



Binghamton University Student-Athlete Handbook

2020-2021

For COVID-19 related updates visit:
<http://bubearcats.com/handbook>

SECTION III - OVERVIEW OF ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Policy and Substance Abuse Screening and Deterrence Program

The ATOD program is based on the understanding that alcohol, tobacco and other drug use is detrimental to the student-athlete and can be a violation of department rules. Specifically: ALCOHOL consumption by a student-athlete under 21 years of age is illegal. The use of DRUGS (recreational or performance enhancing) is illegal. The use of any tobacco products at an NCAA sponsored event is a violation and will affect eligibility. Any of these violations will warrant disciplinary action from the department.

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Binghamton University believes that the use of controlled substances and performance enhancing drugs represents a danger to the health and careers of student-athletes and constitutes a threat to the integrity of intercollegiate athletics. Therefore, the department has implemented a mandatory program of drug education, screening and treatment (counseling/rehabilitation) to assist and benefit our student athletes. Additionally, the NCAA conducts a drug testing program that requires the participation of all student-athletes (Please see full Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Policy & Substance Abuse Screening and Deterrence Program on page 8).

Conduct

All student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that brings respect to themselves, their team, our department, the university and our community, whether at a competition or at an activity totally unrelated to athletics. (Please see full Code of Conduct Policy on page 15).

Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action applied to any student-athlete may come from various sources based upon the significance of the violation of policy. All head coaches have the support of the department when it comes to administering a team discipline program, with the understanding that programs may differ from team to team. There are, however, violations of the department policies that will also require departmental intervention. If any student-athlete is arrested on or off campus, or is involved in a hazing incident, he/she is immediately suspended from any athletic activities. Any other violations of departmental policies will be directed to the Review Board, whose policy is highlighted later in this handbook.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Binghamton University's strength lies in its people. We are proud that our students, faculty, staff, and administrators represent a variety of cultures, backgrounds, and ideas. Our members contribute to the creation of an open, supportive campus environment with high levels of intellectual and creative energy.

Building on our strengths, Binghamton aspires to become more than a multicultural institution. It strives to be an inclusive community where those with differing backgrounds and allegiances feel valued and learn from one another, and one where civility, respect, and reasoned debate prevail. We are committed to respect for human diversity in our learning and working environments, and to creating an atmosphere where prejudice, harassment, and discrimination are unacceptable. This encompasses all individuals and groups, as well as social, cultural, political, religious and other affiliations.

LGBTQ Student-Athletes

The Binghamton University Athletics department and the NCAA are committed to supporting student-athlete health and well-being. This commitment includes the physical, social and psychological health and well-being of students of all sexual orientations and gender identities/expressions. Binghamton Athletics

will work with transgender and gender expansive students to ensure they are aware of and able to navigate NCAA eligibility guidelines.

Here are some additional links: The [local transgender policy](#), the [NCAA office of Inclusion](#), the [DEI office](#) as well as [the Q-Center](#) for additional resources.

Harassment

You are a part of a community that supports individual integrity and celebrates its diversity. Binghamton University does not condone harassment directed toward any individual. Behaviors that denigrate a person(s) because of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, age or physical/mental disability will be dealt with quickly and severely.

Hazing

Hazing is against the law and will not be tolerated. Our department is fully supportive of the policies and consequences established by Binghamton University's Student Code of Conduct. According to the University's definition, the term "hazing" is defined as any action taken, or situation created, involving prospective or new members of a group, or as a condition of continued membership in a group (fraternity, sorority, team, club or other association or organization), which would be perceived by a reasonable person as likely to produce mental or physical harm, extreme or unusual stress, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

No policy can be so precisely written as to address all possible situations. When this policy does not address a specific behavior, students, organizations, teams and groups are expected to conduct themselves and their activities in the spirit of this policy and with respect for the dignity and well-being of others. The definition of hazing applies whether or not the participants consent to such activity or perceive the behavior as voluntary. The determination of whether a particular activity constitutes hazing will depend upon the circumstances and context in which the activity is occurring.

As a guiding principle, any activity required of new members that is not required of more senior members is likely to constitute hazing under this policy. Examples of conduct that may constitute hazing when used to mistreat or humiliate the participant include the following:

- Consumption of alcohol
- Paddling in any form or any other physical brutality
- Creating excessive fatigue
- Degrading or humiliating games or activities
- Forced or excessive participation in physical activities
- Psychological shock or abuse
- Engaging in public stunts or buffoonery
- Inappropriate scavenger hunts or road trips
- Wearing of apparel or items likely to subject the wearer to embarrassment or ridicule
- Activities that would unreasonably interfere with a student's other activities or obligations (academic, extracurricular, religious, family, etc.)
- Activities that violate University policy, federal, state or local law
- Any other activity devoid of legitimate educational value that subjects participants to humiliation

Mental Health

At some point during their college experience, student-athletes may encounter personal, social, career, athletic or academic concerns that call for professional assistance beyond the advice provided by athletic department staff, friends, and family. The University Counseling Center provides comprehensive clinical