

Misconduct Involving Weapons

The mission of The University of Tennessee Men's and Women's Departments of Intercollegiate Athletics is to provide opportunities for participation in intercollegiate athletics in an environment that encourages the achievement of athletic excellence, academic excellence, and good sportsmanship. Misconduct by student-athletes that involves weapons poses a serious threat to the efforts of the Athletics Departments to foster such an environment.

Accordingly, The University of Tennessee Men's and Women's Departments of Intercollegiate Athletics have zero tolerance for the following misconduct involving weapons:

- ∞ Using, possessing or carrying a weapon while on property owned, used, or operated by The University of Tennessee;
- ∞ Using, possessing or carrying a weapon during a University-sponsored activity or traveling to or from a University-sponsored activity (*"University-sponsored activity" includes, but is not limited to, an on or off campus game, practice, team meeting, team trip, team-related function, or other time the team is gathered in an official capacity*);
- ∞ Violating The University of Tennessee, Knoxville General Standards of Conduct (contained in *Hilltopics*) while using, possessing or carrying a weapon; and
- ∞ Violating any local, state, or federal law while using, possessing or carrying a weapon.

Participation in intercollegiate athletics at The University of Tennessee is a privilege, not a right. A student-athlete who engages in misconduct involving weapons (as described above) will be disciplined and is subject to immediate and permanent dismissal from his or her athletic team and the reduction, cancellation, and/or non-renewal of athletically-related financial aid. The Athletics Director is the final decision maker in the Athletics Department regarding a student-athlete's dismissal from an athletic team. A student-athlete may appeal the decision to reduce or cancel athletically-related financial aid by contacting The University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Director of Financial Aid.

This policy is in addition to, and does not replace or modify, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville's General Standards of Conduct, which apply to all students. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics may take action before University disciplinary and/or other external authorities have concluded their disposition of the alleged misconduct.

The term "weapon" in this policy includes, but is not limited to, any firearm, handgun, rifle, shotgun, ammunition, air gun, explosive, or other dangerous object or substance that can be used to inflict bodily injury on another person.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or deter a student-athlete from lawfully owning, using, possessing, or carrying a weapon on property not owned, used, or operated by the University as long as the weapon is not used, possessed, or carried during a University-sponsored activity or traveling to or from a University-sponsored activity. For example, this policy does not prohibit a student-athlete from lawfully engaging in a recreational activity, such as hunting, off-campus. Students may store lawfully owned weapons with The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Police Department.