

Intramural Sport Code of Conduct



Intramural Sport at Newcastle University offers students and staff the opportunity to play in a fun, friendly and competitive environment in which sports take place in various formats, from leagues and tournaments to pitch up and play events. This code of conduct outlines the standards of personal behaviour expected of all Intramural teams and participants to ensure a fair, supportive, and inclusive environment for everyone.

Scope

This code applies to all Intramural teams, players, coaches, and spectators and covers behaviour related to any Intramural team or club activity, both on and off campus.

University Policies

This code of conduct should be read in conjunction with the University Student Charter which all students agree to when they become a student at Newcastle University. The Student Charter outlines the expected standards of behaviour from all students. Any violations to these policies may result in disciplinary action by the Sport Services or under the Student Disciplinary Procedures.

Player Eligibility

All players competing in Intramural Sport through a league system must be a Sport & Fitness Centre member. Membership will be managed via access control barriers at the Sport & Fitness Centre and regular membership checks outdoor sites.

Only Newcastle University students are eligible to participate in Intramural Sport. Northumbria University students and external players are not permitted.

League Rules

All players must familiarise themselves with the specific rules and regulations for their sport, which are set by Sports Services and outlined on the Intramural Sport website.

All players are expected to play within the spirit of the game, adhering to both league rules and governing body regulations.

Sports Services Responsible Drinking Policy

Alcohol is prohibited at all University sports venues, except when purchased from licensed premises at Cochrane Park and Heaton Sports Grounds. This applies to all individuals, whether participating or spectating.

Initiations

Newcastle University **DO NOT** permit initiations ceremonies. Any form of initiation that involves physical or emotional harm, dangerous activities, or coercion is prohibited.

Activities or behaviours deemed unacceptable include, but are not limited to:

- Forced alcohol consumption
- Forced substance consumption
- Forced physical challenge or physically risky behaviour
- Forced humiliation
- Dangerous and / or criminal activity
- Taking improper advantage of any students as a result of imbalance of power / position

Social Media Policy

Intramural teams and players are responsible for ensuring their social media content aligns with the Intramural Social Media Code of Conduct.

Unacceptable Behaviour

Unacceptable behaviour includes any conduct that could cause harm, distress or offense to others.

The following behaviours are strictly prohibited

- **Antisocial behaviour** – using abusive language, physically or verbally assaulting players, coaches, match officials, University staff or spectators
- Disruptive behaviour – whilst using sports facilities or behaving in a way that damages the University's reputation
- **Sexual harassment** - any non-consensual sexual activity, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, or other forms of sexual misconduct
- **Discrimination** based on any protected characteristic such as race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability. This includes discriminatory chanting from spectators
- **Violence** – including physical or verbal aggression
- **Safety** - compromising the safety of others through reckless or dangerous behaviour, including failure to follow safety guidelines
- **Damage** - to sports facilities or equipment
- **Dishonesty** – theft, deception or other dishonest behaviour
- **Dangerous driving** - driving recklessly or dangerously on University property, which could endanger the safety of others. This includes driving under the influence of alcohol
- **Criminal activity** - any behaviour that violates the law

Monitoring

All University staff as well as members of the public will actively monitor Intramural teams' behaviour and any violations of this code of conduct will be flagged and addressed promptly and accordingly.

Reporting breaches to the Sport Code of Conduct

If you as an individual and/or club have concerns over the behaviour of intramural teams/players, please report it directly to a member of Newcastle University Sport staff or via email to sport.enquiries@ncl.ac.uk

Please include the following information in your report, if possible:

- A description of the incident
- The names of teams/individuals involved (if known)
- The date and time of the incident (if known)
- Any other relevant details

Potential Consequences of Breaching the Intramural Code of Conduct

Teams/Clubs/Players/Spectators who violate the code of conduct may face disciplinary action. The University has a clear student disciplinary procedure to investigate complaints and each case will be handled on an individual basis.

Potential sanctions for violating the code of conduct may include:

- Team, club or player fine
- Removal of training facilities
- Suspension from league or tournament
- Removal from league or tournament
- Match bans
- Fine for damages
- Ban from all Sport & Fitness Centre Services

- Disbandment of the club or team
- University disciplinary procedures (which may include expulsion from University & Course)
- Arrest, court, criminal record

Intramural Team Captains must sign up to this Code of Conduct in order to participate in the Intramural Sport Programme. Additionally, captains are responsible for informing all squad members of the rules, expected behaviours, and potential consequences outlined in the code.

By signing the team captain agrees to adhere to the code of conduct and ensure that all team members are also aware of and follow the rules and guidelines.