

# HEREFORD AREA RECREATION COUNCILS

## POLICY ON GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

### DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, sportsmanship will be used as a term that describes the conduct of the coaches, players and spectators during the Council's sponsored events. The term "coach" is used throughout and includes all volunteers, in all sports, assisting in any way with the direction of players or events.

### PURPOSE

1. Participation – All registrants in Council sponsored events are entitled to play in a fair share of each contest in accordance with the playing guidelines of each program, regardless of player ability or importance of the contest.
2. Player Conduct – Players shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times, before, during and after a contest. This means no criticizing or making fun of players on your team or the opposing team, no fighting, no destruction of facilities or equipment, no disobeying coaches, officials, etc. No food or drink permitted in the gym. Water bottles are permitted.
3. Coaches Conduct – Coaches are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their team and their spectators during the Council sponsored events. Coaches should be willing to set the example of good sportsmanship as well as teaching athletic sports. As adult volunteers, each coach should be a positive role model not only for the individual child in the program, but also for the Recreation Council and our community. Unfair tactics OR strategy, profanity (whether directed at your team or the opposing team), criticizing officials, harassing spectators or any other unsportsmanlike conduct is not condoned and will not be allowed.
4. Spectators Conduct – Spectators shall conduct themselves in a dignified and sportsmanlike manner at all times. Cheering for your team is encouraged; however, actions taken with the intent of rattling opposing team players, agitating opposing coaches and criticizing officials or interfering in any way with the contest will not be allowed. If a spectator is asked to leave the premises, he or she will not be allowed to attend their child's next game.

### ENFORCEMENT

Commissioners, activity leaders and officials (whether paid or volunteer), are hereby given the authority to determine when actions on the part of the players, coaches or spectators are not in conformance with the policy and shall take appropriate action immediately. Appropriate action shall include notification to the local recreation council chairperson and intercouncil league coordinator within 24 hours. The incident will be addressed within 14 days. The Commissioner and/or Chairperson(s) of the sport in season will review the incident and make appropriate ruling. The individuals involved may make appeals to this ruling to the appropriate council's Executive Committee. If the individual involved in the dispute is a Board Member, they will abstain from the voting. The President of the affected recreation council may assume the role of the individual abstaining for voting purposes. If the President is the same (Board Member), the Vice President may step in and assume the role.

As deemed appropriate, the following consequences will be enforced for all the recreation council sponsored programs including travel programs:

Any individual receiving a formal reprimand for unsportsmanlike conduct from an official will be automatically issued a reprimand by their Recreation Council.

A second occurrence will result in the suspension of the individual for the remainder of the season. Should the individual appear at any of these games, that game would be considered a forfeit.

Coaches, players, associated personnel, or spectators ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, or three technical fouls will be asked to leave the gym. Cases of physical or verbal abuse by any coach, player, associated team personnel or spectator against any referee, coach, player, associated team personnel or spectator, before, during or after any game may be reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may ban the offending individual(s) from participating in the league for up to three years.