**Northumbria Sport**

**Student Sport Code of Conduct**

Reviewed: August 2025

**Introduction**

Northumbria Sport is committed to creating and maintaining a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all students involved in sport. We recognise that challenges may arise both on and off the field of play. This Code of Conduct is designed to support students in upholding the highest standards of behaviour, fairness, integrity, and sportsmanship when representing Northumbria University in any sporting capacity.

This Code outlines the expectations and responsibilities of individuals involved in Northumbria Sport activities, including (but not limited to): sports clubs, Just PLAY sessions, swimming lessons, intramural leagues, club committees, coaches, volunteers, interns, and spectators.

This Code complements the [University’s Handbook of Student Regulations](https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/leadership-governance/vice-chancellors-office/legal-services-team/handbook-of-student-regulations/) and may be amended to address circumstances not specifically mentioned herein.

**1. Scope of the Code**

**1.1 Who the Code Applies To:**

The Code applies to all individuals involved in any Northumbria Sport activity, including (but not limited to):

* + 1. Student sports club members
		2. Just PLAY, swimming lesson, and intramural participants
		3. Student interns and volunteers
		4. Club committee members, coaches, physiotherapists, and other support roles
		5. Supporters of Northumbria University sports teams

**1.2 When the Code Applies:**

This Code is applicable whenever an individual is engaged in organised sport activity, including but not limited to:

1.2.1 Representing the University in BUCS or other competitions (on/off the field, and during travel)

1.2.2 Participating in any Northumbria Sport-led sessions or events

1.2.3 Using University or external sport facilities

1.2.4 Attending social events, sports tours, or club activities

1.2.5 Engaging in internships or volunteering opportunities

1.2.6 Socialising as part of a university affiliated team or club

1.2.7 Wearing Northumbria University branded clothing

1.2.8 Posting on social media related to Northumbria Sport

1.2.9 Engaging and liaising with external stakeholders such as sponsors or partners.

**2. Policies and Procedures**

To ensure a safe, inclusive and respectful environment, all participants must adhere to the following:

* 2.1 Northumbria Sport Terms and Conditions
* 2.2 Northumbria University and Northumbria Sport Health and Safety Policies
* 2.3 External organisations’ health and safety policies when using third-party facilities

**3. Behavioural Standards**

**3.1 General Conduct:**

All participants are expected to:

3.1.1 Use respectful language and maintain a professional manner

3.1.2 Represent their club and University with pride and integrity

3.1.3 Uphold appropriate standards of personal conduct

3.1.4 Treat others with fairness, integrity, and respect

3.1.5 Be mindful of how their actions, language, and communication may be perceived differently by others and ensure these remain respectful and appropriate at all time

3.1.6 Promote equality and inclusion regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, sexuality, or background

3.1.7 Refrain from encouraging or participating in inappropriate behaviour

**3.2 During Sporting Activity:**

3.2.1 Respect teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents

3.2.2 Follow instructions from referees and sport officials

3.2.3 Comply with sport-specific rules and regulations

3.2.4 Use formal appeal processes appropriately and respectfully

3.2.5 Adhere to National Governing Body (NGB) guidelines

3.2.6 Avoid engaging in any form of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and challenge such behaviour when witnessed

**4. Anti-Doping and Substance Use**

Northumbria Sport supports and promotes Clean Sport principles. Participants must:

4.1 Abide by UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) guidelines

4.2 Avoid the use or promotion of illegal drugs, legal highs, or performance-enhancing substances

4.3 Check medications and supplements for banned substances using UKAD guidance

4.4 Participate in UKAD testing protocols if required

4.5 Report suspected doping behaviour to UKAD

**5. Alcohol and Social Events**

Northumbria Sport values the role of social activity in building team culture. However, responsible behaviour is essential. Participants must:

5.1 Consume alcohol responsibly and legally

5.2 Avoid pressuring others to consume alcohol or take part in unwanted activities

5.3 Avoid anti-social or illegal behaviour

5.4 Respect individuals’ choices regarding social attendance and alcohol consumption

5.5 Ensure social activities are inclusive and welcoming to all

**6. Initiations – Zero Tolerance Policy**

Northumbria Sport strictly prohibits all initiation ceremonies.

Definition:

An initiation is any activity in which new or current members are expected to perform tasks or consume substances to gain credibility or entry into a group. This may include coercion (implied or direct), forced alcohol consumption, humiliation, nudity, or degrading behaviour.

Policy:

6.1 All forms of initiations are banned – on or off campus, whether organised by students or third parties

6.2 Participation or organisation of initiation events will result in disciplinary action

6.3 Social events must not include initiations in any form

**7. Social Media Conduct**

Social media reflects both individual and institutional reputations. All members are expected to post responsibly. Participants must:

7.1 Avoid posting negative or offensive comments about other clubs, players, officials, or protected groups

7.2 Avoid engaging in hostile, abusive, or discriminatory language

7.3 Credit all copyrighted material

7.4 Report any harmful, inaccurate, or damaging posts related to Northumbria Sport

**8. Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

Violations will be investigated by Northumbria Sport or the University, and may result in:

8.1 Termination of Sport membership (no refund)

8.2 Suspension or removal from competition

8.3 Fines of up to £500

8.4 Loss of funding or support

8.5 Referral to academic school for further disciplinary review

8.6 Removal from roles (committee, volunteer, intern, etc.)

8.7 Referral to external authorities if the breach involves illegal activity

**9. Reporting Misconduct**

9.1 Breaches should be reported to Northumbria Sport

9.2 Alternatively, complaints may be submitted through the University’s formal complaints procedure

9.3 Reports to Northumbria Sport will be treated as informal unless escalated

9.4 Complaints must be made within three calendar months of the incident

9.5 A complaint should include:

* + Full name, student ID, course, contact details
	+ Date and nature of incident
	+ Names of individuals involved
	+ Impact experienced

9.6 Confidentiality will be maintained, but any individuals named in a complaint will be given the opportunity to respond.

9.7 Submit reports to: northumbriasport@northumbria.ac.uk. A response will be issued within 72 hours.

**10. Non-Students**

10.1 In exceptional circumstances, non-students, usually alumni, may be permitted to join a sport club. Such individual is not eligible to compete in BUCS Competitions. The provision of this code applies equally to them as they do students.