



## CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### ***Coaches are expected to:***

- Maintain a safe, positive, and respectful environment for all participants. Coaches are responsible for prioritizing player development, enjoyment, welfare, and safety while promoting fair play, rule compliance, and sportsmanship.
- Model professional conduct at all times, including respectful behavior toward officials, opponents, players, parents, and spectators. Abusive, vulgar, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior including taunting, ridiculing, or arguing is prohibited.
- Demonstrate dependability by attending all scheduled practices and games or arranging approved coverage when unavailable.
- Support inclusion, promote diversity, and oppose discrimination, harassment, or abuse in any form (verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual).

### ***Players are expected to:***

- Participate with effort, teamwork, and respect for coaches, teammates, officials, opponents, and spectators.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times by following the rules, playing fairly, and accepting wins and losses with humility and dignity.
- Control their behavior and emotions on and off the field and refrain from taunting, arguing, cheating, or trash talk.
- Attend scheduled practices and games or notify their coach if unavailable, care for equipment and facilities, and help maintain a safe environment.

#### **Player Code of Conduct for Younger Players**

- Have fun and try your best.
- Be nice to players and coaches.
- Listen when coach talks.
- Play safe - take care of equipment and field.
- Use kind words.
- Tell a coach if you need help.

Players are encouraged to speak up if they feel unsafe, uncomfortable, or observe inappropriate behavior.

### ***Spectators are expected to:***

- Encourage good sportsmanship by showing positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game and practice—home or away.
- Place the emotional and physical well-being of all players above the desire to win.
- Ensure that players are enjoying the experience. Youth sports should be FUN!
- Respect team space by refraining from entering the dugouts/team benches, standing directly behind them, or attempting to communicate with players during games (unless there is an emergency), as this distracts both players and coaches.
- Refrain from confronting coaches during practice or games. Any concerns should be handled calmly, away from players and the field, after the event.
- Encourage their child to treat teammates, opponents, coaches, spectators, and officials with respect—regardless of race, gender, ability, or background.

## **VIOLATIONS**

### ***Coaches, Players, and Spectators must understand that:***

- Any form of verbal abuse, harassment, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Bullying, teasing, or threatening others is strictly prohibited.
- Fighting, abusive language, or aggressive behavior will result in disciplinary action.

- Alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are strictly prohibited on all program premises, including fields, gyms, and event locations.
  - Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in removal from the event and/or suspension from future events at the discretion of league staff.
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## **PROCEDURES**

While our hope is to foster a positive, safe, and fun environment for all, any violation of the Coaches, Players, or Spectators Code of Conduct will be taken seriously and addressed through the following procedures.

## **REPORTING MISCONDUCT**

Misbehavior will be documented before action is taken—unless the incident is severe and requires immediate intervention (see examples below).

Misconduct may be documented in one of two ways:

- **Direct Observation:** A League Representative personally witnesses the behavior and reports it to the League Administrator.
- **Eyewitness Complaint:** An eyewitness submits a signed, written complaint to the League Administrator or League Representative(s) within one (1) week of the incident.

## **INVESTIGATION PROCESS**

Within three (3) days of receiving documentation:

- The League Administrator/Representative(s) will review the incident.
- Witnesses may be interviewed, including those involved and those present.
- A determination will be made as to whether the behavior was a violation of the Code of Conduct.

If the complaint **does not warrant disciplinary action**, the matter will be closed and all involved will be notified.

If the complaint **does warrant action**, appropriate measure will be determined based on the nature, severity, and context of the incident.

## **POSSIBLE OUTCOMES**

### **Conduct Meeting**

A League Administrator/Representative may meet with the individual (parent, coach, or player) to address the behavior. The discussion may be documented and kept on file.

### **Written Notice**

A formal written notice may be issued outlining the concern, expected conduct moving forward, and any required corrective actions.

### **Temporary Suspension**

The individual may be restricted from attending or participating in league activities for a designated period (length determined based on the nature, severity, and context of the incident). A formal notice will explain the reason and the terms of the suspension.

### **Removal for the Remainder of the Season**

In cases of significant or repeated violations, the individual may be removed from league activities for the remainder of the season. Reinstatement may require a formal written request and approval by the League Administrator/Representative(s). If fewer than two games remain, the suspension may carry over to the next season.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR EJECTION**

- **Ejection from a Game** (by official or League Representative) results in a **two-game suspension**.
- If fewer than two games remain, the suspension will be carried over to the next season.
- **Ejected players or coaches are ineligible for All-Star selection.**
- Depending on the severity, further disciplinary action may be taken, including:
  - Season suspension.
  - Disqualification from future coaching roles.
  - Ineligibility for future All-Star coaching or participation.

**Note:** If a coach is suspended for the season, the League will appoint a replacement and notify the team's players and parents. A coach suspended for a full season **may not serve as a head coach the following year**.

## **IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**

The following behaviors require **immediate intervention** and may result in automatic disciplinary action:

- Taunting or verbally harassing umpires, officials, coaches, players, or spectators.
- Use of profanity or vulgar language.
- Publicly embarrassing or belittling a player, even one's own child.
- Possession or use of alcohol at practices or games, or on any league-affiliated facility.
- Threatening or aggressive remarks directed at others.
- Physical confrontation or violence.
- Refusing to leave after being ejected.

These incidents may be addressed by officials, League Representatives, or law enforcement if necessary.

## **SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS & POTENTIAL ACTIONS**

In addition to the general procedures outlined above, the following behaviors are considered serious violations of league expectations. Consequences will be determined by League Staff based on the nature and context of each situation, with the goal of ensuring safety, fairness, and a positive environment for all participants.

### **1. Use of Alcoholic Beverages or Illegal Drugs**

Prohibited before or during any game or practice.

- May result in removal from activities until a meeting with League Staff can be held.

### **2. Physical, Mental, or Verbal Abuse of, toward, or in the presence of a Child**

Includes aggression (yelling in anger, use of profanity, insults, or threats), intimidation, or humiliation.

- May result in immediate removal and/or temporary suspension while under review.

### **3. Use of Tobacco Products**

Not permitted within any playing field, gym, or event facility.

- May result in a reminder of policy expectations or further action if the behavior continues.

### **4. Failure to Provide Minimum Playing Time**

Coaches must follow league rules regarding equitable playing time.

- May result in a discussion with League Staff and corrective action as needed.

### **5. Cheating or Use of Ineligible Players**

Includes knowingly playing unregistered or ineligible participants.

- May result in forfeiture of the game and other actions as deemed appropriate.

### **6. Failure to Notify Players of Practices or Games**

Includes last-minute cancellations without valid reason or communication.

- May result in a reminder of communication expectations and additional action if persistent.

### **7. Coach Absence Without Prior Notice**

Missing practices or games without notifying League Staff.

- May result in review and follow-up to determine appropriate next steps.

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**Parent Concerns About a Coach:** Parent concerns will be addressed through a facilitated meeting between the parent, coach, and League Staff to work toward resolution.

**Review of Extended Suspensions:** Any extended suspension will be reviewed by League Staff, who will determine future eligibility based on the circumstances and the individual's cooperation with the process.

**Final Note:** We believe in the power of youth sports to build character, teamwork, and lifelong values. These procedures exist to ensure that all players, families, and coaches can enjoy a safe and respectful environment.

By working together, we can uphold the spirit of the game and set a strong example for the next generation – centered on **fun, learning, sportsmanship, and community**.