

## City of Fort Collins Recreation Department

### SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT

#### **Applicability:**

This Sports Code of Conduct applies to all sports organized by the City of Fort Collins Recreation Department, whether taking place on City-owned property, or on any other property that the City has arranged to use.

“Sports” include any and all activities or events listed under the category of “Sports” in the most current edition of the City of Fort Collins *Recreator* Publication. The City may add or delete activities from this category in the City’s discretion.

#### **Definitions:**

**City:** The City of Fort Collins.

**Coach:** The person designated as a team’s spokesman. May be either a player or non-player.

**Field of play:** The part of a court, field, ring or other sports venue that is considered within the boundaries for regulation play of a particular sport.

**Field Supervisor:** A City employee in charge of the operation and staff of a scheduled sports game, match, or event, as well as this Code of Conduct.

**Manager:** The City’s Recreation Manager/Sports, or such other person as the Director of Recreation may specify.

**Official:** A person who the City has arranged to be present at a sports venue for the purpose of administering the rules of the game, match or event, as well as this Code of Conduct.

**Parent:** The legal guardian or other family member responsible for a child who is under the age of 18 and is participating in a sport sponsored by the Recreation Department.

**Participant:** Any coach, player, parent, spectator, official or any other person involved in any way with any sport sponsored by the Recreation Department.

**Participation:** Any involvement in a Recreation Department sport, including spectating, officiating, playing, coaching, or attending a sporting event.

**Player:** A person who physically participates in a sport or is on the roster of the team or group participating in the sport.

**Probation:** A period of time during which a person who has previously violated the Sports Code of Conduct may have no further violations.

**Recreation Department:** The City of Fort Collins Recreation Department.

**Sport:** Any Recreation Department-organized activity or event that is listed under the category of “Sports” in the most current edition of the City’s *Recreator* publication or a new yet-to-be advertised activity that is run by a recreation staff member who is specifically designated by organizational chart as a member of the sports team.

**Spectator:** A person who watches a sport for entertainment with no physical involvement.

**Sportsmanship:** Conduct, such as fairness, respect for one’s opponent and for officials, and graciousness in winning or losing, that are appropriate to one participating in a sport.

**Sports Venue:** An area improved with fencing, buildings, bleachers, goals, turf or other landscaping, lines or other markings or any other facilities intended for use by players, officials, spectators or anyone else participating in a sport. Examples of sports venues include fields, courts, tracks, gymnasiums or field houses, arenas, pools, ice rinks and bowling alleys.

**Suspension:** Loss of the privilege to participate in any manner in a Recreation Department sport.

**Unsportsmanlike:** Exhibiting poor behavior through negative, disruptive or inappropriate actions.

### **Prohibited Acts:**

No participant shall:

1. Physically attack any other participant or any City staff person. This includes but is not limited to striking, shoving, kicking or otherwise touching or subjecting another person to physical contact in a threatening or alarming manner.
2. Refuse to abide by an official's decision and /or contest such decision in an unsportsmanlike manner.
3. Use obscene language or gestures, harassing, insulting, taunting or challenging language, racial, ethnic or sexual slurs, or unsportsmanlike demonstrations of dissent concerning an official's decision.
4. Use unnecessary roughness in the play of a game against an opposing player.
5. Throw or cause to be deposited any object onto the field of play.
6. Violate the City of Fort Collins open container ordinance, or other state or local alcohol or drug laws, while at a sports venue, or enter the field of play while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
7. Smoke in any indoor sports venue, or while coming off or going on the field of play, or while on the field of play, whether indoors or outdoors.
8. Display other unsportsmanlike conduct before or after games or events, or while at a sports venue during a scheduled activity, game, match or event.

### **Enforcement:**

The minimum penalty for smoking shall be a warning, and the maximum penalty shall be ejection from the game. For all other violations, the penalties shall be as follows:

1. Minimum Penalties. Ejection from the current sports activity or event and suspension from the next scheduled game, activity, or event. Any participant who is ejected must leave the sports venue immediately. This means going far enough away that he or she

cannot be seen or heard by any participant within the sports venue. Minimum penalties may be imposed onsite by an official or field supervisor.

2. **Medium Penalties.** Suspension for up to the remainder of the scheduled season or up to one year, and one or more years on probation. After review of the alleged violation by Recreation Department staff, medium penalties may be imposed if 1) another infraction has occurred by the individual resulting in a penalty within the past calendar year; 2) the individual violated more than one section of this Code during the current incident; and/or 3) in the judgment of staff, the severity of the infraction justifies penalty beyond the minimum but not to the maximum level. Medium penalties may be imposed in addition to minimum penalties.
3. **Maximum Penalties.** Suspension for one to five years. Maximum penalties may be imposed if, after review of the alleged violation by Recreation Department staff, it is determined that the severity of the violation justifies the maximum penalty, based on negative impact to the program, other participants, spectators, and/or staff. Maximum penalties may be imposed in addition to minimum and/or medium penalties.
4. Any behavior that is also a violation of law may result in criminal charges.
5. Any participant who engages in three or more of the prohibited acts described above during any twelve-month period shall be suspended for up to five years, followed by two years of probation.
6. Any participant who engages in a prohibited act while on probation shall be suspended for one to five years.

### **Appeals:**

Appeals of any enforcement decision may be made by submitting a written statement of appeal to the Recreation Manager/Sports within fifteen (15) calendar days of the issuance of the decision to be appealed. If an enforcement decision is not appealed within fifteen days of issuance, it shall be considered final.

The statement of appeal shall include a description of the decision in question and related events, and the basis for the appeal. The appealing party may provide any additional information he or she believes is relevant in support of the appeal.

The Manager will conduct such investigation as he or she determines to be appropriate, given the basis of the appeal and the related facts, and may conduct an informal hearing on the matter in his or her discretion. In the alternative, the Manager may convene an Appeals Board made up of Parks and Recreation staff who have no personal involvement in the decision being appealed, and such board shall conduct an appropriate investigation.

The Manager or Appeals Board, if one is convened, shall issue a written decision on the appeal within thirty (30) days from the filing of the appeal. The written decision shall include an explanation of the basis for the conclusion reached.

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