

from NHRC Bylaws....

Article XVIII – Code of Conduct & Responsibilities

Section 1- It should be understood that the game official has full authority from the time he/she enters the field until the time he/she leaves it. This includes both pre-game and post-game activities. If an official determines that a person, whether coach, player, or fan is behaving in an abusive manner he/she may request that this person to cease such action. If the person does not comply with this request, that person may then be ordered to leave the playing field if the person does not leave, the official may stop the game at this point and declare the game a forfeit. In the event the game is forfeited, the coaches should report the incident to their program chairperson. The program chairperson is to write a letter to the abusive person informing him/her that his/her presence at future games is prohibited for a period to be decided by the council's board of directors. A copy of the letter should be sent to the board and the vice-president is to be notified immediately.

Section 2- Objectives of the program:

- a. To promote wholesome recreation interests.
 - b. To develop skills that will carry over into adult life.
 - c. To educate the community in the social value of recreational activities.
 - d. To stimulate interest in the entire program.
- These objectives are sufficient to challenge the abilities of the professional staff to merit the interest and support of the volunteer staff and to command respect of civic-minded citizens.
- The recreation council affirms a strong belief in the value of competition for youth and adults, recognizing that values derived from such a program are in direct proportion to the acceptance of and adherence to a worthy set of standards toward which we must continually strive.

Section 3- Sportsmanship and Ethics:
The volunteer coach and leader bear the greatest burden of responsibility for sportsmanship. The influence of a coach upon the attitudes and behavior of the players and the community are unequalled. In order for good sportsmanship to become a reality, it is essential that the coach subscribes to the values of sportsmanship and teaches its principles through word and deed.

Section 4- Responsibilities of the coach:

- a. Always set a good example for others to follow.
- b. Instruct the players in their sportsmanship responsibilities.
- c. Discipline those players who display unsportsmanlike behavior and if necessary, forfeit their privilege of representing the team.
- d. Be a good host and treat opponents as guests.
- e. Provide opportunities for social interaction among coaches and players of both teams before and after contest.
- f. Be cognizant of each player's health and welfare and avoid all practices which would be detrimental to the player's well-being.

- g. Respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules, particularly the inexperienced official.
- h. If, in the opinion of the coach, inexperienced or poor officiating could result in plat detrimental to the health or well-being of the players, then his team should withdraw from the field and the match forfeited.
- i. Publicly shake hands with the officials and opposing coach before and after the contest.
- j. Encourage fans and spectators to view the game for what it is and not a life and death struggle.

Section 5- Code of ethics for coaches:

It is most significant that coaches must embrace such ideals with total sincerity if they are to be influential in the development of those youth entrusted to them. To ensure these values, the National Code of Ethics for High School Coaches serves as our standard:

- a. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior, and leadership.
- b. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
- c. Abide by the rules of the game in letter and spirit.
- d. Respect the integrity and judgment of sport's officials.
- e. Demonstrate a mastery of and continuing interest in coaching principles and techniques through self-improvement.
- f. Encourage a respect for all athletes and their values.
- g. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- h. Promote ethical relationships among coaches.
- i. Fulfill responsibilities to provide an environment free of safety hazards.
- j. Encourage the highest standards of conduct and scholastic achievement among all athletes.
- k. Seek to instill good health habits, including the establishment of sound training rules.
- l. Strive to develop in each athlete the qualities of leadership, initiative, and good judgment.

Section 6- Responsibilities of the Participants:

Participants must follow the principles of sportsmanship set by the coach or leader and must follow the same code of personal conduct as outlined for the coaches in the two preceding sections.

Section 7- Responsibilities of the Program Chairperson:

The chairperson of each program in the recreation council is responsible for ensuring the "Responsibilities of the Coach" and "Code of Ethics" is maintained by each person coaching in the program and that all participants follow these principles of sportsmanship. If disciplinary action is to be taken, the program chairperson shall have the power to determine the extent and degree of discipline required. Such action may range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the activity for whatever time deemed necessary. The program chairperson should consult with the recreation council president or vice-president in making a decision on disciplinary action.

Section 8- Responsibility of the Recreation Council Board of Directors:

Each officer and board member has a responsibility to ensure that the “Code of Responsibilities and Conduct” is adhered to. If any officer or board member should observe any coach, player, or fan not abiding by these principals, he/she shall recommend to the program chairperson that disciplinary action be taken.

Should any coach, player, or fan, disciplined for violation of this code feel that the action taken by the program chairperson be extreme or unwarranted, an appeal may be made to the recreation council. In such case, the recreation council shall hold a hearing with all concerned parties to determine if such action was reasonable and justified.