

# **Coaches Code of Conduct**

## **McLean Youth Basketball 2017-2018 Season**

This Code of Conduct has been approved and instituted by the Board of McLean Youth Basketball, September 2017

### **I. CONDUCT OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN MCLEAN YOUTH BASKETBALL**

Sportsmanship among the Coaches, players, referees and fans is a fundamental part of all McLean Youth Basketball ("MYB") activities. Inappropriate behavior by any participant in MYB Basketball, including spectators, players, coaches and referees, will not be tolerated at any time, for any reason.

- A. To assure that sports are a setting where personal character (including integrity, respect, responsibility, and fairness) are built, a safe environment, sportsmanship and fair play must be held above all other values
- B. Every participant (coaches, players, spectators or referees) is expected to be fully familiar with the MYB Code of Conduct
- C. **Every participant pledges to fully abide by the MYB Code of Conduct as described below** in every interaction and understands that any failure to abide is subject to temporary or permanent banishment from any MYB sponsored event
- D. The conduct of all MYB participants is subject to review by the Code of Conduct and Grievance Committee (see Section II below).

### **Code of Conduct – Coaches**

#### **1. Personal Conduct**

- Coaches are representatives of MYB and as such have an obligation to uphold the values of the program and lead by example in demonstrating sportsmanship and the highest moral character.
- Coaches should not engage in, encourage, or tolerate any form of trickery or evasion of rules in order to gain an advantage over an opponent, adhering to the spirit/intent of the rules is as important as following the letter of the rules.

- Coaches must demonstrate respect for the integrity and judgement of referees and their opponent, and therefore must refrain from confrontations or arguments in front of players or spectators or making comments or gestures that indicate disrespect for referees or opposing coaches.
- Head coaches have the responsibility of ensuring that all assistant coach behavior fully complies with the MYB Code of Conduct at all times.
- Although it is expected that Coaches have many interests outside the basketball program, for the duration of the basketball season coaches will give priority to the interests of their team and MYB Program overall.

## **2. Coaches Conduct Toward Officials**

- Coaches must demonstrate respect for the judgement and integrity of referees at all times, regardless of the circumstances, and should recognize that the officials are well intentioned and have no bias toward any player, team, or coach.
- In particular, coaches involved in games with younger or less experienced referees must recognize that mistakes are unavoidable and part of the game. The Coach's behavior, particularly the respect shown to the referees even when they make a mistake, is critical in maintaining control of the game and fostering an attitude of good sportsmanship.
- Any discussion regarding rule interpretation shall take place quietly before the start of the game, or between quarters.
- Head coaches are the only team representative permitted to have discussions with referees. Head coaches cannot allow assistant coaches to make critical remarks or gestures to or about a referee during a contest.
- Referees will be instructed to call a technical foul against any coach who, in their judgment, becomes abusive in language or actions during the game.

## **3. Player Instruction**

- Coaches will instruct team members in the rules and coach their team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to MYB rules and regulations and the rules of basketball at all times.
- Coaches must encourage their players to show respect for the referees and not permit players to make critical remarks to or about an official during a contest.

- Coaches have an obligation to control the behavior of their players and to make sure the players act in a proper manner toward the opposing players and coaches.
- Coaches should place the physical and emotional well-being of their players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- Coaches should never criticize a player publicly nor yell or ridicule a player for making mistakes
- Coaches shall run their team for the benefit of all team members and will put the interest of the team above their own interests or the interest of a specific player or players.
- Coaches should give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, enthusiastically supporting and practicing the “everyone plays” philosophy of MYB
- Coaches should always be generous with praise when it is deserved.
- Coaches must follow the advice of parents and/or a physician when determining when an injured athlete is ready to play again. If an injury is serious enough (concussion, torn/damaged ligaments or tendons, serious sprain or broken bones) the parents must provide written approval from a family physician before the player can again participate in the league.

#### **4. Coaches Responsibility with Parents & Spectators**

- Coaches are role models and must keep in mind that their behavior and attitude will greatly influence the actions of their spectators.
- Coaches will ensure that the parents and spectators in attendance at MYB events demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times in regard to their behavior to referees, opposing teams and their own players.
- At the request of a referee, the Coach must assist in controlling spectators, including removal from the building of any spectator who does not abide by the MYB Code of Conduct.

#### **5. Building Director Requirement**

- All Coaches (age 18 or older) must become accredited Fairfax County Recreation Authority Building Directors prior to conducting their first team practice.
- High School Coaches under the age of 18 must practice with an accredited Coach or have a team parent get accredited and attend all practices.
- No MYB activities will take place in Fairfax County facilities without an accredited Building Director present

## **II. CODE OF CONDUCT & GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE.**

The Code of Conduct and Grievance Committee shall be composed of the Program Chairman, the Referee Coordinator, the Chief Commissioner for the program involved, the League Commissioner for the team/individual involved, and up to one additional member selected by the Program Chairman. The Committee shall review and, if necessary, assess penalties for violation of MYB's Code of Conduct.

### **A. Mandatory Suspensions**

- Any player or Coach ejected from a game due to one or more technical fouls for unsportsmanlike behavior or any flagrant foul is automatically suspended for the teams next scheduled game (including tournament games).
- Referees must notify the Referee Coordinator the day of the game of any such ejections. The Referee Coordinator will notify the appropriate League Commissioner.
- If suspended, a Coach or player may participate in practice but may not participate in the next scheduled game. A suspended player may attend the game and sit with his team but may not wear his team's uniform shirt. Suspended Coaches may not attend the game.
- There is no review for suspension due to ejection from a game.

### **B. Mandatory Reviews**

- The Committee will review the conduct of any player, Coach or fan that has been ejected from more than one game in a season.

### **C. Optional Reviews**

- The Referee Coordinator, any League Commissioner or Board member may request the Committee to review the conduct of any participant in MYB basketball who they believe is in violation of the Code of Conduct. The Committee will conduct such a review if one member of the Committee believes it is justified.
- Any other participant in MYB Basketball may also request a review by the Committee if he/she feels they are being treated unfairly or that the actions of another participant need to be reviewed. The Committee, at its discretion, may decline to review or take action on any of these situations.

**D. Method of Review**

- The Committee shall conduct its reviews in any method it deems appropriate but must involve all individuals affected by its review (e.g., the individual under review, Coach, League Commissioner, Referee Coordinator and any other individuals involved in the situation).

**E. Penalties**

- The Committee shall assess such penalties as it deems appropriate including, but not limited to, verbal or written instructions or reprimands, suspension from games, or the suspension from future participation in MYB activities.
- The Committee is limited to penalties within the current basketball season. Any action which would apply a penalty beyond the current season must be reviewed and approved by the Board. Only the Board can approve and take action against a member of the Board.