



Athletic Code of Conduct

Welcome to the Adult Sports Program sponsored by City of Austin Parks and Recreation Athletics Department. This program is offered for your enjoyment therefore, your cooperation and sportsmanship is essential to the overall success of the program. All players, coaches, managers, and spectators are expected to act in an acceptable manner during the entire program. This policy is in effect as soon as the participants arrive at the playing facility and remains in effect until the participants leave the facility.

Austin Parks and Recreation Athletics Department reserves the right to take any disciplinary action it deems appropriate against players, coaches, managers and spectators not acting in an acceptable manner, including, but not limited to suspension from games, expulsion from the park and participation in any future programs. The benefit a participant gains from this program depends very much on adherence to accepted standards of behavior.

These definitions provide information and direction to participants regarding standards of behavior, as well as consequences of participant/team misconduct.

Each Participant is expected to do the following:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-control
- Respect the rights and privileges of other participants and staff
- Respect City of Austin property and the property of others
- Cooperate with and assist the staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline
- Respect the game officials even when you disagree with their calls
- Respect Parks Department staff, facility rules and program regulations being enforced
- Be mindful of your conduct. Make sure no action occurs that could reflect badly on yourself or team

Unacceptable behaviors include the following:

- Failure to conform to program rules, regulations and ordinances
- Involvement in any instance or form of insubordination
- Use of profanity, vulgar language or obscene gestures
- Defacing and/or damaging City property or the property of others
- Engaging in inappropriate physical or verbal contact
- Running, pushing, shoving, littering, or throwing objects (which are not part of the supervised activity)
- Involvement with drugs, alcohol, smoking or weapons
- Inappropriate action of even one player can reflect upon your entire team



Penalties:

LEVEL I

Minimum Penalty: Verbal warning

Maximum Penalty: Ejection from current game, plus eight (8) day or one (1) game suspension and probation for remainder of season.

Team Penalty: If two (2) or more participants are involved from the same team, then the game will be forfeited by that team. The participants and/or team involved will be penalized as noted above.

No Participant Shall:

- Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's judgment (ex: throwing playing equipment, stare down tactics or any other intimidating/forceful action)
- Discuss with an official, in any manner, the judgment reached by an official except the manager, coach or captain.
- Be involved in any "trash" talking on or off the playing field
- Refuse to abide by official's judgment.
- Be guilty of smoking on or off the playing field
- Drink alcoholic beverages during the game on the field or dugout
- Discuss publicly with spectators in a derogatory manner any play, judgment, or personal opinion of other individuals.
- Mingle with or fraternize with spectators during the course of the game in a way that negatively affects the game in any way.

LEVEL II

Minimum Penalty: Ejection from current game, plus eight (8) day or one (1) game suspension and probation for remainder of season.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension from league (team and/or individual) and probation for one (1) year and/or assault charges filed.

Team Penalty: If two (2) or more participants are involved from the same team, then the game is forfeited by that team. The participants and/or team involved will be penalized as noted above.

No Participant Shall:

- Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any individual on or off the playing field. (Excessive could fall into level III or IV)
- Use profane, obscene or vulgar language/behavior, in any manner, at any time, on or off the playing field



- Unnecessary rough tactics in the play of game. (Intentional/flagrant action could fall into level III or IV)
- Play under another individual's name, falsify name, or falsify signature on official entry, line-up, roster or program forms.
- Violate Level I Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident.

LEVEL III

Minimum Penalty: Suspension from league (team and/or individual) and probation for one (1) year and/or criminal charges filed.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all Austin Parks and Recreation Department activities for one (1) year (team and/or individual), probation for two (2) additional years and/or criminal charges filed.

Team Penalty: If two (2) or more participants are involved from the same team, then the game will be forfeited by that team. The participants and/or team involved will be penalized as noted above.

No Participant Shall:

- Appear on the field of play, at any time, in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of any other type of drug which will infringe upon the individual's safety or the safety of others.
- Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any official or City staff on or off the playing field/court.
- Use excessive profane, obscene or vulgar language/behavior, in any manner, at any time, on or off the playing field.
- Directly or indirectly threaten another individual including officials and/or City staff.
- Attempt to damage, destroy or steal City property and/or property of others.
- Violate Level I/II Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident.

LEVEL IV

Minimum Penalty: Suspension from all Austin Park and Recreation Department activities for one (1) year (team and/or individual), probation for two (2) additional years and/or criminal charges filed.

Maximum Penalty: Life suspension from all Austin Parks and Recreation Department activities and/or criminal charges filed.

Team Penalty: If two (2) or more participants are involved from the same team, then the game will be forfeited by that team. The participants and/or team involved will be penalized as noted above.

No Participant Shall:

- Lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official or individual.
- Be guilty of a physical attack upon any official or individual.
- Be guilty of damaging, destroying or stealing city property.



- Be guilty of possessing and/or using altered equipment (balls, bats, etc.)
- Be guilty of throwing equipment at any official or individual with intent to harm or intimidate.
- Be guilty of possessing a weapon on or off the playing field.
- Gamble upon any play or the outcome of the game with other spectators, player, manager, coach, or opponent.
- Violate Level I/II/III Code of Conduct while on probation for a previous incident.

SUSPENDED PARTICIPANT:

If a player is ejected during the game the suspension is for the remainder of the current game and for all games and sports for the next eight (8) days or next playable game. Suspended participants are not allowed to attend any game for that period of which she/he is suspended. The participant must remain off the premises for this period or further disciplinary can be taken.

Suspended participants must remove themselves within five (5) minutes from the confines of the facility, or the area as designated by the official or staff.

If the suspended participant does not remove themselves immediately, their teammates or coaches are responsible for their removal or a forfeit will be called.

TEAM MANAGER RESPONSIBILITY:

Managers will be responsible to see that all their players and spectators know and abide by the rules/regulations and the Athletic Code of Conduct, before, during and after games. Managers shall be the official representative of the team and spectators unless she/he designates one of the players as the team captain prior to the game. Only the manager and/or designated team captain may discuss a call or judgment made by the official(s).

Team penalties may be imposed if multiple individuals, from the same team, violate this code of conduct.

Managers/Coaches may also have penalties imposed on them for their team's/player's actions.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Any and all situations not specifically covered in the Athletic Code of Conduct, shall be acted upon by the game official(s), site supervisor(s), league supervisor, or other City staff. All such actions shall be the basis for similar situations and such rulings shall be final and become part of, the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Any participant, who owes money to the City of Austin (returned checks, failure to pay league fees, failure to return City equipment, sum of damage, or other forms where money is owed to the City) and does not correct this matter within a prescribed time period will be suspended from all City of Austin activities until corrected.



Any Code of Conduct suspension will be transmitted to all local, regional, state and national governing bodies covering City of Austin leagues. Any/all participants suspended from City of Austin league play may be subject to suspension from all other leagues and tournaments.

Participants, who feel justified to appeal any judgment that pertains to the Athletic Code of Conduct, must abide by the judgment at the time of enforcement. Participant(s) may submit, no later than 24 hours after the incident, a typed protest to the Athletics Office Supervisor, pardathletics@austintexas.gov

By participating in the Capital City Softball league, all players, coaches, and managers attest that they have read and understand this Athletic Code of Conduct. They further agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Athletics Department works hard to offer fun and safe recreational sport leagues as a service and need for the Austin community.

There will be **Zero Tolerance** for individuals or teams jeopardizing our commitment to this service.