**TEAM MI’KMAW NOVA SCOTIA ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Athletes will represent Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia with **pride**, **dignity**, and **personal integrity**.

Athletes will attend all functions and special events.

Athletes are reminded that they are participating at this event as high-performance athletes. Participation or engagement in non-competitive events or sports that are not competition related and may impact their performance are strongly discouraged. Athletes may participate in such activities after their event is completed.

**Traditional Protocol**

All participants must respect the traditional protocols of Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia and participating events.

All participants must respect the cultural diversity of teammates and staff.

Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia and the North American Indigenous Games prohibits discriminatory practices. Participants will refrain from comments or behavior, which are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist.

**Behavior**

As disciplined elite level athletes, all players will abide by the direction given to them from the highly qualified coaches and team staff and respect the guidance offered by Elders and Event Staff.

Players are expected to be courteous and polite at all times to staff, bus drivers, hotel staff, facility attendants, other athletes, etc.

All athletes will compete within the principles of fair play and good sportsmanship at all times.

* Respect the rules of the game
* Respect officials and accept their decisions
* Respect the opponent
* Maintain dignity under all circumstances

There are to be NO hazing rituals during Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia events. Players are strictly prohibited from the following activities, which will be enforced with zero tolerance:

* No recreational use of tobacco (smoking, chewing or vaping (e-cigarettes)).
* No consumption of alcohol
* No use of cannabis (in any form)
* No use of drugs (except medication prescribed by a doctor/physician)
* Games of chance will be allowed; however, no money can be involved. No gambling.

**Curfew**

The curfew of 11:00 pm (local time) will be enforced for their players unless an earlier curfew has been established by your team. At the time of curfew, all players must be in their designated rooms.

Teams will determine their own curfews for team staff but shall not exceed 11 pm (local time).

Cell phones will be turned in to team chaperones at curfew.

**Dress Code**

For meals, travel and practices, casual attire is expected.

For games, Teams will establish their own dress code that will require either team uniforms or team attire (i.e. team t-shirt or other attire provided by Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia).

Appropriate and respectable attire is required at all times. Athletes who are not viewed as wearing appropriate or respectable clothing will be asked to change.

Athletes are not permitted to trade gear until NAIG is concluded, i.e. all competition is completed.

**Injuries**

All injuries are to be reported to the coaching staff immediately. For any injuries that require additional medical assistance, Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia staff MUST be notified, and an injury report form will be filled out by coaching/team staff/doctor visited.

**Social Media Sensibilities**

You must adhere to the following guidelines when using social media related to Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia or its business, products, competitions, teams, participants, services, events, sponsors, members or reputation.

1. Use common sense

Whenever you are unsure as to whether or not the content you wish to share is appropriate, seek advice from others before doing so or refrain from sharing the content to be on the safe side. Remember, you are an ambassador for Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia.

1. Protect your privacy

Be smart about protecting yourself and your privacy. When posting content online there is potential for that content to become publicly available through a variety of means, even if it was intended to be shared privately. Therefore, you should refrain from posting any content online that you would not be happy for anyone to see, even if you feel confident that a particular individual would never see it.

1. Be Honest

Your honesty—or dishonesty—may be quickly noticed in the social media environment. Do not say anything that is dishonest, untrue or misleading. If you are unsure, check the source and the facts before uploading or posting anything. Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia recommends erring on the side of caution – if in doubt, do not post or upload.

1. Limit use

You must ensure that your personal use of social media does not interfere with your competition or productivity.

1. Respect confidentiality and sensitivity

When using social media you should be considerate to others and should not post information when you have been asked not to, or where consent has not been sought and given. *You must also remove information about another person if that person asks you to do so.* You should also refrain from posting any information or photos of a sensitive nature. This could include accidents, incidents or controversial behaviour.

1. Do not make posts that are discriminating, sexually harassing and bullying

You must not post any material that is offensive, harassing, discriminatory, embarrassing, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate.

**Disciplinary Actions**

Actions taken by any participant that is a violation of Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia Athlete Code of Conduct will be reported to the Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia’s Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will review violations and take swift action to address the situation.

Disciplinary steps may include the following:

* Sending an individual home at their own expense
* Prohibiting an individual from future participation at Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia and all participating events.

**Play hard, have fun and represent Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia with pride!**

*By signing this form, athletes acknowledge that they have read and understand the Athlete Code of Conduct for Team Mi’kmaw Nova Scotia and accept the consequences/ repercussions, should they violate any of the provisions within the Code of Conduct.*

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Participant Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

 (if participant is under 18)