

Loudoun County

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services

Sports Code of Conduct



Introduction

Participation in sports programs and athletics can have a lasting and meaningful effect on the lives of children and on the lives of adult participants. It is the goal of the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) to provide the highest quality of programs and environment to ensure that the experiences in our programs and the leagues we work with are positive ones. For this to happen, it takes a commitment of all parties involved, including the participants, spectators, parents, officials, league representatives, and PRCS representatives. The following Code of Conduct has been established for each individual and the expectation is that while participating in whatever capacity, this code will be followed. A representative from PRCS Sports Department will attend your informational meetings to discuss this code of conduct and answer any questions.

Participants

- I will be committed to and encourage good sportsmanship by practicing and demonstrating good sportsmanship
- I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, player, official, league representative, PRCS staff or spectator
- I will treat my coaches and fellow players with respect and in doing so, I will expect to be treated with respect
- I will remember that playing sports is about learning and having fun, not winning at all costs and I will play to learn and increase my skills and for the love of the game
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches and the officials
- I will respect the decisions of the officials and accept their decisions
- I will always be modest in success and gracious in defeat
- I will play to the limit of my ability at all times
- I will respect the facilities where I play and remember that it is a privilege to use these facilities
- I will not engage in the use of profanity
- I will not use drugs or alcohol

IT IS THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO GO OVER AND EXPLAIN THESE WITH YOUR CHILD.

Spectators and Parents

- I will be committed to and encourage good sportsmanship by practicing and demonstrating good sportsmanship
- I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, player, official, league representative, PRCS staff, or spectator
- I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in verbal or physical threats that are aimed at any coach, player, official, league representative, PRCS staff, or spectator
- I will respect the decisions by the officials and accept their decisions
- I will not engage in the use of profanity
- I will not attend any athletic event while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- I will support all participants and encourage and cheer for achievement regardless of which team the player is on
- I will maintain my composure at all times
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of the participant ahead of my desire for my team to win
- I will help to create a positive experience by being a respectable fan and assisting with the team when necessary

Coaches

- I will always demonstrate high ideals, standards, and good sportsmanship
- I will always remember that it is my responsibility to teach my players about the game, help them enhance their skills, and develop a love for the game not a love for winning at all costs
- I am responsible for the attitude and actions of my players and my spectators
- I will never verbally disparage a player from either team, an official, spectator, league representative, PRCS staff, or another coach
- I will be committed to and encourage good sportsmanship by practicing and demonstrating good sportsmanship
- I will respect the decisions by the officials and accept their decisions
- I will not engage in the use of profanity
- I will not attend any athletic event while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- I will support all participants and encourage and cheer for achievement regardless of which team the player is on
- I will maintain self control at all times and accept adverse decisions without public display of emotion or a public display of dissatisfaction with the officials
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of the participant ahead of my desire to win
- I will do my very best to keep the game fun and enjoyable for all participants both at practice and during games
- I will be committed to challenging all players to strive for their highest level of play while recognizing that there is a wide range of developmental and skill levels in participants

Officials

- I will be knowledgeable of the rules
- I will be fair in the administering of the rules
- I will report to the field/gym ready to officiate on time and dressed in the proper uniform
- I will be fair yet firm
- I will not comment upon play or game situations unless it is in regards to the interpretation of a rule or ruling
- I will not engage in the use of profanity
- I will not attend any athletic event while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- I will always demonstrate high ideals, standards, and good sportsmanship

Corrective Actions for Violating the Code of Conduct

It is the hope of PRCS that everyone participating in an athletic activity can abide by the Code of Conduct and therefore create a positive environment and experience for everyone. While the individual youth league holds the responsibility of monitoring and enforcement of individual league rules, PRCS may enforce penalties on a case-by-case basis when necessary. All conversations and actions will be documented and given to the Sports Program Coordinator and the Division Manager for Parks and Sports. PRCS may enforce penalties in addition to any actions the league may take and will consider for guidelines below in determining the appropriate course of action.

A. Ejected Person

- The site supervisor or game official may eject a person from a current game.
- When ejected, the person must remove him/her self immediately from the contest area (field, gym, court) unless the player is a youth participant. When the player is a youth participant, they must remain on the bench with their team.
- If an ejected person does not leave the contest area then the coach is responsible for enforcing the ejection. Failure of enforcing the ejection by the coach will result in a forfeit.
- An ejected person may remain in the park/building if they remain orderly.
- If their ejection is due to being unruly, then they must leave the location. If there are additional outburst or threats the person will be asked to leave the park/building. Law enforcement assistance may be requested.

B. Length of Suspension

- Players ejected from a game will automatically be suspended from the next scheduled game.
- The league president or commissioner shall be responsible for suspending players for more than one game.
- The league president or commissioner and sports program coordinator shall be responsible for suspending players from further league play.
- Players removed from further league play cannot be replaced on the roster.
- Repeated Code of Conduct violations may jeopardize postseason participation by the individual or team.
- The severity of the infraction will determine the penalty and maximum penalties may involve more than one season and more than one sport.
- Each Code of Conduct incident will be reviewed and the team manager will be informed of the decision within a reasonable length of time.

C. Penalties

Minimum Penalty

- Warning by the official or site supervisor.

Medium Penalty

- Ejection from the current game and suspension from any subsequent games on the same day.
- Official may call the game and award a forfeit victory to the opponent.
- League president or commissioner may suspend the individual/team from between one additional game and may suspend participation up the length of the remaining season.

Maximum Penalty

- Penalty will be determined after Parks and Recreation staff review.
- Suspension from participating in PRCS leagues and/or activities

I have read the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Sports Code of Conduct and I agree to conduct myself in accordance with the Sports Code of Conduct while attending, coaching, officiating, participating