



Clinton Parks and Recreation Department

Sports Disciplinary Procedure

The following sports disciplinary procedure is divided into the following sections:

- **Youth Sports**
 - **Players**
 - **Coaches**
 - **Parents/Spectators**
 - **Protests**

- **Adult Sports**
 - **Players**
 - **Spectators**
 - **Protests**

- Youth Sports

A. Players

- Player name and/or jersey number will be documented by the referees in written form for all misconduct offenses.
- Inappropriate conduct by players will not be tolerated and carries the following penalties:
 - 1st offense – Verbal warning. If players argue then coaches will be notified and the player will be punished according to the 2nd offense policy below.
 - 2nd offense – Player must sit out next three plays or five minutes-whichever comes first. If the game ends within the next three plays or five minutes the penalty will be considered to be served. Substitution rules specific to the respective sport will apply for the player to exit/re-enter the game.
 - 3rd offense – Player is ejected from the game/session/practice and will be placed on probation for the next game/session/practice. The ejected player and his/her parents are to leave the park immediately or the police will be called. If, during the next game, the player is ejected in accordance with the above procedure, that player will be suspended for the remainder of the season, including league sponsored postseason play, if applicable.
 - **If a player commits an act of misconduct that is considered intentional and blatant, and injures or, in the opinion of the referee or league official, is attempting to injure another player, the player may be directly ejected from the game/session/practice. That player will also be placed on probation for the next game/session/practice in accordance with the above rules.

- Coaches

- Coaches are to adhere to the code of conduct provided to them by league officials at all times.
- Youth coaches are role models and leaders of the children on their respective team and, as such, should always act in an appropriate manner.
- Behavior that is deemed inappropriate by referees or league officials carries the following penalties:
 - 1st Offense – Verbal warning to inform coach of misconduct. Referee/umpire may apply the verbal warning to all coaches as a group. All warnings and any future offenses will be documented in written form by the umpire/referee.
 - 2nd Offense – Coach is ejected from the game/session/practice and will be placed on probation for the next game/session/practice. If, during the next game, the coach is ejected in accordance with the above procedure, the coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season, including league sponsored postseason play, if applicable. All ejected coaches are to leave the park immediately or the police will be called.

- ****If at any time a coach continues to argue with the referee or league official and causes an excessive delay for the resumption of the game/session/practice, the referee or league official may decide to directly eject the coach. All ejected coaches are to adhere to the above policy or face additional discipline from league officials and/or law enforcement.**
- **Parents/Spectators**
 - **All parents/spectators are to adhere to the code of conduct provided to them by league officials at registration at all times.**
 - **Behavior that is deemed inappropriate by referees or league officials carries the following penalties.**
 - **1st Offense – Verbal warning. The referee or league official may apply the verbal warning to all parents for a specific team/group. The referee or league official will document all warnings and future penalties, if applicable, in written form.**
 - **2nd Offense – Stoppage of the game/session/practice and removal of the parent/spectator. The parent/spectator may watch the remainder of the game/session/practice from the parking lot but may absolutely NOT re-enter the playing area (field, court, etc.), including sidewalk or common areas, even after the game/session/practice is complete. If a parent/spectator that is removed re-enters the playing area, they may face additional discipline from league officials and/or law enforcement.**
 - **Parents that are removed from a game/session/practice will be placed on probation for 4 games/sessions/practices, or the remainder of the league season, whichever comes first. This includes league sponsored postseason play.**
- **Protests**
 - **The only protests allowed are for player eligibility (player birth date, using an illegal guest player, etc.)**
 - **All protests are to be settled before the game begins. After the start of the game, protests will not be deemed valid.**
 - **Questions regarding rule interpretations will be settled by the League Coordinator and/or his designee. That being said, game umpires/referees are human and errors regarding rule interpretations may sometimes occur. However, this is viewed as part of the game and, as such, no protest for rule interpretations are allowed. For situations in which a rule interpretation is in question, the umpire/referee who made the call will meet with League officials and the head umpire/referee after the game is complete or discuss the call via other means (phone, email, etc.) to make sure the rule is properly interpreted.**
 - **Proper procedure for protest:**

- Protest must be made before the game begins. All game referees and the opposing coach are to be made aware of the protest immediately. The protest must be documented in written form by the game official.
- All protests must be accompanied by a written description of the nature of the protest before the game is allowed to begin. The description must include: A) Date, Time, and Place. B) Name of Umpire/Referee. C) Player name and number being protested. D) Any other essential facts.
- There is a \$100 protest fee. The fee must be presented at the time of the protest, or the protest will not be deemed valid. If protests are deemed correct the \$100 will be returned. If a protest is lost, the fee will go to the Parks and Recreation General Fund.
- After the protest description and fee are submitted, and the protest is deemed correct or incorrect, the game will begin.
- If the protest is deemed correct and valid, the player that was found to be ineligible will not be allowed to play in that game. The player's coach or team may face additional penalties if league rules were broken. This will be handled on an individual basis.

- **Adult Sports**

- **Players.**

- Player name and jersey number (if applicable) will be documented by the referee/umpire for all misconduct offenses.
- Inappropriate conduct by players will not be tolerated and carries the following penalties:
 - **1st Offense** – Verbal warning. If player argues then the coach/captain will be notified and the player may be punished according to the **2nd** offense policy below.
 - **2nd Offense** – Player must leave field for **10** minutes. If the game finishes within the **10** minute penalty time, the punishment will be considered to be served. Substitution rules for the respective sport will apply for the player to exit/re-enter the game.
 - **3rd Offense** – Ejection and one additional game suspension. The player will also have probation for the next game in which he/she participates. If during that game the same player is ejected again in accordance with above procedures, then he/she will be suspended for the rest of the season, including league sponsored postseason play, if applicable. Players that are ejected must leave field immediately or the police will be called.

- **Coaches/Captains**

- Adult sport captains are considered representatives of the team they are coaching and, as such, should always act in an appropriate manner.

- Inappropriate conduct by coaches/captains will not be tolerated and carries the following penalties:
 - **1st Offense** – Verbal warning to inform coach of misconduct. Referee/umpire may apply the verbal warning to all coaches/captains as a group. All warnings and any future offenses will be documented in written form by the umpire/referee.
 - **2nd Offense** – Coach is ejected from the game/session/practice and will be placed on probation for the next game/session/practice. If, during the next game, the coach is ejected in accordance with the above procedure, the coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season, including league sponsored postseason play, if applicable. All ejected coaches are to leave the park immediately or the police will be called.
 - ****If at any time a coach continues to argue with the referee or league official and causes an excessive delay for the resumption of the game/session/practice, the referee or league official may decide to directly eject the coach. All ejected coaches/captains are to adhere to the above policy or face additional discipline from league officials and/or law enforcement.**

C. Parents/Spectators

- All parents/spectators are to adhere to the code of conduct provided to them by league officials at registration at all times.
- Behavior that is deemed inappropriate by referees or league officials carries the following penalties.
 - **1st Offense** – Verbal warning. The referee or league official may apply the verbal warning to all parents for a specific team/group. The referee or league official will document all warnings and future penalties, if applicable, in written form.
 - **2nd Offense** – Stoppage of the game/session/practice and removal of the parent/spectator. The parent/spectator may watch the remainder of the game/session/practice from the parking lot but may absolutely NOT re-enter the playing area (field, court, etc.), including sidewalk or common areas, even after the game/session/practice is complete. If a parent/spectator that is removed re-enters the playing area, they may face additional discipline from league officials and/or law enforcement.
 - Parents that are removed from a game/session/practice will be placed on probation for 4 games/sessions/practices, or the remainder of the league season, whichever comes first. This includes league sponsored postseason play.

D. Protests

- The only protests allowed are for player eligibility (player birth date, using an illegal guest player, etc.)
- All protests are to be settled before the game begins. After the start of the game, protests will not be deemed valid.
- Questions regarding rule interpretations will be settled by the League Coordinator and/or his designee. That being said, game umpires/referees are human and errors regarding rule

interpretations may sometimes occur. However, this is viewed as part of the game and, as such, no protest for rule interpretations are allowed. For situations in which a rule interpretation is in question, the umpire/referee who made the call will notify league officials and the head umpire/referee after the game is complete to discuss the call in person or via electronic means (phone, email, etc.) before their next scheduled game to make sure the rule is properly interpreted.

- **Proper procedure for protest:**
 - **Protest must be made before the game begins. All game referees and the opposing coach are to be made aware of the protest immediately. The protest must be documented in written form by the game official.**
 - **All protests must be accompanied by a written description of the nature of the protest before the game is allowed to begin. The description must include: A) Date, Time, and Place. B) Name of Umpire/Referee. C) Player name and number being protested. D) Any other essential facts.**
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 - **After the protest description and fee are submitted, and the protest is deemed correct or incorrect, the game will begin.**
 - **If the protest is deemed correct and valid, the player that was found to be ineligible will not be allowed to play in that game. The player's coach or team may face additional penalties if league rules were broken. This will be handled on an individual basis.**