

WSB Code of Conduct

The following is a code of conduct for all youth and adult sports. This code of conduct is to be followed by all participants, coaches, officials and staff persons participating in sports programs using the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (hereafter referred to as the Department) outdoor sports fields or indoor sports facilities.

WSB CODE OF CONDUCT

All players, coaches, officials and staff participating in sports programs using Department facilities are bound by the following code of conduct:

1. Good sporting behavior will be observed in all sports programs. Respect for players, coaches, officials, and spectators is essential for amateur competition and fair play.

2. Derogatory or unsporting conduct shall be defined as follows:

Any action involving players, coaches, managers, teams, spectators, or officials which results in personal abuse by verbal or physical means, as determined by the official(s), league director or the sports organization in charge of the program.

3. Sporting conduct by players towards the opposition, officials, spectators and staff is mandatory. The league director or sports organization shall have the authority to administer disciplinary action to individual players, coaches, managers, spectators, and officials for abuses and derogatory conduct as follows:

A. Ejection or suspension of players, teams, coaches, managers, officials, or spectators.

B. Expulsion of teams, coaches, or managers.

C. Forfeiture of game(s).

The severity of the unsporting action and/or the frequency of occurrence will determine the appropriate course of disciplinary action.

4. Game officials may eject a player, coach, spectator or other participant from a game for unsporting conduct or for consuming alcoholic beverages in violation of any applicable laws or for the illegal use of a controlled substance either on Department property or in sufficient quantity prior to the event to impair significantly his/her participation and/or behavior.

5. The decision to eject a player, coach or spectator will be made by the game official, sports organization or league director. This decision will be a judgment decision and will not be considered grounds for protest.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the team members to cooperate with game officials in controlling spectators or team followers. Game officials may declare a game forfeited if a team fails to reasonably cooperate with officials in controlling spectators.

6. Any ejection or other action resulting in suspension prior to, during, or after a league game or tournament game for unsporting conduct will result in an automatic suspension from further participation in that league or sports program until a disciplinary hearing is held. The length of suspension shall vary based upon the severity of the unsporting action as determined by a hearing board. An ejection/suspension shall result in an automatic probationary period commencing upon completion of the suspension period. The length of the probationary period shall be determined by the hearing board.

Any ejection/suspension shall be handled in the following manner:

A. The league director or the sports organization in charge of the site/program where the incident occurred, shall secure written statements from officials, players, or spectators present, and will make a written recommendation on action to be taken within a reasonable time period established by the individual sports organization. The organization for which the ejected/suspended player participates will be responsible for appointing the hearing board. It is the responsibility of the league director or sports organization designee to notify the player of the hearing date, time and location in a timely manner as designated by the organization.

B. Upon receiving all relevant information, the hearing board will convene and make a decision on action to be taken within five (5) working days, regarding what action shall be taken. The suspended person may provide witnesses to speak in his/her behalf. In addition to the written statements, the hearing board may request testimony or technical assistance from any person or persons with information relevant to the incident. Results of the hearing shall be forwarded to the suspended person by mail within a reasonable time period established by the individual sports organization.

C. The suspended person may appeal the decision made by the hearing board. The request shall be made in writing to the league director or the sports organization designee within a reasonable time period established by each individual sports organization after receiving the decision.

D. The appeal board shall meet within a reasonable time period established by each individual sports organization. The decision of the appeal board shall be forwarded to the suspended person by mail within a reasonable time period established by each individual sports organization. The decision of the appeal board shall be final.

E. A Sports Participation Policy Committee, appointed by the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, the Board of Park Commissioners, and the Sports Advisory Council created pursuant to the Sports Participation Policy, (Section 7.0) shall review and determine whether the sports organization has applied their stated code of conduct reasonably and in good faith. The Superintendent may adopt, reject or modify the recommendation of the Sports Participation Policy Committee. If the Committee finds that proper policy procedures are not followed, they can recommend that the Superintendent require the sports organization to conduct a new hearing.