

***City of Statesville Recreation and Parks Department (SRPD)***  
***Code of Conduct for Athletic Events***

- I. SRPD supports youth sports activities that are governed by a strong sense of individual and team sportsmanship. Opponents are to be treated with respect, regardless of their level of skill, race, creed, sex, or national origin. The rules of the game are to be followed. Violent and/or dangerous conduct will not be tolerated by any coaches, players, or spectators.
- II. The following represents conduct that will **NOT** be permitted:
1. Vulgarity by coaches, players, or spectators directed toward anyone.
  2. Harassment of referees, coaches, or players by anyone.
  3. Debasing of referees, coaches, or players by anyone.
  4. Physical violence or threat of violence directed toward anyone or encouraged by anyone.
  5. When a player, coach, manager, spectator, or club official assaults a referee or anyone when such assault amounts to physical violence, such assault shall suspend the offender automatically for a period of 1 year from the time of the assault.
  6. The use of tobacco in any form by players or coaches in the playing area.
  7. Arguing with an official on a judgment call.
  8. Entrance onto the field of play without permission from the official in charge.
  9. The possession of drugs, alcohol, or anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
  10. Players, coaches, spectators, and league officials are prohibited from approaching a game official in an unsportsmanlike manner before, during, or after a game.
  11. Participation in a fight.
  12. Assault of referees, coaches, league officials, players, spectators.

Non-compliance with these rules will mean suspension from coaching, officiating, or attending games for the season or for one year depending on the nature of the occurrence.

III. **Support of the Officials**

SRPD has acted in support of good conduct and sportsmanship. The referees or other game or league officials are expected to use their authority to maintain acceptable conduct on the field as well as off the field during any sports function.

IV. **Coach, Official and Spectator Relationship**

Coaches cannot continuously attend to the spectators, but they are ultimately responsible for their team's part of the spectators. If a spectator engages in such conduct that the referee considers corrective action necessary, the referee will explain the situation to one or both coaches, as necessary. When a referee or league official speaks to a coach, it immediately becomes the coach's responsibility to correct the situation. If the coach does not or cannot correct the situation, the game may be terminated.

V. **Promoting Good Conduct**

1. **The Coach** - The behavior of the coach is the most important guide for player and spectator behavior. The coach can exert strong player and spectator control by the example he/she sets and by a few words of caution directed to the appropriate place when necessary. Any coach on the field before, during or after his/her game, whether his/her team is playing, will refrain from calling opposing players, coaches or officials by name or title or using language threatening in nature, either physically or mentally. Penalty shall be immediate removal from the field and possible suspension for one or more games depending on the nature of the occurrence.
2. **Movement of Coaches** - No coach is permitted in the opposing "team area" during games. Coaches must remain in their designated half of the field and shall be permitted to coach his/her team only. A coach that has been asked to leave the premises or has been ejected from a game must leave the ball field. He/she may not go to the stands or parking lot. Ejection from any game will carry a suspension from the next week's practices and the next game. If a coach is ejected and no assistant coach is available, as named on the official roster, the game will be terminated. Coaches not leaving the site, after ejection, may be arrested for trespassing and suspended for 1 year from the date of infraction.
3. **Location of Spectators** - Spectators should remain in the area designated for spectators. Prohibited locations for spectators are the same as for coaches above. Spectators disrupting the spirit of the game may be asked by a league official or referee to return to their seating or leave the area depending upon the nature of the disturbance. Spectators not leaving the premises as asked may be arrested for trespassing and banned from attending any SRPD sports activities for one year from the date of infraction.
4. **Location of Teams** - Teams should locate themselves in designated areas. No players should leave the team area without permission during a game. No player or coach shall wander into the opposing "team area." Spectators should remain in the designated seating area and not be near the team area.

- VI. **Violent or Rowdy Behavior** - Violent play, rowdy behavior, physical or verbal assaults and similar behavior will not be condoned and will be dealt with accordingly. Suspensions, periods of probation or team dissolution may result from prohibited conduct. Any member of any team in the SRPD sports program can be penalized for unsportsmanlike behavior. This includes coach, player, official, elected official, spectators, referee, or any member of the Board of Directors.