

Code of Conduct & Sportsmanship Policy



CODE OF CONDUCT

The mission of our sports program is to promote competition and athleticism through sportsmanship and fair play. Our leagues/events should be played with good sportsmanship. Although competition may become intense, we expect our participants to maintain good sportsmanship up to and after the final whistle. As a participant in any league, tournament or event, you must pledge to:

- Displaying respect for yourself, other players, officials, referees, coaches, country, facilities, and grounds.
- Displaying respect as expected during the playing of the national anthem.
- Respect the game, play fairly, and follow all rules and policies.
- Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during, and after games, win or lose.
- Be responsible for the sportsmanship of my teammates and assist in maintaining a respectful environment for all participants.
- Be courteous to opposing teams, officials, monitors, or facilitators and treat all players and our officials with respect.
- Help to maintain and keep all equipment and conditions at each facility in good condition.
- Obey all facility rules, while respecting all equipment, common areas, playing areas, parking areas, and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Refrain from the use of abusive language or profanity.
- Not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or wellbeing of any player, official, staff member, or spectator.
- Not engage in verbal, written, or physical threats or abuse aimed at any participant, official, staff member, or spectator.
- Not initiate a fight, scuffle, or exchange with any individual (including but not limited to: pushing, shoving, punching, kicking, etc.).
- Not use alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at any location unless permitted by the facility/venue.

- Wear/use all required and issued equipment and/or uniforms.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sports are filled with judgment calls and, as a result, disputes between players, opponents, and staff may occur from time to time. However, it is important that participants respect and handle all disputes that may occur in a civilized manner. No one may argue/protest a judgment call. Protests for player eligibility or rule misapplications/misinterpretations are time-sensitive and must be made before the next live ball situation. All decisions made by on-site officials must be respected and obeyed. Any feedback regarding rules, players, officials, or staff members should be brought to the attention of a Director, Commissioner, or adult in an authoritative position first verbally and followed by written form as necessary.

Any behavior deemed unacceptable by league officials may result in an ejection, suspension, and/or expulsion as outlined below. Repeated Code of Conduct violations by the same person or team could result in a team expulsion from the league without refunds.

EJECTION PROCEDURE

Upon ejection, the game and clock stops, and a player must:

- immediately leave the field/court and subsequently the premises.
- take no longer than FIVE minutes to get out of sight and sound of the field/court
- NOT wait in the parking lot or anywhere on site

If the player does not leave or demonstrate a cooperative effort to do so in the time allotted, his/her team will be prohibited from participation.

An ejection for a minor violation of the Code of Conduct may result in a 1-game/event suspension. The second ejection for two minor violations in the same season may result in a 2-game/event suspension. Minor violations include, but are not limited to:

- Vulgar, abusive, sexist, racist, and/or discriminatory comments or gestures towards an opponent, teammate, or spectator
- Throwing equipment or headgear in anger at the ground, bleachers, or area
- Excessive arguing over judgment calls
- Excessive arguments with a referee
- Ripping one's own uniform or equipment in anger

Any player who commits the offense of Abusive Behavior beyond that which is considered to be minor may incur greater penalties at the discretion of league officials such as those behaviors as:

- Vulgar, abusive, sexist, racist, discriminatory comments or gestures towards a referee or staff member
- Approaching an official or referee with intimidation and threatening behavior
- Verbal threat of violence towards an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member
- Attempting to punch, kick, or strike an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member
- Attempting to strike an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member with equipment
- Attempting to spit on an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member
- Brandishing/Displaying any type of weapon (including equipment) in a menacing/threatening manner
- Charging/Confronting another individual in a combative/threatening manner
- Striking an opponent with equipment
- Pushing/shoving/tripping an opponent
- Pulling the hair of an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member
- Spitting on an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member
- Making physical contact with a referee while arguing a call
- Kicking an opponent
- Punching an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member
- Choking an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member
- Striking an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member with any type of weapon
- Slapping an opponent, spectator, referee, or staff member