

## **Athletic Code of Conduct**

Thank you for participating in the City of Avondale's Sports Programs. These programs are provided for recreational enjoyment, and their success depends on the cooperation and sportsmanship of all participants, including players, managers/coaches, and spectators. The Athletic Code of Conduct applies to everyone involved and is in effect from the time of arrival at the facility until departure. All individuals are expected to maintain appropriate behavior, and the City of Avondale Parks, Recreation and Libraries Department reserves the right to enforce this policy. Penalties for violations may be applied at both the individual and team level and can include suspension from games, removal from the park, and/or restriction from future program participation.

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

Each individual 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 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.

# Athletic Code of Conduct Levels

<b>Level I</b>	
<b>Minimum Penalty</b>	Verbal Warning, official may remove individual from game
<b>Maximum Penalty</b>	Ejection from current game, plus one (1) game suspension and probation for remainder of season
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Show dissent toward an official's decision in an inappropriate manner—such as throwing equipment or making any other aggressive or forceful action—is not allowed</li> <li>B. Discuss with an official, in any manner, the decision reached by an official except the manager/ coach</li> <li>C. Use profane, obscene, or vulgar language/behavior</li> <li>D. Refuse to abide by official's/staff's decisions</li> <li>E. Be guilty of smoking on the field of play/dugouts</li> <li>F. Drink or be in possession of alcoholic beverages on the field of play/dugouts</li> <li>G. Discuss publicly with spectators in a derogatory manner any play, decision, or personal opinion of other individuals</li> <li>H. Mingle with or fraternize with spectators during the course of the game in a way that negatively affects the game in any way</li> <li>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)</li> <li>J. Leave trash on the playing field, including dugouts</li> <li>K. Keep equipment provided by the City of Avondale after the conclusion of the game</li> </ul>	
<b>Level II</b>	
<b>Minimum Penalty</b>	Ejection from current game, plus two (2) week suspension and probation for remainder of season.
<b>Maximum Penalty</b>	Suspension from league (team and/or individual) and probation for one (1) year and/or assault charges filed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any individual</li> <li>B. Use of unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of game</li> <li>C. Play under another individual's name, falsify name, or falsify signature on official roster form</li> <li>D. Violate Level I Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident</li> </ul>	
<b>Level III</b>	
<b>Minimum Penalty</b>	Suspension from league (team and/or individual) and probation for one (1) year and/or assault charges filed.
<b>Maximum Penalty</b>	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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Infringe upon an individual's safety or the overall safety of others</li> <li>B. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any official or City staff</li> <li>C. Directly/indirectly threaten another individual including officials and/or City staff (Assault charges may be filed)</li> <li>D. Attempt to damage, destroy, or steal City property and/or property of others</li> <li>E. Violate Level II Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident</li> </ul>	

<b>Level IV</b>	
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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten to harm an official/City staff or other individual (Assault charges may be filed)</li> <li>B. Be guilty of a physical/verbal attack upon any official/City staff or other individual (Assault charges may be filed)</li> <li>C. Be guilty of damaging, destroying, or stealing City property</li> <li>D. Be guilty of throwing equipment at any official/City staff or other individual with intent to harm or intimidate (Assault charges may be filed)</li> <li>E. Be guilty of possessing a weapon on or off the field of play</li> <li>F. Gamble upon any play or outcome of the game with other spectators, players, managers/ coaches, or opponent.</li> <li>G. Violate Level III Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident</li> <li>H. Be guilty of possessing and/or using altered equipment, i.e. softball bats</li> </ul>	

**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 manager/coach is involved in a code of conduct violation the maximum penalty is automatic.

**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 manager/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 from 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/Coaches 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/Coaches shall be the official representative of the team and spectators unless he/she designates one of the players as the team manager prior to the game. Only the manager/ coach 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/players actions.

### Special Notes:

- 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.
- 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 the Athletic Code of Conduct.
- Any participant, who fails to pay league fees, fails to return City equipment, imbursement of damaged, 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 7 days after the incident, a protest must be submitted via email to the Recreation Manager ([activeavondale@avonadaleaz.gov](mailto:activeavondale@avonadaleaz.gov)).
- By signing the team roster all players and managers/ coaches attest they have read, understand, and agree to abide by this Athletic Code of Conduct.