

## **ARTICLE XIV – CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Section 1.** Code of Conduct. NYSA requires all Participants to exhibit good sportsmanship, including fair

play, ethical behavior, integrity, generosity, and genuine concern for others. The code of conduct shall pertain to any sanctioned NYSA activity regardless of location. Regardless of their role in a sport or activity, all Participants are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others, and to exhibit good sportsmanship. All players, parents, coaches, and spectators are expected to respect decisions made by officials; to be exemplary role models by supporting teams in a positive manner; and to respect players, coaches, officials, and spectators.

**Section 2.** Unacceptable behavior includes but is not limited to:

- a. Displaying temper in response to an official's call.
- b. Yelling or making statements that antagonize opponents or other spectators.
- c. Blaming loss of a game on officials, coaches, or players.
- d. The use of profanity or displays of anger.
- e. Any discussions among parents, officials, or players must be held in a nonthreatening manner.
- f. Any inappropriate conduct by officials, players, parents, or spectators – regardless of which team they represent - should be brought to the attention of the coach.
- g. Under no circumstances should a parent or spectator enter the field of play to confront an official,  
coach, player, or a parent.
- h. All game-related interaction with the sports officials, players, spectators, or opposing team should  
be conducted by the head coach or one of the assistant coaches.
- i. All members are subject to the rules and regulations posted at each activity site.
- j. All adults participating in the organization's activities are expected to comply with all applicable criminal codes. This obligation is violated by any participant who has a pending charge, been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment involving

sexual misconduct, child abuse, or conduct that is a violation of a law specifically designed to protect minors, and, depending on the nature of the crime, may be violated by any member who has a pending charge, been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to any felony charge or indictment involving conduct other than that specifically described above.

k. Interactions on social media are to adhere to the high standards set forth by the Association.

**Section 3. Game Ejections.** If, during the course of a game, a player, coach, or spectator is ejected from the game by a sports official or league official for unsportsmanlike conduct, that player, coach, or spectator will thereafter serve an automatic one-game suspension. The one-game suspension will prohibit that player, coach, or spectator from participation in the next games for that player's, coach's or spectator's team (playoff games and any post season games are included, rain outs are not included). If there are no scheduled games to be played, the suspension will be served at the resumption of the following season. In this case, the Commissioner will assign the suspended games. For the purposes of a suspended player, coach, or spectator, participation is defined as being within 200 yards of the field of play. Any ejection should be recorded in an incident report to be submitted to the Sports Commissioner and NYSA Board of Directors. If the circumstances are deemed to be of a more serious nature, the Sports Commissioner may refer the matter to the NYSA Board of Directors for further review and additional disciplinary action. A second game ejection of the same player, coach, or spectator (regardless of the season or sport in which it occurs) will result in an automatic three-game suspension and review by the Board of Directors. The three-game suspension will be served during the next three games in which that player's, coach's, or spectator's team participates. If there are no scheduled games to be played, the suspension will be served at the resumption of the following season. In this case, the Sports Commissioner will assign the suspended games. A third game ejection of the same player, coach, or spectator (regardless of the season or sport in which it occurs) will immediately constitute a Board Review and possible suspension from NYSA membership.

**Section 4. Sexual Misconduct.** All adults participating in the organization's activities must protect the integrity of the sport and the interests of the athletes they serve by strictly avoiding sexual relationships with athletes. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

- a. Solicit or engage in sexual relations with any minor.
- b. Engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence of an adult's position as coach, official or administrator to encourage sexual relations with an athlete.

c. Engage in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

**Section 5. Conflict of Interest.** All adults participating in the organization's activities are responsible for avoiding both actual and perceived conflicts of interest in the conduct of business on behalf of the organization. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

a. Use, or be perceived as using, the organization's properties, services, opportunities, authority or influence to gain private benefit.

b. Incur expenses in furtherance of the organization's business which are unreasonable, unnecessary, or unsubstantiated.

c. Participate in the deliberation or decision-making process about any issue for which the adult participating in the organization's activities has a direct financial interest.

**Section 6. Code of Conduct Violations.** Any conduct by a player, coach, or spectator that is deemed to be in violation of the NYSA Code of Code of Conduct, which does not result in a game ejection, can be made part of an incident report and presented to the Sports Commissioner for review. The Sports Commissioner will present the information to the Sports Committee for review as soon as possible. If a player, parent, or spectator is the focus of an incident, the incident report will be completed by the head coach and submitted to the Sports Commissioner. The Commissioner will present the report to the Sports Committee for review. If a coach is the focus of an incident, the Incident Report will be completed by both the coach and the Commissioner. The Commissioner's report should include information gathered from third party sources (if available). The Commissioner will present both reports to the Sports Committee for review. The Sports Committee will recommend action and the full report will be presented to the Board of Directors for final determination.

**Section 7. Appeals.** Any person who is the focus of an incident report, shall have the right to speak in front of the disciplining body (either the Sports Commissioner, Sports Committee, or NYSA Board of Directors) prior to any disciplinary action being taken. Penalties handed down by the Sports Commissioner or Sports Committee may be appealed to the NYSA Board of Directors. Notice of an appeal must be delivered in writing to NYSA within seven (7) days of the communication of the penalties.

**Section 8. Prohibited Behavior.**

a. Consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs while working with youth.

- b. Providing alcohol or drugs to youth or allowing consumption of same while under an adult's supervision.
- c. Physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse of any child, including bullying.
- d. Denying any youth the opportunity to participate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.
- e. Failure to respect the privacy of youth, especially in situations calling for changing clothes or taking showers (the only exception is when health or safety issues dictate specific action).
- f. Disciplining youth by use of physical, emotional, or other forms of punishment or failure to provide necessities such as water, food, or shelter.
- g. Being alone with a single child where others cannot observe you.
- h. Leaving a child unsupervised.
- i. Inappropriately touching a youth's body. As a rule, this includes any area of the body that would be covered by a bathing suit. It is normally acceptable to touch a youth on the shoulders, arm or upper back.
- j. Tickling, wrestling, or teasing youth is inappropriate.
- k. Using profanity, telling inappropriate jokes, sharing intimate details of one's personal life, and using any kind of harassment or sexual references in the presence of youth or parents.
- l. Releasing a youth to anyone other than the authorized parent or guardian, or to a person designated by the parent/guardian.

**Section 6. Recommended Behavior.**

- a. Ensuring suspicious or unknown individuals do not occupy restrooms with unescorted youth. Always send youth to a restroom in pairs if staff is unable to accompany an individual. Supervise restroom activity without invading the privacy of the individual.

- b. Using positive reinforcement and encouragement to manage or change behavior. Avoid comparison or criticism. Praise will encourage positive behavior and create an atmosphere of cooperation and fun.
- b. Treating all youth fairly. Serving as a role model by maintaining an attitude of respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, sportsmanship & trustworthiness. Welcoming and encouraging parents to attend all youth functions.