

Central Massachusetts Youth Basketball League

CODE OF CONDUCT

All participants – be it coaches, players, parents, spectators, staff, and officials – are expected to adhere to a code of conduct in any youth sports league. Written or unwritten rules, some things are just a matter of expectation. While this league exists for youth participants, virtually all issues of inappropriate conduct we see involve adults. As such, we have produced this Code of Conduct which shall be made available to all players, coaches, administrators, and spectators by both the league and town administrators.

By being a participant in CMYBL – either as a player, a coach, a team official, or as a spectator – you are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct. If you have questions on this document, you should contact the head coach or program coordinator within your town’s program.

This document is not exhaustive. The administrators of the league have discretion on implementing sanctions on all incidents that may or may not fall into examples described below.

Game Ejections:

1. Any player ejected from a league game is suspended from attending the subsequent scheduled week of league games (a one game suspension). This means the player may not be in the gym even as a spectator at any CMYBL events (not just his/her game). This is not appealable.
 - a. Definition of an ejection: Being ejected from the game by officials for a flagrant foul (this is different from an intentional foul – a flagrant foul must include malicious intent, for example, taking a punch or swing at someone), receiving two technical fouls in the same game, or being told by an official or the site supervisor that s/he must leave the gym. An ejection is not fouling out after five personal fouls or a referee telling a coach to take a player out of a game to “cool down” for a bit.
 - i. If the site supervisor is doubling duty as a coach of the opposing team during the incident, the league will decide if the ejection will result in a one game suspension.
2. Any player ejected a second time in a season is suspended from attending the balance of the season’s league games. This is an appealable suspension (and may be reduced) but requires discussion with the Commissioner of the League, the parents of the player, the head coach of the team, and the Coordinator of the town’s travel basketball program.
3. Any non-player (including parents, coaches, spectators, etc.) ejected from a league game is suspended from attending the subsequent scheduled week of league games (a one game suspension). This means the individual may not be on the grounds where CMYBL events are occurring even as a spectator at any CMYBL events during the subsequent week. This is not appealable. Ejections may be given by game officials or by the Program Coordinator / site supervisor of the gym.

- a. A coach coaching a game who is doubling in duty as the site supervisor of course has jurisdiction to tell anyone to leave the gym – however due to a perceived “conflict of interest” – if an ejection is handed down by someone coaching in the game the incident occurred, the league will be the one who decides if the above mentioned one game suspension will be administered.
 - b. If a non-player is ejected from the game, he or she must LEAVE THE SITE. Standing in the lobby of the gym, remaining in the building, or waiting outside his/her car in the parking lot is not permitted.
 - c. The program coordinator must have a meeting (in person, via telephone, or via email) with any non-player who was ejected that has an affiliation with that town’s program and emphasize that unacceptable behavior is not tolerated.
4. Any non-player (including coaches, spectators, etc.) ejected from a second league game in the same season is suspended from attending league events for the balance of the season. This is appealable however you should not expect much relief from the suspension and will require discussion with the Program Coordinator and League Commissioner.

We understand emotions get the best of people sometimes. That in mind, in the event someone is ejected from a game, s/he needs to leave. The incident is over. Absolutely not acceptable is (1) refusing to leave the premises, (2) confronting or attempting to communicate with the officials or host coordinator at all after the game via any method (in person, via email, via a phone call, etc.), (3) any sort of physical contact with officials or the host coordinator.

Expectation of Coaches:

1. The head coach must control his team. This means the head coach must set a clear expectation of appropriate behavior coming from his/her parents, players, and coaching staff at all league events.
2. Assistant coaches are just that, assistant coaches. They should coach the bench. Assistant coaches are not to interact with game officials (including silent hand gestures or shaking their head at them over a call). Assistant coaches are expected to remain seated during game play. That said, the more well behaved the team is, the more liberal you may find officials may be in allowing assistant coaches to stand during the game.
 - a. If an assistant coach receives a technical foul, something went wrong. Again, assistant coaches should NOT address game officials.

Expectation of Spectators:

1. You will find that at youth events, officials are becoming less and less tolerant of any spectators in the bleachers who feel it is appropriate to complain about calls, jump up and yell at referees, taunt the other team, or partake in any other generally unacceptable behavior. The ONLY role of spectators at games is to cheer on the players and support the team. There should be no situation ever where a spectator feels it is acceptable to lambast officials from the bleachers, confront officials in person after the game, enter the playing court to address officials, taunt

opposing players or make physical contact with an opposing coach. Yes, all of those things have happened. If a spectator acts in a way like that, it tells us two things: (1) the head coach has not done an adequate job setting expectations of spectator behavior and (2) the son/daughter of that spectator may feel acting that way is acceptable.

2. Head coaches and Program Coordinators must set and enforce an acceptable standard of behavior of their spectators at the beginning of the season.

Expectation of Scorekeepers:

1. The home team has first rights to the scorebook being the official game book. For that to occur however, the scorekeeper must sit at the scorer's table at mid court. Sitting on the bench or in the bleachers to keep score is fine however if the opposing team's scorebook is being kept at the scorer's table at mid court, the opposing team's scorebook becomes the official scorebook for the game. No scorebook that is being kept on the team's bench or in the bleachers can be the official game book.
 - a. This means that at least one scorebook **MUST** be kept at the scorer's table at mid court. If the visiting team's scorekeeper does not wish to sit at the scorer's table, the home team must provide a scorebook and scorekeeper who will sit at the scorer's table.
2. The official scorekeeper is by definition, a game official. That means the scorekeeper must be neutral during the game. Unacceptable behavior includes shaking your head as a referee makes a call, saying anything like "we can't catch a break" to a coach working the team's bench, etc. Every year we have situations where the game referees have to ask a scorekeeper to go sit in the stands. The league and game referees appreciate a parent doing the scorebook. The scorekeeper must be a neutral party though while doing so.

Social Media Policy:

1. CMYBL is not in the business of policing freedom of speech. Anyone who wishes to use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, etc. is free to do so.
2. That said, coaches, players, and Program Coordinators are prohibited from posting anything on social media – direct, implied, or otherwise – that could be implied as negative, critical, or derogatory in reference to any CMYBL affiliated teams or individuals other than his or her own self or children. Positive comments are of course fine.
3. Posting critical comments on game officiating on a social media platform is prohibited by anyone affiliated with a CMYBL team. Put simply, much like professional sports, college sports, or even MIAA (Massachusetts HS sports), commenting on officiating via any media platform (print, electronic, social media or otherwise) is not allowed under any circumstances.
 - a. Officials are contract employees who do not work for the league. They also get paid less than half of what they get to work a varsity level assignment. Everyone needs to remember two things:
 - i. Travel basketball is a lower level game that traditionally is where new officials get experience. We have many experienced varsity level officials who work our games but we also have officials who are newly certified. They are learning the game and

gaining experience just like the players. Being critical of them does not help them become better officials.

- ii. The more experienced officials are generally here because they enjoy the game. The more they have to listen to coaches or parents complain to them (often over calls coaches/spectators don't understand) the less likely they are to want to work travel basketball games. As explained above, officials are CONTRACT EMPLOYEES. If they don't want to work a game – HS, travel, AAU, anywhere – they don't have to. If the officials say they refuse to work a certain team or location because of the coaches or spectators, we will have to abide by that request. If that happens enough, we can have a situation where we are not able to get referees to work games involving a specific team or game location.
4. If you post photographs of any CMYBL event on a social media site and those photographs include images of children other than yourself or your own children, it is recommended you make them “private.” If someone other than yourself – especially the parent of a minor in the photographs – sees these photos and asks that they be taken offline, you are expected to do so.

CORI Checks:

1. Each program that participates in CMYBL is obligated to perform a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check on personnel within their program over the age of 18 who work with children through the Massachusetts CORI Board.
2. It is important to understand however that CORI results are just that – results. Neither the Commonwealth of Massachusetts nor the league offer guidance on how to interpret the results of a CORI check on an individual and whether they should be considered acceptable or unacceptable to work within their program.
 - a. It is up to each program that participates in CMYBL to have established policies within their Board of Directors as to how CORI results shall be interpreted.
 - b. As CMYBL is contracted to provide a service for the towns that participate, CMYBL is not permitted to ask to see the CORI results of individual coaches. CMYBL however can ask for proof that the CORI was done on any individuals over the age of 18 who are working with children.