

MYA Code of Conduct – Players & Coaches

Sportsmanship and Discipline

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A. PURPOSE

To promote sportsmanship in all of the MYA Programs and to provide a mechanism for dealing with players, coaches, and spectators, who violate the MYA Code of Sportsmanship.

1. Sportsmanship Director. A member of the Board of Directors of MYA shall be designated as the Sportsmanship Director. The Director will be responsible for promoting sportsmanship in MYA and for the review of violations of the MYA Code of Sportsmanship.

2. Authority To Take Disciplinary Action. In accordance with section C. below, disciplinary action may be taken by a Committee appointed by the Director against any player, spectator, team official, or team, which fails to abide by the MYA Code of Sportsmanship. The Director of Sportsmanship will initiate a Committee review only upon the request of the Program Chair when the Committee is acting pursuant to section C.2., 3. or 4. below, a minimum of three (3) members, including the Director of Sportsmanship, must be involved. A member of the Committee must be nominated by the Program Chair from which the alleged violation arose. Any other member(s) of the Committee must be nominated by another Program Chair. The Director shall vote only in the case of a tie. The Director of Sportsmanship shall keep appropriate records of all such actions and those records, along with the MYA Code of Sportsmanship, may be the basis for future disciplinary actions.

B. MYA CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

MYA is dedicated to the development of leadership, character, and athletic skills for young people within the McLean Community. Consistent with that objective, conveying messages of good sportsmanship directly through teaching and indirectly through role models provided by both coaches and parents is critical to all of our programs.

It is with this in mind that we, as parents, coaches, and players, commit to encouraging (1) fair play, (2) respect for all participants on both sides of the competition, and (3) respect for the game officials.

Therefore, it shall be a violation of the MYA Code of Sportsmanship for any coach, team official, player, or spectator during or immediately following any MYA competition to:

a. encourage or engage in abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct directed toward any player, coach, or spectator, including, but not limited to:

- directing profane or obscene comments toward another person;
- physically or psychologically abusing or demeaning any youth;
- any verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm toward another; or actually striking another.

b. treat game officials with disrespect by:

- directing profane or obscene comments to them;
- repeatedly or persistently expressing disagreement with their officiating;
- any verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to an official or an official's property or equipment; or actually striking an official or damaging an official's property or equipment.

C. DISCRETIONARY SANCTIONS

Without regard to whether any automatic sanctions have been imposed by a referee or other game official, the Program Chair may refer an incident to the Director of Sportsmanship. Program Chairs are expected to refer possible violations of the MYA Code of Sportsmanship to the Director unless there is another mechanism for the Program to address the incident. The Director may then take any one of the discretionary sanctions, as described below, against an individual player, coach, team official, team, or spectator (hereinafter, "an offending party").

1. Verbal Warning. The Director of Sportsmanship, at his/ her discretion, may issue a verbal warning to an offending party. A written record of such warning shall be made and may be referenced in any future actions against that party. Notice of the verbal warning will be sent to the Program Director and, in the case of a player or parent, to the player's coach.

2. Written Warning. Based on a decision of a Committee, the Director of Sportsmanship may issue a written warning to an offending party. A copy of the warning shall be sent to the Program Director and, in the case of a player or parent, to the player's coach.

3. Suspension From Play. Based on a decision of a Committee, the Director of Sportsmanship may suspend an offending party for up to three games specifically identified to that party. Suspensions begin with the next game played after the Committee communicates its decision.

a. The offending party may not appear at the game site or its vicinity before or during a game for which the offending party has been suspended. If an offending party appears at the game(s) for which he/ she was suspended, his/her team shall forfeit the game in question.

b. All suspension actions shall carry forward until the entire suspension is served, irrespective of season.

4. Ban From Participation. Upon the recommendation of a Committee and approval of the MYA Board of Directors, an offending party may be banned from participation in ALL MYA PROGRAMS for a specified period of time. A banned person may not participate in any games or practices of any MYA program during that period. A team which does not comply with the ban of a player, coach or other team official may be required by a Committee to forfeit all remaining games in the season or some or all games that have already been played.

5. Automatic Suspension. Anyone who strikes another as described in paragraph B (1) or (2) will be immediately suspended from further participation in any MYA activities. The incident shall be reviewed by the Committee. The term of the suspension shall be determined by the Committee.

D. PROCEDURES

1. PROTESTS OF GAME RESULTS: There will be no protests of game results.

2. Procedure For Taking Discretionary Sanctions:

(a) Before the Director takes action against an individual under Part C of these Rules, the individual should be notified of the proposed action and the reasons for the proposed action. The individual should be provided an opportunity to respond. After receiving the individual's response, the Director, in accordance with Part C.1., may decide the case or, in accordance with C.2. through 4., the Committee shall meet in executive (closed) session to decide the case.

(b) If the Director or a Committee takes any action against an individual under (a) above, the individual should be advised of his/her right to appeal the action to the MYA Board of Directors. To file an appeal with the Board of Directors, the individual must post the appeal to the President of MYA within 48 hours after receiving the written notice of the action and tender a filing fee of \$50 with the appeal. The President may (1) appoint a committee of Board members to consider the appeal and report to the Board or (2) refer the matter to the Board for review. The review by the committee of Board members or of the Board shall consider the individual's written appeal and any written records from the Sportsmanship Discretionary Sanctions process. The Board should meet in executive (closed) session to decide the case.

E. PHILOSOPHY

COACHING OF PARTICIPANTS WILL BE IN ACCORD WITH MYA PHILOSOPHY. WINNING IS IMPORTANT, BUT IT DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE YOUTHS' LEARNING PROCESS AND HAVING A GOOD TIME.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING PUT INTO THE HANDS OF THE COACH IS THE YOUTH--NOT THE TEAM.

THE IDEAL COACH CARES ABOUT THE CHILD FIRST AS A HUMAN BEING, SECOND AS AN ATHLETE. THE COACH SHOULD HAVE RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR EACH PLAYER ON THE TEAM.

EVERY MYA COACH SHOULD PLACE THE YOUTH FIRST, THE TEAM SECOND, AND HIMSELF THIRD.

EACH COACH IS A MODEL FIGURE. THE YOUTH OFTEN TAKES THE ATTITUDE OF THE COACH. FOR, INSTANCE, IF THE COACH SHOWS NO RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS, NEITHER WILL THE PLAYERS.

TO THE YOUTH, THE FIRST THING IS BELONGING, THE SECOND IS CONTRIBUTING. IN THE YOUNGER AGE GROUPS, THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ARE TO PLAY AND TO BE A PART OF THE TEAM.

EACH YOUTH SHOULD ENJOY THE SPORT. HE OR SHE SHOULD NOT BE SENT HOME WITH THE BURDEN OF GUILT FOR HAVING LOST THE GAME. THE COACH SHOULD ASSUME SOME OF THAT BURDEN.

THE COACH MAY WANT TO WIN--THE YOUTHS JUST WANT TO PLAY.

F. COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

COACHES SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE MYA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SHALL CONDUCT THEMSELVES PROPERLY AT ALL TIMES.

COACHES WILL:

1. TAKE ALL REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF EACH YOUTH.

2. TAKE WHATEVER ACTION NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE ACTIONS OF THEIR FANS.

3. BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL MYI PROPERTY ISSUED. FIELDS, AND BUILDINGS, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT

LOCATED ON THE FIELD OR IN THE BUILDING BEING UTILIZED.

4. REPORT ALL INJURIES OR DAMAGE TO SCHOOL OR COUNTY PROPERTY TO THE PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON WITHIN 24 HOURS OF SUCH OCCURRENCE.

5. REPORT TO THE PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON.. OR THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS AS ESTABLISHED, ANY INQUIRY INTO THE POLICY OF THE PROGRAM OR POSSIBLE VIOLATION THEREOF, AS WELL AS WHATEVER ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

6. ABIDE BY ALL PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS.

7. INSURE THE CLEANLINESS OF FACILITIES UPON COMPLETION OF HIS OR HER ACTIVITY.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A COACH:

1. USE PROFANITY AT OR TO ANY YOUTH, PARENT, OR OFFICIAL.

2. PHYSICALLY OR PSYCHOLOGICALLY ABUSE ANY YOUTH ON HIS OR HER TEAM OR ANY OTHER TEAM, EVEN IN JEST.

3. STRIKE.. PUSH.. OR SHOVE ANY GAME OFFICIAL, ANOTHER COACH, OR A SPECTATOR.

4. DROP ANY YOUTH FROM PARTICIPATION WITHOUT THE ACTION FIRST BEING APPROVED BY THE PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON. PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS MUST BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY IF ANY PLAYER IS SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS.

5. REPRESENT HIMSELF OR HERSELF AS AN OFFICER OR SPOKESPERSON FOR MYA TO ANY GROUP, COMMITTEE, OR COUNTY AGENCY WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE MYA BOARD.

6. PRESSURE ANY YOUTH INTO PARTICIPATION BY INFORMING THE YOUTH THAT IF HE OR SHE DOES NOT PLAY THIS SEASON HE OR SHE WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO PLAY ON THE TEAM NEXT SEASON.

7. OFFER TO ANY OTHER GROUP OR ORGANIZATION USE OF ANY MYA EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE MYA QUARTERMASTER, OR FACILITIES OFFICER AND PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON.

8. CONDONE THE USE OF ANY DRUGS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, OR ANY OTHER UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITY.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THE COACH'S CODE:

AS AN APPROVED COACH, EACH COACH HAS AGREED TO ABIDE BY THIS CODE AND THE PENALTIES HEREBY SET FORTH.

VIOLATIONS OF ANY PART OF THIS CODE WILL BE HANDLED UNDER THE MYA BYLAWS, WHICH STATES THAT EACH PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON WILL "... INVESTIGATE AND ACT ON ALL COMPLAINTS AND ACCUSATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT. AND SUSPEND OR REPLACE OFFENDING INDIVIDUALS IF NECESSARY." IN ADDITION TO THIS, ALL ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THIS CODE WILL BE REPORTED TO THE MYA BOARD. IN CASES WHERE A COACH IS SUSPENDED OR REPLACED, THE PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON WILL NOTIFY THE MYA BOARD IN WRITING TO HAVE THIS ACTION RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS.

THIS CODE IS A PART OF EVERY MYA PROGRAM. A COPY OF THIS CODE SHALL BE GIVEN TO EVERY COACH TO MAKE HIM OR HER AWARE OF HIS OR HER COMMITMENT TO THESE PRINCIPLES.

SPECIAL PROVISION:

PROGRAM DIRECTORS, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MYA BOARD, ARE PERMITTED TO SUPPLEMENT OR EXPAND THE ABOVE CODE TO COVER AREAS UNIQUE TO HIS OR HER PROGRAM.

