

OUA CODE OF CONDUCT
As amended August 2008

1.0 OUA MISSION

To provide exemplary interuniversity sport competition experiences for student-athletes which respect the educational milieu of Ontario Universities and further to provide leadership in fostering sportsmanship and fair play in the pursuit of athletic excellence.

1.1 OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES OF THE OUA (OUA Constitution, Unit I, Regulation 4.3 & 4.4)

To ensure that the OUA Interuniversity Sport System is values-based and the practice of sport is based on integrity, fair-play, and ethical standards with zero tolerance for acts of violence.

To give jurisdiction to the OUA Management Committee of the Board, Athletic Directors, and Convenors or their designates in order to promptly and effectively reinforce behavioural and disciplinary expectations at OUA events.

1.2 SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

1.2.1 The Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Code of Conduct applies to all interuniversity games and competitions within the OUA sport system. This includes in-game related actions, events occurring immediately prior to or following an OUA sanctioned event, and any further commentary or actions regarding an OUA sanctioned event.

1.2.2 It is the expectation of the OUA that the member institution deal with offenses outside of the game/competition in a timely, fair and comprehensive manner using their institution's code of conduct and disciplinary procedures. The member institution may wish to also deal with code of conduct offenses that occur during a game/competition in addition to the OUA procedures for dealing with misconduct.

1.3 DEFINITION OF PARTICIPANTS

A participant who is subject to the OUA Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to, student-athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, supporters, spectators and all others associated with a member institution's athletic program.

1.4 PRINCIPLE OF FAIR PLAY AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

For interuniversity sport to promote character development of participants, to enhance the integrity of higher education and to promote appropriate behaviour by student-athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, supporters, spectators and all others associated with these athletic programs and events and should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, integrity, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation, but also in the broad spectrum of activities affecting the athletics program.

1.5 PRINCIPLE OF INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY

1.5.1 Responsibility for Control

It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its interuniversity athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the OUA. The institution's Athletic Director, or designate, is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program.

1.5.2 Scope of Responsibility

The institution's responsibility for the conduct of its interuniversity athletics program includes responsibility for the actions of its staff members and for the actions of any other individual or organization engaged in activities promoting the athletic interest of the institutions.

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1.6 PRINCIPLE OF RULES COMPLIANCE

1.6.1 Responsibility of Institution

Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the OUA in the conduct of its interuniversity athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the OUA instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the OUA and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletic interests shall comply with the applicable league rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

1.6.2 Responsibility of OUA

The OUA shall assist the institution in its efforts to achieve full compliance with all rules and regulations and shall afford the institution, its staff and student-athletes, fair procedures in the consideration of an identified or alleged failure in compliance.

1.6.3. Sanctions for Misconduct

An institution or participant found to have violated the OUA Code of Conduct shall be subject to such disciplinary and corrective actions as outlined in 8.0 Sanctions for Misconduct.

1.6.4 Appeals Process

Sanctioned participants who have grounds for believing that they have been treated unfairly or inappropriately may appeal following the OUA Appeals Process outlined in the OUA Constitution, Unit II, Regulation 3.2.

2.0 CORE VALUES

2.1 FAIR PLAY

Adhere to fundamental values such as respect, fairness and honesty; accepting loss or defeat without complaint and a victory without gloating.

2.2 EQUITY

Treat all participants equitably within the context of the sporting event, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, language, disability, income, athletic potential, sexual orientation, religion, and other diversities.

2.3 RESPONSIBILITY

Be accountable for your actions and decisions; upholding professional standards of conduct; and accepting appropriate responsibility for behaviour.

2.4 INTEGRITY

Avoid knowingly obscuring the truth by your actions or statements and/or assisting others in a dishonest act or statement. Maintaining commitments and conducting honest behaviour at all times.

2.5 EXCELLENCE

Put forth effort toward competitive opportunities and experiences in order to achieve maximum potential both academically and athletically.

3.0 INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT

Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to the following:

3.1 AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

OUA and its member institutions are committed to creating and maintaining a community in which its members are free from all forms of harassment, exploitation, intimidation, violence, threatening activity or gestures and any other aggressive behaviour in violation of the rules and spirit of the sport.

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3.2 DISRESPECT

At all times, participants are required to comport themselves in a manner respectful of themselves, their team, their University and its athletic department, game officials, opponents and property. Participants are to refrain from disrespectful conduct such as unsportsmanlike conduct; profane, abusive, demeaning harassing, threatening or obscene expression; or deliberate damage to equipment or other property.

3.3 UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Participants within the OUA are held accountable to a high standard of ethical conduct in all activities affecting the athletics program, whether as a participant or as a spectator.

4.0 CONDUCT REQUIRED OF ATHLETES

4.1 Student-athletes are expected to display sportsmanship in interuniversity sport, both on and off the playing field. Sportsmanlike conduct includes showing respect toward all who are in attendance at an athletic event, including officials, coaches, athletes, opponents, spectators and the media. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes inappropriate behaviour in language, gesture or action which demeans, physically intimidates or endangers others.

4.2 Student-athletes should reflect the high standards of honour and dignity that should characterize participation in competitive interuniversity sport as well as conduct themselves in a manner reflecting positively on themselves and on their institution.

5.0 CONDUCT REQUIRED OF COACHES

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

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

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

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

6.0 CONDUCT REQUIRED OF FANS & SPECTATORS

6.1 Conduct that is detrimental to maintaining the core values of interuniversity sport will not be tolerated. Spectators are expected to behave in an appropriate manner.

6.2 Fans and spectators are prohibited from:

1. Behaviour that is unruly, disruptive or illegal in nature
2. Interference with the progress of the game, including throwing objects and/or unauthorized persons on the field of play
3. Intoxication or other signs of alcohol impairment that results in irresponsible behaviour
4. Foul and/or abusive language and/or obscene gestures
5. Verbal or physical harassment of opposing team fans, officials, opponents or other persons
6. Intentionally sitting or standing in areas which obstruct the passage and/or view of other spectators
7. Failing to follow instructions of university staff

6.3 Persons engaging in these actions will be given one warning and removed from the venue the second time.

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7.0 CONDUCT REQUIRED OF OFFICIALS

7.1 Officials are charged with the duty of ensuring a fair athletic contest and are also responsible for facilitating competition. Their judgment will be impartial and formulated with objectivity, accuracy, fairness and integrity.

7.2 In a situation in which an official acts inappropriately and fails to adhere to 6.1, the OUA Sport Convenor will work with the official's governing body and their regulations to ensure proper action is taken.

8.0 SANCTIONS FOR MISCONDUCT

8.1 Refer to OUA Constitution, Unit II, Regulations 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 for process and sanctioning of misconduct.

9.0 PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

9.1 CONTEST STATEMENT

One of the following statements or a similar institutional statement should be read before all athletic events where a public address system is utilized:

"Ladies and gentlemen, [Host Institution] and Ontario University Athletics welcome you to today's contest. We ask that you join us and today's coaches, players and officials in practicing superior sporting behaviour in supporting your teams and in conduct toward players, coaches, officials, and other spectators. Unruly and disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated. [Please note that the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages (and use of tobacco) are also prohibited. Spectators are not allowed on the playing field at any time.] Thank you."

or

"Ladies and gentlemen, [Host Institution] and Ontario University Athletics promote superior sporting behaviour by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. We encourage everyone to actively support all participants of today's game and ask that you express your enthusiasm in a respectful and sport-like manner. [Please note that the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages (and use of tobacco) are also prohibited. Spectators are not allowed on the playing field at any time.] Thank you."

9.2 OUA OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

In the spirit of ethical conduct, the OUA has established a Sportsmanship Award to recognize and honour exemplary sportsmanship. All OUA student-athletes associated with a member's institution's interuniversity sport program are eligible for the award. The definition of exemplary sportsmanship is left to the discretion of the member institutions with the understanding that the behaviour should be at a standard beyond what is normally expected during the course of play.

Each school will name one male and one female for this award at the conclusion of the interuniversity sport season (March). Award recipients will receive an award of Outstanding Sportsmanship certificate, will be recognized in a league release and listed on the OUA website.