



UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT POLICY FOR YOUTH & ADULT ATHLETICS

The City of Knoxville Parks & Recreation Department (KPRD) strives to promote the benefits of participating in team sports, such as team work, physical conditioning, sportsmanship, character-building, and social development. Unsportsmanlike conduct which undermines the good in sports will not be tolerated. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct included, but are not limited to, fighting/physical altercations, verbal abuse and/or harassing comments, and moral/ethical decisions that go against league rules or endanger the safety of any individuals.

Definitions of Potential Incidents

- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct** – Conduct unbecoming to a sportsman, such as fairness, courteous relations and acceptance of results. Any incident not defined below may result in penalties consistent with others as outlined in this policy.
 - **Fighting / Physical Altercations** – A hostile encounter with another party or parties, resulting in a physical struggle or contact, will be defined as a “fight”.
 - **Verbal Abuse** – The intentional act of insulting another individual through oral measures with the aim of offending, use of abusive language, tormenting others, and baiting of individuals.
 - **Use of Racial and/or Gender Epithets** – Any use of racial or gender epithets used in reference to an individual’s race, color, gender, or sexual orientation.

Definitions of Individuals Involved:

- **Leader/Coach** – an individual who holds any supervisory position, including but not limited to coaches, assistant coaches, program officials, program supervisors, and league commissioners
- **Participant** – an individual, other than a leader or fan/spectator, who takes an active part in the sporting activity that KPRD sponsors
- **Fans/Spectators** – an individual who participates in a sporting activity by demonstrating support without taking a leadership or participant role in that particular event.

Examples of Punishments (may be increased depending on specifics of incident):

- Ejection from a game (or incident occurs following game and person is removed) – 4 game suspension
- Fighting / Physical Altercation or Threat – 1 year
- Additional incidents at any time –
 - 1 year (if a 4 game suspension)
 - 2 years (or lifetime) if original punishment was 1 year or longer

Process Following Incident:

- **Immediately following incident** - Any person(s) ejected or asked to leave a facility/property shall leave immediately. The game shall not continue until the person(s) has been removed. Failure to comply with leaving may result in forfeiture of game and league staff contacting the Knoxville Police Department. Individuals in violation of this policy will be notified, if at all possible, by phone call, email, or letter.
- **Appeal Process** – Individuals may request an appeal hearing to further discuss incidents. The individual must request an appeal hearing with the Athletics Coordinator within 7 days of being notified of the punishment. The decision of the appeal hearing shall be final and not subject to further review. The initial punishment remains in effect
- **Serving Punishment** – Any punishment levied applies to all City of Knoxville athletics programs. If individual is a coach, he/she must turn in their ID badge until approved to coach again. Failure to comply with punishment shall result in immediate ejection, an addition to the punishment timeframe, and may result in the person being added to KPRD’s No Trespassing List. Depending on the situation, the game may also be forfeited.