

Athletic Code of Conduct

Thank you for participating in the City of Avondale's Adult Sports Program(s). This program is offered for your recreational enjoyment; therefore, your cooperation and sportsmanship are essential to the overall success of the program. All players, coaches, managers, and spectators are expected to act in an acceptable manner during the program. The City of Avondale Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to take action referenced in this policy against players, coaches, managers, and spectators not acting in an acceptable manner, including, but not limited to suspension from games, expulsion from the park and participation in any future programs.

These definitions provide information and direction to participants regarding standards of behavior, as well as consequences of participant/team misconduct.

Each participant is expected to do the following:

- ❖ Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not
- ❖ Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline
- ❖ Respect the rights and privileges of other participants and staff
- ❖ Respect City of Avondale property and the property of others
- ❖ Cooperate with and assist staff in maintaining safety, order and discipline
- ❖ Respect the game officials at all times, even when you do not agree with calls
- ❖ Respect Department staff and facility rules and regulations being enforced
- ❖ Be mindful of your conduct; ensure no action occurs which could reflect adversely on you/your team

Unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Failure to conform to City of Avondale rules, regulations, and ordinances
- ❖ Being involved in an instance of any form of insubordination
- ❖ Use of profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures
- ❖ Defacing and/or damaging City property or the property of others
- ❖ Engaging in inappropriate physical or verbal contact
- ❖ Running, pushing, shoving, littering, or throwing objects (which are not part of the supervised activity)
- ❖ Involvement with weapons or illegal substances
- ❖ Inappropriate action of even one player can reflect upon your entire team
- ❖ Smoking or use of any tobacco products including smokeless tobacco while activities are in session; not limited to just the team's games, but any league activities
- ❖ Drinking alcoholic beverages in City parks/property (including parking lots) without City permits/permission

The Athletic Code of Conduct applies to all players, coaches, managers, and spectators. The Code of Conduct applies to participants as individuals and/or as a team member; penalties may be applied on an individual and/or team level. This Code becomes effective as soon as participants arrive at the facility of play and remains in effect until the participants leave the facility.

Athletic Code of Conduct

- LEVEL I**
- Minimum Penalty:** Verbal Warning, official may remove individual from game
- Maximum Penalty:** Ejection from current game, plus one (1) game suspension and probation for remainder of season
- Team Penalty:** If two (2) or more participants are involved from the same team, the game **will be** forfeited by that team. The participants and/or team involved will be penalized as noted above. **If a coach is involved in a code of conduct violation the maximum penalty is automatic.**
- *The City of Avondale reserves the right to escalate the penalty at any time up to, and including, expulsion from the league for the player and/or team depending on the nature/severity of any incident.**

No Participant Shall:

- A. Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's decision by throwing playing equipment or any other forceful action
- B. Discuss with an official, in any manner, the decision reached by an official except the manager, coach, or captain
- C. Use profane, obscene, or vulgar language/behavior
- D. Refuse to abide by official's/staff's decisions
- E. Be guilty of smoking on the field of play/dugouts
- F. Drink or be in possession of alcoholic beverages on the field of play/dugouts
- G. Discuss publicly with spectators in a derogatory manner any play, decision, or personal opinion of other individuals
- H. Mingle with or fraternize with spectators during the course of the game in a way that negatively affects the game in any way
- I. Permit anyone to remain in the dugout or on the player's bench, unless an active team member (managers, coaches, players and/or team scorekeepers)
- J. Leave trash on the playing field, including dugouts

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- LEVEL II**
- Minimum Penalty:** Ejection from current game, plus two (2) week suspension and probation for remainder of season.
- Maximum Penalty:** Suspension from league (team and/or individual) and probation for one (1) year and/or assault charges filed.
- Team Penalty:** If two (2) or more participants are involved from the same team, the game is forfeited by that team. The participants and/or team involved will be penalized as noted above. **If a coach is involved in a code of conduct violation the maximum penalty is automatic.**
- *The City of Avondale reserves the right to escalate the penalty at any time up to, and including, expulsion from the league for the player and/or team depending on the nature/severity of any incident.**

No Participant Shall:

- A. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any individual

- B. Use of unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of game
- C Play under another individual's name, falsify name, or falsify signature on official roster form
- D. Violate Level I Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident

LEVEL III

Minimum Penalty: Suspension from league (team and/or individual) and probation for one (1) year and/or assault charges filed.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all City of Avondale Recreation Department activities for one (1) year (team and/or individual), probation for two (2) additional years and/or assault charges filed.

Team Penalty: If two (2) or more participants are involved from the same team, then the game will be forfeited by that team. The participants and/or team involved will be penalized as noted above. **If a coach is involved in a code of conduct violation the maximum penalty is automatic.**

***The City of Avondale reserves the right to escalate the penalty at any time up to, and including, expulsion from the league for the player and/or team depending on the nature/severity of any incident.**

No Participant Shall:

- A. Infringe upon an individual's safety or the overall safety of others
- B. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any official or City staff
- C. Directly/indirectly threaten another individual including officials and/or City staff (Assault charges may be filed)
- D. Attempt to damage, destroy, or steal City property and/or property of others
- E. Violate Level II Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident

LEVEL IV

Minimum Penalty: Suspension from all City of Avondale Recreation Department activities for one (1) year (team and/or individual), probation for two (2) additional years and/or assault charges filed.

Maximum Penalty: Life suspension from all City of Avondale Recreation Department activities and/or assault charges filed.

Team Penalty: If two (2) or more participants are involved from the same team, the game will be forfeited by that team. The participants and/or team involved will be penalized as noted above. **If a coach is involved in a code of conduct violation the maximum penalty is automatic.**

***The City of Avondale reserves the right to escalate the penalty at any time up to, and including, expulsion from the league for the player and/or team depending on the nature/severity of any incident.**

No Participant Shall:

- A. Lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten to harm an official/City staff or other individual (Assault charges may be filed)
- B. Be guilty of a physical/verbal attack upon any official/City staff or other individual (Assault charges may be filed)
- C. Be guilty of damaging, destroying, or stealing City property

- D. Be guilty of possessing and/or using altered equipment, i.e. softball bats
 - E. Be guilty of throwing equipment at any official/City staff or other individual with intent to harm or intimidate (Assault charges may be filed)
 - F. Be guilty of possessing a weapon on or off the field of play
 - G. Gamble upon any play or outcome of the game with other spectators, players, managers, coach, or opponent.
 - H. Violate Level III Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident
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The City of Avondale Recreation Department works hard to offer fun, recreational sports leagues as a service and need for our community. We will not tolerate individuals and/or teams jeopardizing our commitment to this service.

SUSPENDED PARTICIPANT:

- ❖ If a player is ejected during the game the suspension is for the remainder of the current game and the teams next scheduled game unless otherwise noted by City staff.
- ❖ Suspended participants must remove themselves immediately (2 minutes clause) from the confines of the contest area (park or gym), or the area as designated by the site supervisor.
- ❖ If the suspended participant does not remove themselves immediately, their teammates or coaches are responsible for their removal or a forfeit will be called.

TWO (2) MINUTE CLAUSE:

- ❖ Two (2) minutes shall be allowed for the suspended participant(s) to remove themselves from the designated playing area (park or gym). If this time limit is not met, the game will be forfeited to the opponent.
- ❖ Suspended participants are not allowed to attend any game for the period of which he/she is suspended. The participant must remain off the premises during the period or a forfeit will be called.
- ❖ Participants suspended from one City of Avondale league team will result in a suspension for all other City of Avondale Leagues, e.g., if you play on more than one team or in multiple leagues within the City, you will be suspended from **all** other teams within the City.

MANAGERS/TEAM RESPONSIBILITY:

- ❖ Managers will be responsible to ensure all their players and spectators know and abide by the rules/regulations and Athletic Code of Conduct, before, during and after games.
- ❖ Managers shall be the official representative of the team and spectators unless he/she designates one of the players as the team captain prior to the game. Only the manager and/or designated team captain may discuss a call or decision made by the official(s)/City staff.
- ❖ Team penalties may be imposed if multiple individuals, from the same team, violate this code of conduct. Remember... games can be forfeited for any violations.
- ❖ Managers/Coaches/entire teams may have penalties imposed on them for their team's/player's actions.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- ❖ Any and all situations not specifically covered in the Athletic Code of Conduct, shall be acted upon by the game official(s), site supervisor(s), league supervisor, or other City Staff. All such actions shall be the basis for similar situations and such rulings shall be final and become part of, Athletic Code of Conduct.
- ❖ Any participant, who incurs an indebtedness to the City of Avondale (returned checks, failure to pay league fees, failure to return City equipment, imbursement of damage, or other forms where money is owed to the City) and does not correct this matter within a prescribed time period will be suspended from all City of Avondale activities until corrected.
- ❖ Any Code of Conduct suspension will be transmitted to all sanctioned leagues and tournaments sponsored by the City of Avondale and may be shared with other leagues/tournament providers within the Phoenix Metro Area.
- ❖ Participants, who feel justified to appeal any decision pertaining to the Athletic Code of Conduct, must abide by the decision at the time of enforcement. Participant(s) may submit, no later than 24 hours after the incident, a protest, in written form (in person or email is acceptable), to league coordinator.
- ❖ By signing the team roster all players, coaches, and managers attest they have read, understand, and agree to abide by this Athletic Code of Conduct.