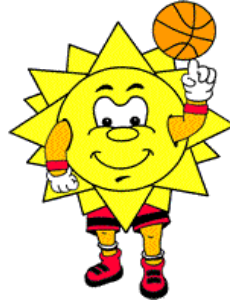


# 2018-2019 Winter Youth Basketball Rules



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***Mecklenburg County Youth Sports Philosophy:*** *To provide an environment for children to learn the fundamentals of sport while emphasizing the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, physical fitness and fair play.*

## I. LEAGUE INFORMATION

**A. GENERAL INFORMATION** - The program shall be known as the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department's Youth Winter Basketball Leagues.

The following leagues will be offered:

1. **Girl's** – For female participants only (Ages 10-12 yrs., play-up at 9 with permission)
2. **Coed** – Available to both male and female participants

**NOTE:** Age Divisions offered will include 3-5 (Start Smart – not league play), 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-16 years of age. Leagues will be geographically divided as North, Central or South within the County. **Score is not kept in the 5-6 Instructional and 7-8 Transitional age divisions.**

**B. REGISTRATION/LEAGUE INFORMATION** - Registration will be held in October and will run for a minimum of four weeks. Participants may register at any recreation center or online at [www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com). Questions may be directed to the Revolution Park Sports Academy at (980) 314-1116 or emailed to the Youth Sports Development team at [YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov).

**C. Prior to the start of each game, Recreation Center staff will make a general PA announcement to all spectators and players briefly outlining MCPRD behavior and sportsmanship expectations. A pre-game handshake at center court between both teams' players and coaches will then take place prior to tip-off. This pre-game handshake DOES NOT REPLACE the standard end-of-the-game handshake between players and coaches (new- 2018).**

## II. RULES

**A. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)** - All games will be governed by the **National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Rules** and the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department's **local rule modifications**, as mentioned below. These rules must be strictly adhered to by all officials, coaches, participants, parents and spectators. The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to modify league play rules to accommodate and or enhance the overall experience, safety and/or service being provided. For more information about the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Basketball Rules please visit their website at <http://www.nfhs.org/>.

### **B. 5-6 AGE INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION MODIFICATIONS**

1. **COURT** - The court sizes may vary from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  court size depending on the facility. The modified **goal height** required for the 6U age division is a maximum of 8 feet. **Free throws** will be taken no more than 8 feet from the face of the backboard (players are allowed to move forward if needed). Game sites should pre-measure and mark temporary free throw lines with flooring tape.
2. **BALL** - The official ball shall be any top-grade basketball; junior size, with a circumference of 27.5 inches.



3. **CLOCK** - Each game shall consist of four, 8-minute quarters, governed by a running clock, stopping only for injury or timeouts. The halftime period will be 3 minutes. The last minute of the game will be governed by an official clock, stopping on all violations, fouls, injury and timeouts.
4. **DEFENSE** – A mandatory zone defense must be fielded at all times (man to man coverage is prohibited). Defenses must set up behind the top of the key extended (which is defined by the top center point on the three-point arch extended from east to west on the court) **and go to their designated defensive player "spots" marked on the floor.** No full court pressing at any time. **No penalty – teaching moments.**
5. **STEALING/DOUBLE OR MULTIPLE TEAMING THE BALL**– Stealing is prohibited. Defensive players may pursue loose balls or intercept passes but may not dispossess an offensive player who is clearly in possession (holding or dribbling the ball). **Also, defensive players may not double or multiple team an offensive player clearly in possession of the ball (holding or dribbling the ball). Staff Officials will do their best to control this aspect of the game (new – 2018). No penalty – teaching moments.**
6. **OFFICIATING** – Officials will call fouls for instructional purposes only, stopping play to notify the player in violation and assist the head coach in implementing a **teaching moment.** Free throws will be awarded for fouls committed during the act of shooting only. Violations such as traveling and double dribbling will be called "loosely" following verbal cues to correct. As the season progresses, officials are encouraged to become less tolerant of blatant violations.  
**NOTE:** The head coach is allowed to be on the court during game play providing instruction and direct supervision. All other coaches should remain within the bench area.
7. **Score** – Score is not kept in this division.

### C. 7-8 AGE **INSTRUCTIONAL/TRANSITIONAL DIVISION MODIFICATIONS**

1. **COURT** - The regulation size court shall be used with exception of the **free throw line**, which shall be 12 feet from the face of the backboard. The modified **goal height** required for the 7-8 age group is a maximum of 9 feet.  
**NOTE:** A violation **will not** occur if a shooter stands on or shoots from behind and crosses the regulation 15 foot line. A violation on the shooter will only occur if he or she crosses the 12 foot line.
2. **BALL** - The official ball shall be any top-grade basketball; women's approved ball, with a circumference of 28.5 inches.
3. **CLOCK** - Each game shall consist of four, 8-minute quarters, governed by a running clock, stopping only for foul shots, injury and timeouts. The last 2 minutes of the game will be governed by an official clock, stopping on all violations, injury, fouls and timeouts.
4. **DEFENSE** - Defenses must set up behind the top of the key extended (which is defined by the top center point on the three point arch extended from east to west on the court.) Once the player and ball cross the half court line, the defense may engage. **Penalty – 1 warning, then tech fouls (3 maximum, then inbound the ball to keep game flow).** Full court pressing will NOT be allowed at any time during the game.
5. **STEALING/DOUBLE OR MULTIPLE TEAMING THE BALL**- Stealing is prohibited. Defensive players may pursue loose balls or intercept passes but may not

dispossess an offensive player who is clearly in possession (holding or dribbling the ball). Also, defensive players may not double or multiple team an offensive player who is clearly in possession of the ball (holding or dribbling the ball). (new-2018).

6. **OFFICIATING** - Officials will call fouls for instructional purposes only, stopping play to notify the player in violation and assist the head coach in implementing a **teaching moment**. Free throws will be awarded for fouls committed during the act of shooting only. All coaches should remain within the bench area.
7. **SCORE** – Score is not kept in this division (*new in 2016*).

#### D. 9-10 AGE RECREATION DIVISION MODIFICATIONS

1. **COURT** - The regulation court shall be used with exception of the **free throw line**, which shall be 12 feet from the face of the backboard.  
**NOTE:** A violation **will not** occur if a shooter stands on or shoots from behind and crosses the regulation 15 foot line. A violation will occur on the shooter if he/she crosses the 12 foot line.
2. **BALL** - The official ball shall be any top-grade basketball; women's approved ball, with a circumference of 28.5 inches.
3. **CLOCK** - Each game shall consist of four, 8-minute quarters, governed by a running clock, stopping only for foul shots, injury and timeouts. The last 2 minutes of the game will be governed by an official clock, stopping on all violations, injury, fouls and timeouts.  
**Exception:** A 20+ point lead, the clock will run continuous except for injury, timeouts or until the lead is reduced to less than 20 points.  
**Exception:** A 30+ lead, no more scores will be put on the clock, but staff will keep the scores in the scorebook, if score gets below 20 points, scores go back on the clock.
4. **DEFENSE** - Defenses must set up behind the top of the key extended (which is defined by the top center point on the three point arch extended from east to west on the court.) Once the player and ball cross the half court line, the defense may engage. Full court pressing will be allowed only in the last 2 minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and also in any overtime period.  
**Exception:** A team leading by 20+ points may not press in the last 2 minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.  
**Penalty:** A warning will be issued on the first violation. A technical foul will be assessed each time the violation occurs thereafter.

#### E. GIRLS 10-12 AGE RECREATION DIVISION MODIFICATIONS

1. **COURT** - The regulation court shall be used with exception of the **free throw line**, which shall be 12 feet from the face of the backboard.  
**NOTE:** A violation **will not** occur if a shooter stands on or shoots from behind and crosses the regulation 15 foot line. A violation will occur on the shooter if he/she crosses the 12 foot line.
2. **BALL** - The official ball shall be any top-grade basketball; women's approved ball, with a circumference of 28.5 inches.
3. **CLOCK** - Each game shall consist of four, 8-minute quarters, governed by a running clock, stopping only for foul shots, injury and timeouts. The last 2 minutes

of the game will be governed by an official clock, stopping on all violations, injury, fouls and timeouts.

**Exception:** A 20+ point lead, the clock will run continuous except for injury, timeouts or until the lead is reduced to less than 20 points.

**Exception:** A 30+ lead, no more scores will be put on the clock, but staff will keep the scores in the scorebook, if score gets below 20 points, scores go back on the clock.

4. **DEFENSE** - Defenses must set up behind the top of the key extended (which is defined by the top center point on the three point arch extended from east to west on the court.) Once the player and ball cross the half court line, the defense may engage. Full court pressing will be allowed only in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and also in any overtime period (new in 2017-2018)

**Exception:** A team leading by 10+ points may not press in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (new in 2017-2018)

**Penalty:** A warning will be issued on the first violation. A technical foul will be assessed each time the violation occurs thereafter.

#### F. 11-12 AGE RECREATION DIVISION MODIFICATIONS

1. **COURT** - The regulation court shall be used with exception of the **free throw line**, which shall be 15 feet from the face of the backboard (new-2018).
2. **BALL** - The official ball shall be any top-grade basketball; women's approved ball, with a circumference of 28.5 inches.
3. **CLOCK** - Each game shall consist of four, 8-minute quarters, governed by a running clock, stopping only for foul shots, injury and timeouts. The last two (2) minutes of the game will be governed by an official clock, stopping on all violations, injury, fouls and timeouts.

**Exception:** A 20+ point lead, the clock will run continuous except for injury, timeouts or until the lead is reduced to less than 20 points.

**Exception:** A 30+ lead, no more scores will be put on the clock, but staff will keep the scores in the scorebook, if score gets below 20 points, scores go back on the clock.

4. **DEFENSE** - Defenses must set up behind the top of the key extended (which is defined by the top center point on the three point arch extended from east to west on the court.) Once the player and ball cross the half court line, the defense may engage. Full court pressing will be allowed only in the last 2 minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and also in any overtime period.

**Exception:** A team leading by 20+ points may not press in the last 2 minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**Penalty:** A warning will be issued on the first violation. A technical foul will be assessed each time the violation occurs thereafter.

#### G. 13-14 & 15-16 AGE RECREATION DIVISION MODIFICATIONS

1. **COURT** – The regulation court size and goal height shall be used.
2. **BALL** - The official ball shall be any top-grade basketball; men's approved ball, circumference 29.5 inches.
3. **CLOCK** - Each game shall consist of four, 8-minute quarters, governed by a running clock, stopping only for foul shots, injury and timeouts. The last 2 minutes of the game will be governed by an official clock, stopping on all violations, injury, fouls

and timeouts.

**Exception:** A 20+ point lead, the clock will run continuous except for injury, timeouts or until the lead is reduced to less than 20 points.

**Exception: A 30+ lead, no more scores will be put on the clock, but staff will keep the scores in the scorebook, if score gets below 20 points, scores go back on the clock.**

4. **DEFENSE** – Pressing defense will be allowed the entire game.

**Exception:** A 20+ point lead, the team leading may not press. A warning will be issued on the first violation. A technical foul will be called each time the violation occurs thereafter.

### III. LOCAL RULES AND MODIFICATIONS

**A. VOLUNTEER COACHES** – It is **required** that all Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Volunteers complete the online volunteer application process. **ONLY** approved volunteers may be appointed as coaches. Prior to approval, volunteers may not interact with program participants in the program setting which includes program related practices, games, activities or events. All head coaches are required to complete NYSCA Certification Training as Youth Sports Coaches through the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) <http://www.nays.org/Coaches/>.

**B. BENCH/SIDELINE PERSONNEL** – A maximum of three bench personnel will be permitted in the bench area. This may include coaches and/or statistician/manager. All other team personnel must remain inside the designated spectator areas. Only Mecklenburg County approved volunteers may reside in the bench or player area. Each approved volunteer must be issued an ID Badge by his or her respective center staff.

**Exception:** Bench personnel in the 5-6 and 7-8 age divisions are prohibited from keeping/utilizing a scorebook for any purpose. *(New in 2016)*

**C. "MUST PLAY" RULE** – Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department encourages maximum participation for all participants. **ALL TEAMS** are required to abide by the "MUST PLAY" Rule. **In the 5-6 Instructional and 7-8 Instructional/Transitional age divisions, coaches are required to distribute playing time as evenly as possible. Substitutions are not restricted.** Coaches in the 5-6 Instructional and 7-8 Instructional/Transitional divisions are expected to play all players two full quarters (one in each half), except for injury. *(New in 2016)*

All coaches in the 9-10 and up and Girls Only 10-12 years Recreation divisions must play ALL players a minimum of 1 full quarter, during the 1<sup>st</sup> half with no substitutions permitted (except for injury) in the first or second quarter. **Coaches with 6-10 players must play 5 in the entire first quarter and the remaining players in the second quarter.**

**NOTE: The rule allowing coaches to select which opposing players can play in the second quarter (when a team had less than their 10 rostered players) HAS BEEN ELIMINATED. Coaches will select their own players to play in the second quarter following the guidelines outlined above. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that all players get to play for a minimum of four (4) consecutive minutes during the second half of each game to assure fair playing time. (new – 2018).**

\*Site Supervisory/Athletic Personnel will assist with the enforcement of the must play rules if and when alerted by scorer keepers/staff.





- D. TIME OUTS** - Each team in the Recreation divisions will receive 3 full (1-minute) timeouts and 2 half (30-second) timeouts per regulation game. Ages 9+ will receive 1 additional full (1-minute) timeout during each overtime period if necessary. **Girls Only 10-12 Division shall receive 4 full (1-minute) timeouts per game, plus 1 full time-out per overtime period (new in 2017-2018).** A player/head coach may orally or visually request a timeout.  
**Exception:** The 5-6 and 7-8 divisions will be granted 3 full 1-minute time outs per game.
- E. WARM UP** – On court warm up time will not be granted unless there is a forfeit or games end early providing an open court prior to tip off. Games will begin promptly at their scheduled time.
- F. OVERTIME** - In case of a TIE in regulation games, the winner will be determined by a 2-minute overtime period, to be repeated if necessary. An official clock, stopping on all whistled violations, held ball situations, injury, fouls and timeouts, will govern all overtime periods.  
**Exception:** The 5-6 and 7-8 age division does not keep score so no overtime period applies.
- G. GAME DAYS / EVENINGS** - Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to schedule games when needed as a result of cancellations due to inclement weather or to accommodate playoff games/tournament play. Teams should be aware that playing games on weekday evenings or weekend mornings and/or evenings is always a possibility.
- H. SCORKEEPER** - The Scorekeeper at the scorer's table will be the official scorer at all times- NO EXCEPTIONS.
- I. CLOCK OPERATION** - Park and Recreation staff will oversee the official game start time and clock operation. All game officials must check with staff to verify time before decisions are made in regards to forfeits or grace periods.
- J. GRACE PERIODS** - There is a 10 minute grace period that will be allowed for the first scheduled game of the day only. ALL other games will begin promptly at game time.
- K. INCLEMENT WEATHER HOTLINE** - In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER, please call (704) 432-3834 after 4:00pm-weekdays & after 8am on weekends for an update on game conditions and status. Secondly, for additional information, you may call your respective Recreation Center.
- L. ADA COMPLIANCE** - In order to comply with the American Disabilities Act, these rules may be adapted in order for participation. An "ADA Exception Form" will be submitted prior to beginning of play, and approved by Karla Gray, Therapeutics Division Director, and the Youth Sports and Fitness staff, and kept on file to verify changes of rules.

#### IV. TEAM RULES

- A. ROSTERS**- A player must be listed on an official roster. Official rosters for ages 5-14 and **10-12 Girls Only** must be submitted to the Youth Sports Staff **Monday, November 26, 2018**; for ages 16U, official rosters are due on **Friday, December 28, 2018**. Official Rosters are locked and frozen once the 1<sup>st</sup> game of the pre-season is underway. Roster limits are as follows:
- **INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE TEAMS (AGES 5-6)- MIN 8, MAX 12**
  - **INSTRUCTIONAL/TRANSITIONAL & ALL RECREATION LEAGUE TEAMS (AGES 7-8, 9-16 & GIRLS ONLY -) MIN 8, MAX 10**
- B. TEAM PHOTO ID SHEET** - All teams must submit an official Team Photo ID sheet. The Photo ID sheet must be complete, verified and signed by the Facility Manager of that center or the Athletic Director of the independent organization prior to playing the 1<sup>st</sup> game of the

pre-season. Date of birth and a photograph must be provided for every player. Each team manager/coach must have a copy of their team photo ID sheet at each game & ensure that the Official Scorer has verified them prior to game time. Games whereby teams are unable to provide a copy of their Photo ID Sheet prior to games end are subject to forfeit.

**\*Exception:** 5-6 and 7-8 Age Divisions

- C. **PROOF OF AGE** – Recreation Center staff should confirm the age of all participants by verifying only valid birth certificates or other approved legal documents. Players with driver's licenses may use them. Any player not having approved proof of age will be ineligible.
- D. **UNIFORMS** - During competition, all teams are required to wear uniforms consisting of the same or similar colored shirts/jerseys, preferably, with legal basketball numbers on both the front and back. Players or teams failing to comply with this rule should be reported to the respective Focus Team Representative and Youth Athletics staff. Player may still play with a pinnie jersey with legal basketball numbers. Temporary modifications are prohibited: No taped-on or written-on numbers.
- E. **FORFEITS** – In the 5-6 and 7-8 age divisions, each team must be ready to play with four players. Teams are encouraged to 'loan' a player or two to the team that is short players and then play. There are no forfeits in these two divisions.

In the 9-16 and Girls Only 10-12 Recreation age divisions, each team must be ready to play with a minimum of 4 players on the court at their scheduled game time. The game may begin with 4 vs. 5 players. In the event a team is unable to produce 4 players to begin the game, the result is a forfeit by that team. In the event both teams are unable to produce the required amount of players to begin the game, then both teams will receive a forfeit and a loss will be applied to both teams record for the purposes of the league standings. Teams must produce their 5<sup>th</sup> player by the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter or the result of the game is a forfeit (***New in 2017***). If a team forfeits three times in a season, it will be subject to dismissal from the league, pending review of the incidents by the Youth Sports & Fitness Office and Focus Team. Officials are not permitted to officiate unofficial forfeited game scrimmages. Officials will deliberate with Park and Recreation Staff on site prior to issuing forfeits. **\*The Park and Recreation staff reserves the right to overrule an official's decision regarding a forfeit with regard to extenuating circumstances.**

- F. **DISSENT** - If a team, coach or participant attempt to delay, hinder or prevent the start of or completion of a game in protest, the team, coach or participant may be suspended for 1 year from the date of the infraction.

## V. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. **INELIGIBLE PLAYERS** - Participants may be listed on one roster only. Any player listed on multiple rosters or participating on multiple teams will be found to be ineligible immediately. Any and all teams which the ineligible player is found to be listed on the roster of will be subject to forcible forfeit of all games found in violation. An ineligible player will be subject to suspension, pending review of incident. Any team manager/ coach knowingly or willingly playing a suspended or ineligible player will be suspended for one calendar year or more, from all Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation youth sports activities and events.  
**SCOREBOOK - Coaches are to make sure they check the scorebook before each game to verify that their players are listed for the game. A name cannot be entered into the scorebook, unless the player is present. Coaches are required to provide both first and last names for players – NO NICKNAMES. Penalty:** A Technical foul will be charged to the team when adding a name to the team roster in the scorebook once the



game has started. Maximum one foul per team regardless of the number of infractions. Penalized at the time it occurs.

B.

## VI. AGE CLASSIFICATION

A. **CUT OFF DATE** - Age Classifications are determined by the participant's calculated age as of **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019**.

B. **PLAY UP POLICY** – Participants registering in Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Youth Sport Programs are strongly recommended to register within their corresponding pre-determined age group according to their chronological age as determined by the "cut off" date. In the event that a parent or guardian feels that their child would benefit greatly from participating in a higher age division, which is not recommended, the department acknowledges the request and will accommodate the parent/guardian by approving the "Play Up" request for participants moving up by **1 year of age only**.

**A Play Up Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement must be signed by a parent/guardian and stored on file at the respective recreation center, as well as a copy submitted to the Youth Sports Staff at the beginning of league play.**

## VII. TOURNAMENT PLAY

A. **COUNTYWIDE** – A sliding scale will be used to select teams for the Countywide Tournament (see table below).

# TEAMS IN REGULAR SEASON LEAGUE	# TEAMS ADVANCING TO COUNTYWIDE TOURNAMENT
9+ TEAMS	TOP 6
7-8 TEAMS	TOP 5
5-6 TEAMS	TOP 4
4 TEAMS	TOP 3

The top teams in each league with the best regular season record will advance to the countywide tournament. Seeding will be determined by the regular season standings. If the event of a tie between 2 or more teams, tournament eligibility seedings will be determined by the following tie-breakers:

- 1) Head to head record
- 2) **Fewest number of games forfeited (new in 2018)**
- 3) Fewest defensive points allowed against each other
- 4) Fewest total defensive points allowed in the regular season
- 5) Coin toss

The Focus Team and Youth Sports Development Teams will set up the Countywide Tournament Brackets.

B. **SWAC** – Teams in eligible age divisions will have the opportunity to participate in the State-Wide Activities Committees' (SWAC) State RECREATIONAL & OPEN tournaments, respectively. NOTE: TEAMS THAT REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE WILL FUND THE COST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SWAC TOURNAMENTS. FUNDING INCLUDES: TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION, TRAVEL, HOTEL and FOOD.

<http://www.ncrpa.net>

## VIII. PROTESTS

### A. **PROTESTS - PROTESTS WILL NOT BE HONORED**

1) Discrepancies about participant age should be resolved by staff on site utilizing the Photo ID Sheet provided.

### B. **CONFLICT RESOLUTION / CHAIN OF COMMAND** - If a conflict arises and no decision is rendered by the onsite athletic staff, then the Focus Team Group will immediately schedule a meeting or conference call to make a final ruling. The order of decision making is as follows:

1) **Game Officials:** Govern play on the courts

2) **MCPRD Staff:** Provide onsite administrative checkpoints for rule modifications, paperwork and scorekeeping

3) **Youth Sports Staff:** Oversees league administration

## IX. CODE OF CONDUCT

\*MCPRD 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. PARENTS OF PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION FOR YOUTH SPORTS (PAYS) TRAINING COURSE OFFERED AT THEIR RESPECTIVE RECREATION CENTER PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE SEASON. 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:

### A. **COACHING STAFF:**

1. Head Coaches are RESPONSIBLE for the eligibility of all players, as well as the conduct of all participants, parents, and spectators.

2. Assistant Coaches must remain seated at all times during the game. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a technical foul and will also result in the Head Coach being restricted to his/her bench and seated for the remainder of the game.

### B. **INAPPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION WITH OFFICIALS:**

*\*Questioning/Arguing judgment calls made by officials is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.*

1. ONLY HEAD COACHES 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.

2. Arguing/disputing judgment calls is strictly prohibited and will be viewed as verbal abuse. Coaches, participants and/or spectators are not permitted to badger, criticize, harass or mock officials.

### C. **INTIMIDATION, COMMUNICATING THREATS, VERBAL ABUSE & BULLYING**

1. Coaches, participants, parents and spectators may not attempt to intimidate, threaten, verbally abuse or engage in a verbal confrontation of any sort with any other coaches, participants, parents, spectators, Park and Recreation staff or officials.

### D. **POOR SPORTSMANSHIP & INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:**

1. 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 MCPRD staff & game officials reserve the authority to empty the facility & allow only coaches & players to remain, in the effort to finish game play.

**E. ALCOHOL/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES:**

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

**F. EJECTIONS/INCIDENT PROCEDURES:**

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 otherwise by Youth Sports staff.

Individuals reported to be ejected or in violation of the Code of Conduct will be notified of an immediate temporary suspension from the program 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 staff member at [YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov). Failure to provide a statement is viewed as an admission of guilt.

**X. SUSPENSIONS**

For more information on suspensions, please refer to the Sports Suspension Policy for Youth Sports

**PLEASE REFER TO THE [SUSPENSION POLICY](#) FOR YOUTH SPORTS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT.**

**For more information about MCPRD Youth Sports program, please contact your nearest Recreation Center or the Youth Sports Department at (980) 314-1116 or email [YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov).**

**Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department encourages and promotes inclusive leisure experiences in all of our programs, activities and sports. Inclusive leisure experiences encourage and enhance opportunities for people of varying abilities to participate and interact in life's activities together with dignity. It also provides an environment that promotes and fosters physical, social and psychological inclusion of people with diverse experiences and skill levels. Inclusion enhances individuals' potential for full and active participation in leisure activities and experiences.**



The following policy is to help protect the participants, parents, volunteer coaches, officials, staff, and other volunteers of our youth sports programs. In an effort to make our programs better, the following will be implemented for basketball, baseball/softball, soccer, flag football and any other future youth related sports leagues/events.

## **I. Suspension Policy for all Youth Sports Leagues:**

1. All volunteer coaches must abide by Volunteer Services' policies and procedures for volunteers, specifically in the area of conduct. Volunteer coaches are an extension of the Park and Recreation department which adheres to a 'zero tolerance' policy regarding conduct.
- 1.2. Any volunteer coaches, participants or spectators who are suspended from league play by an official or staff person 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;
- 2.3. Any violation while under suspension will be treated as a 2nd offense and all penalties will apply, including extending the existing suspension;
- 3.4. Any suspension occurring with less than two games remaining in the regular season will result in suspension from all remaining regular season games, as well as any and all upcoming post-season tournament games;
- 4.5. Any ejection/suspension that occurs during the post-season tournament will result in suspension during the next sports season for which the individual participates;
- 5.6. Any suspension for a term of 6 months 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 & Fitness (YSF), 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. Reinstated participants, parents or coaches must complete the relevant re-training and/or education program prior to reinstatement.

## **II. Ejection/Suspension Procedures:**

*Once an ejection/incident happens: (Day of Games)*

1. Ejected individual must leave facility and premises immediately, or police will be called.
2. Staff on Site – Must complete an ejection/incident report completely. Noting items such as:
  - a) Individual(s) involved
  - b) Team/Recreation Center affiliation
  - c) Purpose of Ejection/Incident
  - d) Facts, not opinions/description of incident
3. Site Supervisor – Once Report is completed by staff the site supervisor (Full Time Staff) should review the report and send directly to YSF Staff.

*Once ejection/incident report is received by YSF Staff:*

1. YSF Staff will contact official booking agent to retrieve reports from the officials that officiated the game when the ejection/incident occurred.

2. YSF Staff will contact Recreation Center Staff associated with the individual(s) in the ejection/incident report and request statements from all parties involved and/or witnesses.
3. All Statements will be given specific timelines as to when they are due, i.e. 5:00pm on Tuesday following the regular season game on Saturday.
4. All Statements will be compiled and any suspensions/warnings for parents and participants will be delivered to that Recreation Center Staff by the YSF staff to distribute to individual(s) involved in the ejection/incident by Wednesday at 5:00 pm following the regular season game that the ejection/incident occurred. Should a volunteer coach violate Volunteer Services' policy, they will be informed by Volunteer Services of their suspension/ejection from the program.

### **III. When Youth Sports & Fitness receives a complaint/ejection report pertaining to a coach/player/parent that is requiring additional investigation, YSF Staff will:**

1. Gather information and/or eye-witness accounts of the event that took place from all parties involved. This may include the individual in question, other coaches/parents, site supervisor, game officials, and/or other staff present;
2. If warranted, the individual will be contacted by phone and/or email by facility staff or YSF staff, and will be asked to submit a written statement of events;
3. The Recreation Coordinator/Supervisor/YSF staff has the authority to determine the severity of the situation and to enforce the appropriate range of disciplinary actions for parents and participants. YSF staff The RC/S will report in brief, the nature of the complaint, the findings of the investigation and the sanction applied to the individual. YSF staff will report the same information to Volunteer Services when the situation involves a volunteer coach for Volunteer Services to apply any sanction. This information will be recorded in the suspension log located on SharePoint and, in the case of a volunteer coach, documentation will be added to the coach's volunteer file held with Volunteer Services.

### **IV. Factors Considered in All Disciplinary Actions:**

When reviewing an ejection/incident and deciding what action is most appropriate in a given situation, RC/SYSF/Volunteer Services will take into consideration a variety of circumstances including, but not limited to the following factors (in no particular order):

- Violation of Volunteer Services policy (for volunteer coaches only)
- Violation of code of conduct (for parents and participants)
- Number of offenses on file
- Remorse or acknowledgement of behavior
- Child endangerment
- Violation of the law
- Prior complaints / review action
- Blatant disregard for the rules and policies

### **V. Definitions of Possible Disciplinary Actions:**

1. **Verbal Warning** – YSF Staff will verbally discuss undesirable conduct with the individual(s). This meeting will outline the expectations of the department and reinforce to the individual(s) that conduct detrimental to the program will not be tolerated and could result in further disciplinary action. Verbal warning will be documented on file.
2. **One or Multiple Game Suspension** – YSF Staff will suspend individual(s) one or more games. Any individual(s) that has been suspended will lose the privilege of attending or participating in any practices or games during the suspension period. If a Parent/volunteer cCoach or parent is suspended, the individual(s) must complete the appropriate training, NYSCA/PAYS, and re-read/sign the appropriate code of conduct, before being allowed to participate in activities following the suspension period. Suspensions will be documented on file.
3. **Season Suspension** – YSF Staff will suspend individual(s) for the remainder of that sports season. Any individual(s) suspended for the season will be banned from the facilities, games, and practices for the remainder of the season.
4. **Year Suspension** – YSF Staff will suspend individual(s) for one calendar year, which will include all youth athletic events. After one calendar year, the individual(s) will then have to make a formal request to the RC/SYouth Sports and Fitness section to be re-instated into the program. The individual(s) will then have to meet with the RC/SYSF staff and Recreation Manager to determine if the individual(s) is/are capable of following the Youth Sports Code of Conduct.
5. **Indefinite Suspension** – YSF Staff will suspend individual(s) from further involvement in any youth athletic event indefinitely.

## VI. Offense & Penalty:

### XI.a. Volunteer Coaches Suspension Guidelines

Level 1			
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ejection from a game.</li> <li>• Failure to follow departmental established guidelines, rules, policies and procedures as applicable to related programming.</li> <li>• Failure to comply with YSF official's decision.</li> <li>• Attempt to delay, hinder, or prevent the start or completion of a game in protest.</li> <li>• Disgruntled expressions such as rude gestures or comments, screaming and loudly disagreeing with others; throwing/kicking/striking of bats, balls and other miscellaneous equipment.</li> </ul>	Penalty	Not necessarily preceded by a warning... immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum two (2) game suspension.
Level 2			
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging in discrimination or harassment</li> </ul>	Penalty	Not necessarily preceded by a warning...



	<p>in violation of the organization’s policies on equal employment and/or harassment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refusal to perform volunteer assignment or refusal to perform an action reasonably requested by a supervisor.</li> <li>• Departure from job station, department, or campus premises without notifying supervisor.</li> <li>• Excessive absenteeism and/or tardiness.</li> <li>• Instances of discourtesy toward member of the public, family members, residents, volunteers and employees.</li> </ul>		<p>immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum one (1) year suspension.</p>
<b>Level 3</b>			
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct or action which endangers the safety or well-being of any other person.</li> <li>• Unauthorized use of the organization’s property for either personal or business purposes.</li> <li>• Creating discord, using threatening or abusive language, or engaging in disorderly behavior which impedes operational activities or which may compromise the safety of employees.</li> <li>• Deliberate destruction, abuse or unauthorized removal of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation property.</li> </ul>	Penalty	<p>Not necessarily preceded by a warning... immediate ejection and removal from the premises and an indefinite suspension from all MCPRD youth sports programs.</p>
<b>Level 4 - Unlawful</b>			
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting to volunteer assignment with drugs or alcohol in one’s system or selling, using, dispensing, or possessing alcohol, illegal drugs or other controlled substances.</li> <li>• Possessing a firearm or other weapon on the organization’s property or while engaged in organization business.</li> <li>• Conduct or action which endangers the safety or well-being of any other person.</li> </ul>	Penalty	<p>Not necessarily preceded by a warning... immediate ejection and removal from the premises and an indefinite suspension from all MCPRD youth sports program.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.</li> <li>Any violation of North Carolina law.</li> </ul>		
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**b. Participants/Parents Suspension Guidelines**

Level 1 - Standard			
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to follow departmental established guidelines, rules, policies and procedures as applicable to related programming.</li> <li>F; failure to comply with YSF official's decision.</li> <li>T: taunting/mocking/harassment of players.</li> <li>D; disgruntled expressions such as rude gestures or comments, screaming and loudly disagreeing with others or obscene/profane/vulgar language; throwing/kicking/striking of bats, balls and other miscellaneous equipment.</li> <li>U; unnecessary roughness among participants</li> </ul>	Penalty	Not necessarily preceded by a warning... immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum two (2) game suspension.
Level 2 - Verbal			
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malicious obscene/profane/vulgar verbal abuse directed towards another individual.</li> <li>V; verbal epithets related to race, color religion, creed, gender or sexual orientation.</li> <li>V; verbal communication of threats, physical violence or acts of insulting another with intention to offend, defame or embarrass.</li> </ul>	Penalty	Not necessarily preceded by a warning... immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum one (1) year suspension.
Level 3 - Physical			
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical aggression towards another; pushing, shoving, striking or touching</li> </ul>	Penalty	Not necessarily preceded by a warning... immediate ejection and removal from the

	<p>another individual with the perceived intent to incite, inflict or cause harm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I; invading another individual's personal space during a dispute.</li> </ul>		premises and an indefinite suspension from all M CPRD youth sports programs.
Level 4 - Unlawful			
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any violation of North Carolina law.</li> <li>P; possession of firearms, knives, explosive devices, weapons.</li> <li>U or under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, controlled substances, chemical or paraphernalia.</li> <li>A; assault with or without a weapon.</li> </ul>	Penalty	Not necessarily preceded by a warning... immediate ejection and removal from the premises and an indefinite suspension from all M CPRD youth sports program.

**\*\*\*NOTE:** *Suspensions will be tracked and monitored. Individuals who have been suspended will be immediately placed on a probationary status for a period of one (1) year from the date of the offense. A second offense by the same individual within one (1) year, regardless of nature, will result in a minimum of double the term of the penalty and possible indefinite suspension.*