



TOWN of DEEP RIVER
Parks & Recreation Commission
Youth Athletics Programs

Code of Conduct
for Players, Coaches &
Parents

DRAFT

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The philosophy of the Deep River Parks and Recreation Department is to teach skills, fundamentals and good sportsmanship while creating a positive and supportive environment for youth participants while having fun!

All participants to Parks and Recreation programs including players, coaches, parents, officials and spectators are required to conduct themselves in a responsible and supportive manner.

Participation in Parks and Recreation athletics programs is a privilege and not a right. Youth who decide to participate shall be expected to exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, behavior and fair play. Participants who are unable to abide by the expectations established by the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission will be subject to disciplinary action. These expectations will be enforced throughout the athletic season from the time the player enrolls until the time the program is concluded. Deep River Parks and Recreation has been granted permission to utilize school facilities for our programs. It is the responsibility of all participants and their guests to adhere to this policy.

The following document outlines the expectations and policies of the Parks and Recreation Commission with respect to our youth athletic programs.

Code of Conduct for Players, Coaches and Parents

Introduction:

The purpose of the Code of Conduct document for youth participants, coaches and parents is to encourage good sportsmanship so that we may continue to provide our area youth with a supportive and safe environment while participating in the Town of Deep River Recreational Programs.

This document includes:

- I. Player's Code of Conduct
- II. Parent's Code of Conduct
- III. Coaches Code of Conduct
- IV. Sanctions for Violations

I. Player's Code of Conduct

Players must understand and abide by the following rules and guidelines while participating in Deep River Parks and Recreation athletic programs.

- Play for fun! Learn the game and enjoy yourself.
- Demonstrate self-control and self-discipline.
- Treat everyone fairly within the context of the activity regardless of race, color, ancestry, place of origin, political beliefs religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.



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- Respect the dignity and worth of the volunteer coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials and refrain from the verbally and/or physically abusive behavior.
- Be a team player and get along within a team environment. Never place blame for a loss or tie on teammates. Understand that you win or lose as a team.
- Be modest and considerate in victory; be gracious in defeat
- Be on time for practices and games and notify the coach if you cannot attend a practice or a game.
- Never argue with an official's decision and leave all matters pertaining to dealing with officials to the coaches.
- Give opponents the credit for their ability and the respect you would hope to receive in return.
- Never engage in bullying behavior and immediately report any act of bullying.
- Abide by the rules of the team and league and seek out parental help when necessary.
- Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship by exhibiting high personal standards.
- Obey all policies of the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission, state and Regional School District 4 laws and policies pertaining to disruptive behavior, alcohol use, illegal drug use and the use of tobacco.
- Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language at ALL times.

II. Parents Code of Conduct

Parents and spectators alike MUST understand and abide by the following rules and guidelines set forth by the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Provide positive support, care, and encouragement for the child participating in youth sports.
- Treat everyone fairly within the context of the activity regardless of race, color, ancestry, place of origin, political beliefs religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.
- Encourage good sportsmanship and respect the dignity and worth of the volunteer coaches, other players, and officials and refrain from the use of verbally and/or physically abusive behavior.
- Be insistent and expect that the child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Support all volunteer coaches and officials working with the child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- Expect and demand a sports environment for the child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and refrain from personal consumption of such at all youth sporting events.
- Understand that the game is for youth, not adults and that winning is not the ultimate or most important goal.
- Encourage players to play by the rules.
- Encourage the child to have FUN!
- Do not force the participation in sports, but rather support the desire to play.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches.
- Positively cheer for all players and teams.
- Refrain from the use of abusive, obscene or profane language or gestures.



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III. Coaches Code of Conduct

All persons serving in the capacity of coach must abide by these rules and guidelines and demonstrate responsible behavior as outlined below.

- Behave as a positive role model for the children and understand the inherent power imbalance that exists in the athlete/coach relationship and be extremely careful not to abuse it.
- Teach through positive coaching methods, refrain from negative coaching tactics
- Provide a fun, informative and safe program; encourage children while teaching them.
- Encourage players to develop good sportsmanship, teamwork, self-discipline, and respect for others.
- Play all members of the team, regardless of skill level, an equitable amount of time.
- Remember that this is a Recreational Program and the goal is to teach skill development, emphasize good sportsmanship and to have FUN!
- Provide an opportunity for each player to participate by treating everyone fairly within the context of the activity regardless of race, color, ancestry, place of origin, political beliefs, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.
- Communicate with parents and fellow coaches and elicit their cooperation in dealing with any behavioral situations that may arise.
- Encourage and support the referees, and demonstrate respect for opponents.
- Encourage players to respect and care for the town and school facilities and town property.
- Follow the policies and rules of the Deep River Parks and Recreation Department.
- Always be diligent to ensure the health and safety of the athletes.
- Report any player's concerns regarding harassment, bullying or other unacceptable actions
- Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship by exhibiting high personal standards. This includes but is not limited to:
 - i. Refraining from public criticism of fellow coaches, umpires and parents.
 - ii. Refraining from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties.
 - iii. Abstaining from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with athletes.
 - iv. Forbidding the use of alcohol in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebration at the playing site
 - v. Forbidding the use of drugs and other banned performance enhancing substances.
 - vi. Abstaining from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of his/her athletes and discourage their use by athletes.
 - vii. Refraining from intimate involvement with athletes which includes any of the following: unwanted sexual attention, implied or expressed, with a threat of reprisal in the form of either actual reprisal or denial of the opportunity to participate for refusal to comply with a sexually oriented request; or implied or expressed promise of reward for complying with a sexually oriented request; or sexually oriented remarks or behavior that may be perceived to create a negative psychological and emotional environment for work and/or play.
- Be aware of the academic pressures placed on student-athletes and conducts practices and games in a manner so as to allow academic success.
- Understand the following definition of harassment* and recognize your role in preventing harassment directed towards athletes from fellow players, coaches, volunteers, parents or spectators.



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**Harassment takes many forms but can generally be defined as behavior including comments and/or conduct which is insulting, intimidating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual or group of individuals or which creates an uncomfortable environment.*

IV. Sanctions for Violations of the Code of Conduct

The Codes of Conduct contained herein have been developed to aid the coaches, players, parents and spectators in realizing their roles and responsibilities while agreeing to participate in the youth athletic programs offered by the Town of Deep River's Parks and Recreation Commission. The following disciplinary procedures have been enacted to provide support for any violation to the Code of Conduct.

Infractions of this Code shall be first brought to the attention of the program's coach or committee chairperson for consideration and appropriate action, in written form, except in unusual circumstances in which an oral report is clearly more appropriate. If the person(s) filing an allegation of a violation is not satisfied with the response given by a coach or the committee chairperson, they may then present their complaint to the Deep River Parks & Recreation Director.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reserves the right to take further disciplinary actions against any player, coach, or fan as situations dictate appropriate. Depending on the type of violation, the disciplinary procedures to be enforced will vary but in general, for game related infractions, including poor sportsmanship, foul language, and other actions considered by the Commission to be disruptive in nature only, the disciplinary actions will be:

Action 1: Verbal warning from the Coach or Committee Chairperson. In basketball, a **technical foul** will be called against a player or coach for disrespectfully addressing a referee or continued arguing of any call made by the referee, or using profane, vulgar or obscene language. If the referee calls a **flagrant foul** against a player - the player will be ejected for that game and possibly for future games, depending on the severity of the incident, and also depending on history of repeat incidents, to be decided by Park & Rec members overseeing the program. **A Flagrant-Technical Foul for fighting will result in** the player being ejected, and also disqualified for the following game at a minimum, or possibly for multiple games, depending on the severity of the incident, to be decided by Park & Rec members overseeing the program. No refunds will be given for any missed games. ***Each team is responsible for their fans. If a referee is being harassed by parents of the team members, the referee may call a 2-shot technical foul against the team.**

Action 2: If the action is repeated, and the player commits **two** technical fouls **in the same game**, the player is automatically ejected. The player will also be removed from the roster to face a one game suspension. **Should this second action be considered intentional or flagrant, the player will face ejection from the game and suspension from the league.** If the behavior is exhibited by a parent or spectator, removal from the gym or sports area will result. The police will be called to assist with the unruly behavior if the Parks and Recreation Staff deem it to be an appropriate course of action. The team that has an unruly fan or parent might face forfeiture of the contest.

NOTE: The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to take further disciplinary actions against any player, coach, or fan as situations dictate appropriate.



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Action 3: If the disruptive behavior that lead to the technical foul persists, the player will face a two week suspension and possibly a permanent ban will be imposed by the Parks and Recreation Staff. If parent or spectator behavior is found to be a problem, and is not corrected, then local law enforcement will be notified to enforce a permanent ban from the gym facilities. This might also lead to the player be removed from the team all together for the safety of all other players, parents and spectators.

For other infractions, which may or may not be game day related, including bullying, possession or use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs including steroids and/or other actions considered by the Commission to be serious in nature, the disciplinary actions will be:

Action 1: If during the participation in a Parks and Recreation sponsored activity, a minor athlete is caught under the influence of/ or in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, he/she will automatically be suspended from the program. Deep River Parks and Recreation's policy requires a suspension at the minimum, of 20 school days (4 weeks) from our program for the first offense. Local law enforcement officials will be notified and take action. In addition, the Commission highly recommends that the player attend alcohol counseling during their absence from the team. If during the participation in a Parks and Recreation sponsored activity, a minor athlete is caught in possession of tobacco products he/she will be issued a warning.

Action 2: If the action is repeated, the player will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player might also face a ban on future participation in Parks and Recreation activities.

It is the policy of the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission to mirror the consequences, with minor modifications, of such action with the policy of the Region 4 school board should such an incident happen at school.

Not only is the possession of alcoholic beverages by a minor in a public place unlawful by State of Connecticut General Statutes (CGS § 30-89) but bringing alcoholic beverages and tobacco onto school grounds is against the facilities use policy established by the Region 4 Board of Education in compliance with State of Connecticut requirements (CGS § 10-221).

Punishment will be handled by the coach and the school Administration. The range of punishment goes from verbal warning to dismissal from the team.

If the player facing disciplinary action denies the allegations brought forth against them, they will be allowed to contact the Director of Parks and Recreation and set up a time, convenient for all, to meet with the Director, coach, committee chairperson and the chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss said disciplinary action. The Director will allow the alleged violator to present their defense to all present. Should further action be warranted, the First Selectman of Deep River will be consulted as well as the town attorney should it be advised. The Director of the Parks and Recreation Commission will have final determination as to the extent of action needed.

Specific response of the Director may include terms and conditions supplementing one or more of the listed sanctions. When reviewing a complaint and deciding what action is the most appropriate in a given situation, the coach, committee chairperson and commission chairperson must take into consideration various extenuating circumstances before recommending a course of action to the



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Director. The Director therefore, reserves the right to proceed to a higher set of actions when it is deemed the violator must be immediately removed from the sport.