

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

\*Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation possesses a **zero-tolerance** policy for coaches, participants, parents and spectators in regards to inappropriate conduct and reserves the right to assess suspensions and/or prohibit attendance/participation at their discretion in order to maintain safety, appropriate conduct and overall program integrity. Each coach, participant, parent and spectator will be held accountable for the following conduct standards:

### **SPORTSMANSHIP/INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:**

Any and all team-affiliated persons (coaches, participants, parents and spectators) must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when involved in any Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department's youth athletic programs. This rule applies to conduct on all Mecklenburg County park property before, during, and after scheduled events.

NOTE: If spectators and/or affiliated persons' conduct become overly unruly & unsportsmanlike during the course of the game, the M CPRD staff & game officials reserve the authority to empty the facility & allow only coaches & players to remain, in the effort to finish game play.

### **BULLYING/INTIMIDATION:**

Coaches, participants, parents and spectators must not threaten, verbally abuse or make physical contact of an aggressive nature with any other coaches, participants, parents, spectators, Park and Recreation staff or officials.

### **COMMUNICATION WITH OFFICIALS:**

\*Questioning/Arguing judgment calls made by officials is strictly prohibited.

Only head coaches (youth sports) or team captains (adult sports) will be permitted to consult with the official and this must only be done in a sportsmanlike manner. It is in the best interest of head coaches to approach officials in a courteous manner and in the presence of staff whenever possible. Arguing/disputing judgment calls is strictly prohibited and will be viewed as verbal abuse. Coaches, participants, parents and/or spectators are not permitted to badger, criticize, harass or mock officials. Coaches, participants, parents and spectators must not threaten, verbally abuse or make physical contact of an aggressive nature with any other coaches, participants, parents, spectators, park and recreation staff or officials.

### **COACHING STAFF:**

All managers/coaches/team captains are responsible for the eligibility of all players and the conduct of all their participants, parents, and spectators. Assistant Coaches must remain seated at all times during the game. Suspension of coaches, players and other team affiliated persons will occur if any eligibility and/or conduct guidelines and procedures are not adhered to.

### **ALCOHOL/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES:**

The possession of, use of and/or participation while under the influence of alcohol or any other illegal substance is strictly prohibited.

### **EJECTIONS:**

Any person ejected from a game must leave the playing area immediately and at the request of the official and/or athletics staff to leave park property for the remainder of the day/night.

Youth Sports - Any coaches, participants or spectators who are ejected will be automatically ineligible to coach, participate and/or spectate until such time that they are notified by the Youth Sports Development Staff. Once ejected, Youth Sports will follow the *Youth Sports Suspension Policy* for any supplemental discipline.

Adult Sports – Any manager/coach/team captain or player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to a one (1) game suspension for the first offense and then a one (1) calendar year for the second offense in the same season. Any player ejected from a game for fighting will receive at least a two (2) game suspension. Depending on the severity of the situation, participant(s) could be suspended for an entire calendar year.

### **INCIDENT PROCEDURES:**

Youth Sports - Individuals reported to be ejected or in violation of the Code of Conduct will be notified and asked to provide a written statement regarding the details of the incident in question, as well as their involvement or participation in said incident by 5:00pm of the following Tuesday to a Youth Sports Development Team staff member at [YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov). Failure to provide a written statement is viewed as an admission of guilt and will be grounds for suspension.

Adult Sports – Should an ejection occur in a game, recreation staff on site will record statements of the incident and the game official will sign the report confirming the ejection. Individuals reported to be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct immediately receive a one (1) game suspension for the first offense and then a one (1) calendar year for the second offense in the same season. Any player ejected from a game for fighting will receive at least a three (3) game suspension. Depending on the severity of the situation, participant(s) could be suspended for an entire calendar year. There is no appeal.

### **SUSPENSIONS**

Any Coaches, Participants or Spectators who are suspended from league play will be ineligible to coach, participate and/or spectate for the duration of their suspension term. This includes any and all program related activities and events. Any violation while under suspension will be treated as a 2nd offense and all penalties will apply, including extending the existing suspension.

Youth Sports - Any suspension occurring with less than two games remaining in regular season will result in suspension from the remaining regular season games, as well as any and all upcoming post-season tournament games. Any suspension for a term of 1 year or more will require a written request for reinstatement to be submitted following the suspension term. The request may be emailed to [YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov) or mailed to Youth Sports Development, 1225 Remount Rd., Charlotte, NC 28208. The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to deny reinstatement and/or extend any and all suspensions.

Adult Sports – Two (2) accumulative suspensions during one (1) season will constitute suspension from play for one year from the date of the infraction. Any suspension for a term of 1 year or more will require a written request for reinstatement to be submitted following the suspension term. The request may be emailed to [AdultSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:AdultSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov) or mailed to Youth Sports Development, 1225 Remount Rd., Charlotte, NC 28208. The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to deny reinstatement and/or extend any and all suspensions.