressing in uniform for a competition, traveling with the team, or being present in the team area on the day of competition.
- C. **Third Offense** – Student-athletes testing positive for a substance that is not an Anabolic Agent or Performance Enhancer for a third time following implementation of the second offense sanctions will be subject to the following:
- i. Procedures:
 - a. Follow procedures for First and Second Offense.
 - ii. Sanctions:
 - a. The student-athlete will be withheld from fifty (50) percent of the team's season competition schedule, including post-season events (e.g. Conference Championships, NCAA Championships, and bowl games), beginning with the next consecutive event on the schedule. When calculating the withholding from competition, fractional numbers are always rounded up to the next whole number. The student-athlete may practice but will be prohibited from dressing in uniform for a competition, traveling with the team, or being present in the team area on the day of competition.
- D. The student-athlete's continued receipt of an athletics grant-in-aid during this period will be at the discretion of the Athletics Director and dependent upon compliance with recommended education and treatment.
- E. **Fourth Offense** – Student-athletes testing positive for a substance that is not an Anabolic Agent or Performance Enhancer for a fourth time following implementation of the third offense sanctions will be subject to the following:
- i. Procedures:
 - a. Follow procedures for First, Second and Third Offense.
 - b. The student-athlete will be referred for assessment, counseling and treatment at his/her own expense.
 - ii. Sanctions:
 - a. The student-athlete will be dismissed from intercollegiate athletics participation at Texas A&M University.
 - b. The student-athlete will forfeit further athletically-related financial aid from the Texas A&M Athletics Department.

7. Positive tests for a banned substance that IS an Anabolic Agent or Performance Enhancer

- A. **First Offense:** Student-athletes testing positive for a substance that is an Anabolic Agent or Performance Enhancer for the first time will be subject to the following:
- i. Procedures:
 - a. Follow procedures for first offense for a banned substance that is not an anabolic agent.
 - ii. Sanctions:
 - a. Student-athletes testing positive for an Anabolic Agent or banned Performance Enhancer will be suspended immediately.
 - b. The student-athlete will be suspended for a minimum of 50% of the NCAA Championship season for the sport, including post-season events (e.g., Conference Championships, NCAA Championships, and bowl games), beginning with the next consecutive event on the schedule.
 - c. The student-athlete may practice but will be prohibited from dressing in uniform for competition, traveling with the team, or being present in the team area during competition.
 - d. Consideration for reinstatement for the student-athlete will be given after a student-athlete has tested negative for the Anabolic Agent or Performance Enhancer. The Drug and Alcohol Review Committee will review the case and make a recommendation to the Athletics Director who will determine the status of reinstatement.
 - e. The student-athlete's continued receipt of an athletics grant-in-aid during this period will be at the discretion of the Athletics Director and dependent upon compliance with recommended education and treatment.
- B. **Second Offense:** Student-athletes testing positive for a substance that is an Anabolic Agent or Performance Enhancer for the second time will be subject to the following:
- i. Procedures:
 - a. Follow procedures for first offense.
 - ii. Sanctions:
 - a. The student-athlete will be dismissed from intercollegiate athletics at Texas A&M University.
 - b. The student-athlete will forfeit further athletically-related financial aid from the Texas A&M Athletics Department.

8. Reprieve Provision

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- A. **Cumulative Consequences** – All offenses are cumulative for the duration of the student-athlete's enrollment and eligibility at Texas A&M University.
- B. Student-Athletes with a second offense may request a reprieve provision. This reprieve provision request needs to be made, in writing, through the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training.
- C. Student-Athletes with a third offense, who have not previously requested a reprieve provision, may request a reprieve. This reprieve provision request must be made, in writing, through the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training. **One-time Reprieve of an offense** – Student-athletes who have tested positive but successfully complete a prescribed program by a Substance Abuse Counselor, in not less than 6 months and based on the parameters below: may be recommended for a one-time reprieve of an offense of the Substance Abuse Policy.
- D. **This reprieve may only be attempted one time in a student-athlete's career at Texas A&M.**
 - i. Abstain from all substances prohibited by this policy.
 - ii. Attend and participate in all required aspects of the program as determined by the substance abuse counselor's recommendation, including:
 - a. Successful completion of an 8-week Substance and Alcohol Abuse Program.
 - b. Attend designated individual and group support meetings.
 - c. Completion of Intensive Outpatient Programs.
 - d. Completion of required written assignments.
 - e. Other recommendations by the substance abuse counselor.
 - iii. Incur no more than 1 absence from any assigned requirements.
 - iv. Participate in follow-up testing.
 - v. The student-athlete's case will be reviewed by the Drug and Alcohol Review Committee. Once reviewed, the Drug and Alcohol Review Committee will make a recommendation to the Athletics Director who will determine if a reprieve is granted.
 - vi. (For example, if a student-athlete had a 2nd offense and successfully completed the program as recommended by the substance abuse counselor, the reprieve would move the student-athlete back to the first offense. If the student-athlete later had a subsequent positive test, he/she would be subject to penalties for a 2nd offense, per this policy).

9. Appeal Process – Any student-athlete who violates the Substance Abuse Policy has the right to an appeal hearing.

- i. A student-athlete has the right to appeal a violation decision by filing a written appeal with the Athletics Director within ten (10) University business days after notification.
- ii. A student athlete who tests positive may, within seventy-two (72) hours following receipt of notice of the positive test, contest the finding. Upon the student-athlete's request for additional testing of the sample, at their own expense, the Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training will formally request Aegis Sciences to re-analyze the A bottle and to reconfirm the original positive finding by analyzing the B bottle. The student-athlete may choose to be present (traveling at their own expense) for the re-analysis at the laboratory. If the student-athlete does not wish to be present but desires to be represented, arrangements will be made for a surrogate to attend. The student-athlete or surrogate will attest to the sample number prior to the laboratory conducting the re-analysis. The student-athlete or surrogate will not be involved with any other aspect of the analysis of the specimen. Re-analysis findings will be final. If the re-analysis test is negative, the first drug test will be considered negative.

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- iii. There are only two acceptable bases for appeal: (1) the student-athlete has new factual information that indicates an erroneous decision may have occurred and the information was not available during the initial disciplinary process; or (2) the Athletics Department failed to follow its published procedures and that failure materially prejudiced the student-athlete.
- iv. The Athletics Director will review the information and determine if an appeal hearing by a Review Panel should be convened. The Athletics Director will notify the student-athlete within 5 University business days if an appeal hearing is warranted. By requesting an appeal hearing, the student-athlete agrees to forgo the confidentiality of the test results.
- v. The Drug and Alcohol Review Committee will serve as the Review Panel if an appeal hearing is warranted.
- vi. The student-athlete shall have the right to have an advisor of his or her own choosing present, although the advisor may act in an advisory capacity only and not in the presentation of the case. If an advisor will be present, the student-athlete must notify the Athletics Director, in writing, at least 48 hours before the appeal hearing.
- vii. Immediately after hearing the appeal, the Review Panel will hold a closed session for deliberation. At the conclusion of the deliberations, the student-athlete will be orally informed of the decision.

General Principles**PAGE 22**

- B. Upon arrival each academic year and/or reporting date, every student-athlete will be given a copy of the Texas A&M Athletics Department Substance Abuse & Education Policy. All student-athletes will participate in an orientation and review the policy. A question and answer session will be held with the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training, or designee, to assure understanding of the policy and how it will be administered. Student-athletes will acknowledge understanding and acceptance with a signed statement following the review and question and answer session.
- C. A positive test by the NCAA will be considered an offense against this policy. The positive test will count in accordance with Athletics Department policy, however, the student-athlete will not incur an additional penalty.
- D. Per Texas A&M University's *Student Conduct Code*, it is the duty of the Texas A&M Athletics Department to report violations of the Substance Abuse and Education Policy to the Student Conduct Office. A student-athlete that tests positive on a University and/or NCAA drug test, is in violation of the *Student Conduct Code*. All alleged violations of the *Student Conduct Code* will be referred for adjudication through the Student Conduct Office in the Offices of the Dean of Student Life. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training will communicate with the Student Conduct Office in the event that a student-athlete violates the Texas A&M Athletics Department Substance Abuse and Education Policy.
- E. Sanctions will be implemented by the appropriate governing policy. Procedures will be implemented in accordance with the appropriate offense of this policy.
- F. Athletics Department coaches, and staff, or others employed by the Athletics Department who have knowledge of a student-athlete's use of a substance on the list of banned drugs, as set forth in NCAA Bylaw 31.2.3.4, shall promptly report that knowledge in detail to the Associate Athletics Director for Athletics Training, the Director of Athletics Compliance, or to the Texas A&M University System via its Ethics Point portal to implement the appropriate phase of this policy. Failure to report knowledge of this use may subject the staff member or other person employed by the Athletics Department to disciplinary action.
- G. Nothing contained in this Substance Abuse Policy shall prohibit the head coach of a student-athlete who has tested positive for a prohibited drug from taking additional corrective or disciplinary action as he/she deems appropriate, including but not limited to, suspension or dismissal of the student-athlete from the team.
- H. Any change or deviation from this policy must be approved by the Athletics Director.

APPENDIX A: DRUG TESTING THRESHOLD

The table below demonstrates Texas A&M's Positive Threshold for specific drug classes as of 09/01/13.

A. The Recreational Drugs Profile:

1. Amphetamine/Methamphetamine	100 ng/mL
2. Barbiturates	100 ng/mL
3. Cocaine/Crack	50 ng/mL
4. Marijuana	5 ng/mL
5. Opiates/Narcotics	50 ng/mL
6. Phencyclidine (PCP)	10 ng/mL
7. Benzodiazepines	100 ng/mL

B. Steroids are tested at known detectable levels using Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) or High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) analysis. Testosterone or any other substance which has the effect of manipulating testosterone levels will be considered positive based on a ratio of testosterone to epitestosterone in urine which is greater than 6:1. Additional testing for Estrogen blockers and isotope Ratio mass Spectrometry or other emerging technology may be used to confirm positive testosterone results.

C. Specific compounds are tested at known detectable levels. Any single banned substance can be tested using GCMS or appropriate technology.

APPENDIX B: UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM COUNSELING/EDUCATION SESSIONS

The following sanctions will be applied for a student-athlete who, without cause, fails to show for a scheduled counseling session, educational program, and/or rehabilitation activity.

1. First and second unexcused absence:
 - a. Per TAMU's Student Counseling Center Policy, a \$25 fee will be assessed to the student-athlete's student account. Payment of this fee is the responsibility of the student-athlete in order to prevent a hold from being placed on the student-athlete's account.
 - b. A written warning will be given to the student-athlete by the Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training.
 - c. The student-athlete will have 24 hours from the time that the written warning is issued to re-schedule the missed appointment with the Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor. Failure to comply will result in a second unexcused absence.
 - d. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training will notify the student-athlete's Head Coach and/or designee of the unexcused absence.

2. Third unexcused absence:
 - a. Per TAMU's Student Counseling Center Policy, a \$25 fee will be assessed to the student-athlete's student account. Payment of this fee is the responsibility of the student-athlete in order to prevent a hold from being placed on the student-athlete's account.
 - b. The student-athlete will be suspended from **ALL** athletic activities (practices, competitions, strength and conditioning sessions, team and individual meetings) until the educational session is re-scheduled **AND** attended.
 - c. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training will notify the student-athlete's Head Coach and/or designee of the unexcused absence.

3. Fourth unexcused absence:
 - a. Per TAMU's Student Counseling Center Policy, a \$25 fee will be assessed to the student-athlete's student account. Payment of this fee is the responsibility of the student-athlete in order to prevent a hold from being placed on the student-athlete's account.
 - b. The Drug and Alcohol Review Committee will review the case and make a recommendation to the Athletics Director for additional sanctions.
 - c. The student-athlete will be required to meet with the Athletics Director. The student-athlete will be suspended from **ALL** athletic activities (practices, competitions, strength and conditioning sessions, team and individual meetings) until this meeting is held.
 - d. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training will notify the student-athlete's Head Coach and/or designee of the unexcused absence.

Appeal Process for Unexcused Absence: - Any student-athlete who fails to show for a scheduled counseling session, educational program, and/or rehabilitation activity, has the right to appeal any of the sanctions listed for unexcused absences.

1. A student-athlete has the right to appeal a sanction by filing a written appeal with the Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training within one (1) University business day after notification.
2. There are only two acceptable bases for appeal: (1) the student-athlete has new factual information that indicates an erroneous decision may have occurred and the information was not available during the initial disciplinary process: or (2) the Athletics Department failed to follow its published procedures and that failure materially prejudiced the student-athlete.
3. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training will review the information and determine if an appeal hearing by a Review Panel should be convened. The Associate Athletics Director for Athletic Training will notify the student-athlete within 1 University business days if an appeal hearing is warranted. By requesting an appeal hearing, the student-athlete agrees to forgo the confidentiality of the test results and attendance record.
4. The Drug and Alcohol Review Committee will serve as the Review Panel if an appeal hearing is warranted.
5. If warranted, an appeal hearing will be scheduled within seven (7) University business days.
6. The student-athlete shall have the right to have an advisor of his or her own choosing present, although the advisor may act in an advisory capacity only and not in the presentation of the case. If an advisor will be present, the student- athlete must notify the Athletics Director, in writing, at least 48 hours before the appeal hearing.
7. Immediately after hearing the appeal, the Review Panel will hold a closed session for deliberation. At the conclusion of the deliberations, the student-athlete will be orally informed of the decision.

Violation of these rules are also subject to penalties through the baseball program:

1st Offense—Suspension/25 miles

2nd Offense—Suspension/50 miles

3rd Offense—Dismissal from Team

Substance Abuse and Education Form

Name: _____ Sport: _____

UIN#: _____

Section I. Drug Testing Authorization

In consideration of my being permitted to participate in the intercollegiate athletics program at Texas A&M University (TAMU), I hereby agree to abide by the requirements of the Texas A&M University Athletics Department Substance Abuse and Education Policy. I have read and understand the policy, including sanctions for violations of that policy.

As a participant in the intercollegiate athletics program, I agree to cooperate with the personnel of the Athletics Department in the collection of urine specimens at such time or times as may be determined by the Athletics Department. I understand that such specimens will be tested for the presence of substances listed in the aforementioned policy. I consent to have my urine collected and tested for the substances pursuant to this program.

Signature of Student-Athlete

Signature of Parent or Guardian

(If under 18)

Printed Name of Student-Athlete

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Cell Phone

Email Address

Date

Date

Law Enforcement Policy Protocol

- In the event the Sr. Associate Athletics Director/Student Services (SAADSS), or designee becomes aware of the arrest of a Student-Athlete (SA) by local, state, federal or other law enforcement, or other communication, he/she will request publicly available information (probable cause statement or police report).
- The SA should notify his/her head coach of an arrest immediately.
- The SAADSS shall notify the following:
 1. Athletics Director
 2. Head Coach
 3. Designated Sport Administrator
 4. Associate Athletics Director of Media Relations
 5. Vice President for Communications
 6. Assistant Athletics Director for Athletics Training (arrests related to alcohol or drugs)
 7. Dean of Student Life
- Upon receipt of a suspension notice from the Athletics Director, the SA will be suspended immediately from all team activities including, but not limited to, practice and competition.
- The SA is expected to continue attending all scheduled academic requirements and continue to use SA academic support and sports medicine services unless otherwise notified.
- It is the responsibility of the SA to contact the Athletics Director as soon as possible to arrange a meeting.
- The Athletics Director will examine, and discuss with the SA their conduct during the incident.
- The Athletics Director may lift or modify a suspension prior to the case being decided by the legal system.
- Any SA convicted of a felony charge or misdemeanor charge of a violent nature is immediately dismissed from the team and forfeits any financial assistance from the Athletics Department.
- The SA retains the right to appeal before forfeiture of financial assistance occurs.
- Any SA in violation of federal, state, local laws or university student rules is subject to university disciplinary proceedings as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.

Violation of these rules are also subject to penalties through the baseball program:

1st Offense—Suspension/25 miles

2nd Offense—Suspension/50 miles

3rd Offense—Dismissal from Team

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARRASMENT POLICY**PAGE 28**

Texas A&M Athletics is committed to providing an environment of athletics participation and employment free from sexual harassment (including sexual violence) and discrimination to all segments of its community and supports a safe and respectful academic, working, and living environment.

If you believe you or someone has been subjected to (1) sexual harassment by a University faculty or staff member, student, or TAMU visitor; or (2) any other form of sex-based discrimination under Title IX, report such misconduct or file a formal complaint with the University's Title IX Coordinator [Jennifer Smith \(jennifer.smith@tamu.edu or 979-845-0977\)](mailto:jennifer.smith@tamu.edu).

VIOLATIONS OF TEAM RULES

A violation of team rules is anyone who:

Engages in any activity that could reasonably be characterized as dishonest, immoral or indecent and from conducting oneself in any manner that is inconsistent with the standards of this handbook and dignity of Texas A&M Baseball.

We must all make sacrifices in order to realize our objectives. We feel that the guidelines outlined in this policy handbook are important to our team success. You will be treated as an individual off the field, but as a team on the field. All decisions will be made with the best interests of the team in mind.

What happens if you violate the rules?

All penalties imposed will be handled on a “**case by case**” basis and are dependent upon the severity of the violation and may include the following:

Verbal warning

Written warning

Consequences that may include: conditioning activities or extra academic activities (Breakfast Club) (HIA)

Dismissal from the team

Suspension or expulsion from the University

Cancellation of graduation or financial aid

Reduction or termination of your scholarship

The following criteria will guarantee the reduction or termination of your scholarship:

Academic ineligibility or borderline eligibility.

Failure to pass a class due to lack of effort.

Flagrant and serious violations of the rules and regulations of the Texas A&M Baseball program.

Behavior or attitude of any kind which suggests that you do not agree with the policies or philosophy of the Texas A&M Baseball program. (If we sense your attitude is bad, we will do something about it.)

PRACTICE REMINDERS

All practice schedules will be posted in the locker room and dugouts. You will be required to read this schedule and know exactly what your responsibilities are.

The practice schedule will be adjusted in order to insure that everyone has ample time to be present.

If for some important reason you will be absent or late for practice, you will personally talk by phone or in person with one of the coaches prior to the scheduled time of that practice, preferably well in advance so that adjustments can be made to the schedule.

You will allow yourself ample opportunity to perform all prescribed stretching in the outfield prior to the scheduled time of practice.

There will be NO excuses accepted for being late unless we are notified in advance. If you must use the training room for treatment, this will be done prior to practice and it will not interfere with you being on the field on time. Exceptions to this will be made by notifying the coaches in advance.

No one will leave a practice session or game without prior approval of one of the coaches.

Always come prepared with proper equipment for practice and games (i.e. shirt, shoes, cleats, hat, pants, and sleeves).

INJURIES AND SICKNESS

All injuries and sickness will be reported immediately to the athletic trainer and coaches so that treatment can be initiated as promptly as possible. If you are unable to attend practice because of injury or sickness:

Report to the athletic trainer by 9:00 am that morning, and

Call or come to the office by 10:00 am

Failure to adhere to this procedure may result in disciplinary action.

Training Room

If you need treatment or taping prior to practice, allow yourself plenty of time for this so that you are not late. You cannot make the club in the tub! Do not make a habit of lounging in the training room. If you show up late to practice because you did not allow enough time for the training room without prior approval, you will be sent home.

Disabled

If you are out of action, you are still required to be at all team functions, practices, meetings, games, etc.

Do not be afraid to get your hands dirty. If you arrive early at the field, it will facilitate the whole process and allow you to get going with practice that much sooner.

We take pride in the way our field looks. We hope you do the same. We have one of the finest and most expensive facilities in the country and we want to keep it that way.

We will assign specific duties for each individual. You will be responsible for your job as well as other team duties involved.

Let's take care of this place because it is our Home!

DRESS CODE

Texas A&M University encourages a dress code for student-athletes. Our team will have a dress code during the fall season and the spring season. Appropriate attire for travel will also be observed. The following rules will be in place at all times.

No t-shirts, caps, hats, pants with insignias of other schools at any time.

Hat bills are to be worn forward at all times!

Hair must be neatly groomed at all times.

Above ears (must be able to see ears) 2" inch rule

No beards and no sideburns below ear lobe

Clean shaven everyday

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM POLICIES

In today's day and age, there are so many different forms of social media. You have always represented yourself and your family. You now represent Texas A&M University, Texas A&M Athletic Department and Texas A&M baseball.

Each form of social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) should remain public so that we have access to it at all times.

Your mother and your grandmother should never be offended when reading any of your social media or viewing your photographs.

All team meetings and all items of team business that happens on the field and in the clubhouse will remain in the clubhouse. If something is posted on social media pertaining to the team, we will do something about it.

Social media is a public record and will always be available to the world. The media that covers us will check your social media at all times and your future employer will check it as well. Make sure you think before you post.

PRESS RELATIONS

Our present policy with media is that they are free to talk to you. Remember the following things when talking with the media:

Always include in your talk one of the pillars of our program—**ATTITUDE/APPROACH/INTENSITY/TOUGHNESS**

Don't compare, knock, or criticize your opponents, only praise them. (Don't kick a sleeping dog!)

Be confident but not boastful.

Be humble!

Give credit to your teammates.

Never pass up an opportunity to praise.

Do not take your complaints to the media. The coach's office is the only place for these.

Do not say anything about what we do technically (i.e. signs, etc.).

Do not say anything that would help our opponents or end up on their bulletin board.

Be kind and courteous to media.

When a news person makes an appointment, be prompt.

It is a credit to you and the program whenever you receive publicity. Be sure to remember that you are only as good as your last performance. Do not rest on your laurels.

You will be expected to represent Texas A&M Baseball beyond the playing field. It is of personal benefit and team benefit to be kind and courteous before and after games. Never say "no" to an autograph (except during a game). Our fans deserve this each and every day!

TEAM TRAVEL

Our primary purpose on road trips is to win baseball games. We will have fun; however, we must get ourselves mentally and physically ready to play. Because we usually travel by plane and bus, it is imperative that get plenty of rest and take care of your body throughout the season.

Conduct

You are not only representing Texas A&M University on these trips, you are representing the whole state of Texas. The people in this state are tremendously proud of their Aggies. Always represent us well and act accordingly.

Generally, all rules in effect at home games also apply on the road. We want this be an enjoyable and educational experience. But remember our objective – to win.

No hats, caps or other headgear is to be in restaurants.

At all times, be courteous to waiters, waitresses and other hotel employees.

No alcohol of any kind, for any player or staff member regardless of age—YOU WILL BE SENT HOME ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE GREYHOUND BUS.

Meals that are set up downstairs for you to pay for out of your per diem are not optional!

Room Assignments

A rooming list will be posted in the locker room prior to each road trip. There will be no switching of roommates without the coaches approval.

Hotel rooms – pay for all movies and phone calls

Attire

You will be expected to dress neatly and be well groomed.

Wear shoes and socks....no flip flops!

Jeans are permitted if they are clean (no holes etc.)

No hats!

Travel Squad

The 27-man travel squad will be posted by noon on the Wednesday prior to a conference trip.

Reminders

Always check the board for announcements pertaining to travel arrangements.

Be on time, we have made departing times for a reason. We will not wait for people who are late.

If you miss the team's departure for a road trip for any reason, it is your responsibility to get there at your own expense.

GAME DAY

This is the day you have worked for. Enjoy it. All announcements regarding our pre-game will be posted in the locker room and at the field. Check them for your assignments. Know when you are hitting, what you are charting, where you are to go, etc.

Everything we do is for the sole purpose of winning the game. This warm-up time gets you physically and mentally prepared to play the game. Use this time wisely.

REMINDERS

Never lose your poise.

No arguing with the umpires. No riding bantering from the dugout.

Do not talk to your opponents in a derogatory manner. You are better and bigger than that. Beat the opponent with the bat, ball, glove and arm...not with your mouth!

Encourage your teammates.

Remember the momentum is always coming your way. Don't get discouraged if the breaks go against us. They will even up.

Always play with enthusiasm.

Always sprint on and off the field.

No throwing bats, helmets, or any gear.

Between games of a DH:

You do not belong by the concession stand.

If we have food, drinks, etc. they will be brought to the locker room or dugout.

Go to the bathroom, get back to the dugout and field as soon as possible and get ready for the next game.

Mental preparation is more important than physical preparation once the game and season begins.

Play pepper and get loose in the OF.

AGGIE BASEBALL COVENANTS

WINNING STARTS IN THE CLASSROOM

TALK TO PROFESSOR ONCE A WEEK
PERFECT ATTENDANCE
FRONT THREE ROWS
NO HATS

WINNING STARTS OFF THE FIELD

WE WILL NOT HAVE OFF THE FIELD PROBLEMS
BE A GREAT ROOMMATE
AGGIES ALWAYS TREAT WOMEN WITH RESPECT

WINNING STARTS IN THE WEIGHTROOM

THE PRICE OF GREATNESS
TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY



IF YOU ARE ON TIME, YOU ARE LATE – “**AGGIE TIME**”

IT TAKES NO TAKES NO TALENT TO **HUSTLE**

PRACTICE THE WAY YOU WOULD **PLAY** IN A GAME

AGGIES **NEVER** WALK ON THE FIELD AND **ALWAYS** SPRINT TO FIRST

AGGIES ALWAYS PICK UP THEIR TEAMMATES – AGGIES BACK EACH OTHER UP AND STICK TOGETHER

WEAR THE OTHER TEAM DOWN WITH **OUR LOVE** OF THE GAME ON THE BENCH AND IN THE FIELD

AGGIES ALWAYS GIVE A FIRM HANDSHAKE – **NO DEAD FISH**

AGGIES ALWAYS LOOK THE PERSON THEY ARE TALKING TO IN THE EYE

AGGIES **NEVER** AIR DIRTY LAUNDRY – KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

NO MESSAGE BOARDS – “**EVER**”

AGGIES **ENFORCE** “AGGIE BASEBALL”

AGGIES **NEVER** MAKE EXCUSES

AGGIES ARE ALWAYS ACCOUNTABLE

It is a privilege, not a right, to play baseball for Texas A&M University. With this in mind, I have read the policy handout and agree to all rules, regulations, and guidelines outlined in the Texas A&M University Baseball Handbook.

Player's Signature

Attest

Date