



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

MODEL PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP POLICY FOR COLLEGIATE STUDENT ATHLETICS

We trust all members of our teams to be honest, responsible and mature. We desire what is best for the team as a whole, what is fair and workable for all individuals on the team and is based on broad principles of fairness. These expectations are for all members of our teams who must work together for the good of the team. Student athletes have responsibilities to the team and a commitment to being a team member who is focused on contributing to achieving team goals. Relationship issues can distract a team from its competitive goals. For this reason **[Institution]** has the following expectations for all team members regardless of the type of relationship.

The following is a list of possible relationships that may be addressed with these expectations (other types of relationships not listed may also apply):

- Close friends excluding or ignoring others, or having a falling out
- Two people dating the same person
- A person dating someone whom another person had a past relationship with
- Dating on the same or different teams (regardless of whether the dating couple is an opposite-sex couple or a same-sex couple)
- Conflicts between student-athletes based on race, sexual orientation, sexual identity, personal belief systems or religion

When with the team, the team comes first. Conduct yourselves as teammates. Being a member of a team requires responsible behavior and professional conduct. This includes at practice, during competition, on the team bus, in hotel rooms, in the training room, in the weight room, at team meetings, in the locker room and anywhere else when you are on “team time”.

Focus on the team and your role as a team member. You don’t have to hide your relationships but when on “team time” the following behaviors are expected:

- Respect team space: Avoid drama on team time. Leave relationship conflict at the locker room door.
- Resolve relationship issues on your own time, not the team’s time.
- No PDA (Public Displays of Affection), this includes hand holding, kissing, hugging, etc.
- Get to know others on your team. Sit with various teammates on the bus, eat with various teammates, share hotel rooms with various teammates and sit with various teammates in team meetings.

- If you need help resolving relationship issues, please contact **[Institution's counseling or mental health services or relevant Dean of Students staff.]**

Possible consequences for failing to meet these expectations:

- Meeting with Coach, review expectations and consequences of not abiding by them
- Requested to meet with a counselor
- Suspension or dismissal from team for failing to abide by the expectations

Team Captains play an important role in maintaining a positive team-oriented climate and helping team members maintain team focus. Captains can help by:

- Reminding teammates about these expectations and why they are important
- Communicating with coaches when relationship issues need to be addressed

Adapted from *Champions of Respect: NCAA LGBTQ Resource Guide*, Pat Griffin (2013)

For further questions or inquiries contact:

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