

West Des Moines Parks & Recreation

RULES OF CONDUCT

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Rules of Conduct are established to maintain a positive atmosphere in recreation activities sponsored by the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department. These rules will be applied to all activities and sports programs in all age groups. It is the responsibility of the individual, team manager or coach to know and inform his/her participants of all rules.
- B. **Duration of Compliance**
 - 1. The Rules of Conduct will be in effect before, during and after each activity, contest, game, match, or practice beginning with department-sponsored preseason practices and continuing through the conclusion of league, tournament, and/or activity play.
 - 2. All athletic, recreational and special events will be governed by these rules unless otherwise noted. These guidelines will apply to all events conducted by the department regardless of whether these events are on city-owned property, school facilities, or rental facilities. Team(s) and/or individual(s) suspended as a result of infractions of the Rules of Conduct will not be given refunds for team, group, or individual fees.
- C. **Events Governed by Rules of Conduct**
 - 1. Each sport, activity or special event may have league or activity rules to meet requirements of that particular activity/sport. Specific sport league rules may follow their own Rules of Conduct.
- D. **Definitions**
 - 1. Participant – any of the following: a player, a coach or assistant coach, a spectator, a team, or an official.
 - a. Participants ejected from an activity, contest, game, match, or practice must leave the facility in an expedient manner (2 minutes or less is considered expedient). Failure to do so will result in calling law enforcement to remove the participant(s) from the location.
 - 2. Official – any of the following: an umpire, a referee, a supervisor, or any other Parks and Recreation staff person. Any Parks and Recreation staff person has the authority to eject a participant from a Parks and Recreation event or the property on which the activity or sport is being conducted.
 - 3. Suspension – includes:
 - a. Not being able to participate in an activity, contest, game, match, or practice
 - b. Not being a spectator at an activity, contest, game, match, or practice
 - c. Not being allowed to attend any events sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department.
 - 4. Repeated violations by team(s) or individual(s) will result in more severe penalties.
- E. **Violations**
 - 1. Violations of the Rules of Conduct may result in penalty application in ensuing programs and/or seasons.
 - 2. Penalties applied for any situation or circumstance not specifically covered in these Rules of Conduct will be left to the discretion of the Superintendent of Recreation or his/her designee.

II. CONDUCT

- A. All participants must abide by an official's decision and must refrain from demonstrative expressions of dissent at an official's decision (i.e. kicking or throwing a ball, bat or equipment, speaking rudely to an official, making gestures toward an official, etc.)
- B. During the course of a game/match, only one coach, captain/manager or player per team will be allowed to address officials.
- C. All participants must refrain from using unnecessary roughness against the body and person of an opposing player during the course of the game.
- D. All participants must refrain from using profane, obscene or vulgar language.
- E. **Penalties for Violation of Rules A-D.**
 - 1. *The participant will be ejected from the activity/game/match/practice and be suspended for the next consecutive game/activity (regular season or the tournament).*
 - 2. *Participant(s) ejected from an activity/game/match/practice must leave the facility in an expedient manner (2 minutes or less is considered expedient). Failure to do so will result in an official calling law enforcement to remove participant(s) from the location.*
 - 3. *A warning does not have to precede an ejection.*
 - 4. *Upon investigation of the violation, the Superintendent of Recreation, or his/her designee, may apply a two-game suspension if the violator's actions endangered the safety of the participants or officials.*
 - 5. *Repeat violators may be suspended for the next three consecutive games, matches or the next three tournament games/matches played by his/her team. Additional penalties may be imposed.*

RULES OF CONDUCT (Cont.)

- F. Taunting, mocking, and/or harassment of participants or officials will not be allowed.
- G. Verbal abuse of the officials or participants will not be allowed.
- H. Profane, obscene, vulgar or discriminatory language used maliciously toward another participant or official will not be allowed.
- I. **Penalties for Violation of Rules F-H.**
 - 1. *The participant will be ejected from the activity/game/match/practice and suspended for the next three consecutive games, matches or the next tournament games/matches played by his/her team.*
 - 2. *Participant(s) ejected from an activity/game/match/practice must leave the Facility in an expedient manner (2 minutes or less is considered expedient). Failure to do so will result in an official calling law enforcement to remove participant(s) from the location.*
 - 3. *Should the violation be repeated with less than three regular season games/matches remaining, the suspension will be applied to those remaining games/matches including tournament games/matches played by his/her team and will carry over into the next particular sport/activity that the participant elects to participate in.*
 - 4. *Repeat violators may be suspended for the remainder of the season. Additional penalties can result in suspension for a minimum of (6) months.*
- J. Participants must refrain from pushing, shoving, striking, kicking, laying a hand on or threatening any of these actions against, or confronting in an unruly or obnoxious manner another participant or official.
- K. The drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages will not be allowed on School District property.
- L. Participants are not allowed to attend or participate in any Parks and Recreation activities while intoxicated or under the influence of illegal drugs.
- M. Participants must refrain from any form of physical attack as an aggressor upon another participant or official.
- N. **Penalties for Violation of Rules J – M.**
 - 1. *The participant will be ejected from the activity/game/match/practice and suspended for the remainder of the season. Additional penalties can result in suspension for a minimum of (6) months.*
 - 2. *Participant(s) ejected from an activity/game/match/practice must leave the Facility in an expedient manner (2 minutes or less is considered expedient). Failure to do so will result in an official calling law enforcement to remove participants for trespassing.*
 - 3. *The second offense is three (3) years suspension. If circumstances warrant, the suspension could be applied indefinitely.*
 - 4. *For offenses that are in violation of Iowa State Statutes, law enforcement may be contacted and appropriate legal action may be taken.*

III. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

- A. Departmental Responsibilities
 - 1. Upon receipt of a written incident report describing a violation, the Superintendent of Recreation, or his/her designee, will investigate the report and will in turn apply the appropriate penalty in compliance with the Rules of Conduct.
 - 2. The violator and/or team Coach/Manager will be sent a formal letter describing the violation and appropriate penalty. Additional copies of this letter may be issued to the league supervisor, scorekeepers, School District personnel, officials, etc. as needed. Parent/guardian will be mailed this letter for youth violators.

IV. APPEALS

- A. Individuals receiving penalties may appeal a ruling as follows:
 - 1. A written request stating the reason for appeal may be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Director within seven (7) calendar days from the date on the formal penalty letter.
 - 2. Individuals appealing a suspension may expect a response from the Parks and Recreation Director within one month of the day that the department receives their appeal letter.