

LOWELL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
GENERAL RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

SECTION 1. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Lowell Parks and Recreation Department has adopted a “Zero Tolerance Policy” for all coaches, players, spectators, and other persons. No profanity, fighting, heckling, disrespect, threats, alcohol or tobacco products will be tolerated. Result: you will be banned indefinitely from all Lowell Parks and Recreation league sponsored activities and facilities.

Lowell Parks and Recreation Department league programs and facilities are designed to offer leisure activities for families, groups, and individuals of all ages with diversified interests. Sporting events are provided by the department as opportunities for friendly competition while promoting a spirit of sportsmanship among participants and a pleasant environment for spectators.

Participants, coaches, managers, team representatives, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, before, during, and after an event.

SECTION 2. OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

A. Designated team representatives and coaches are responsible for the conduct of themselves, team members, and other appropriate representatives at all times.

B. Conduct. Conduct which may be interpreted by a staff person or game official as threatening to the administration or control of the contest, including constant complaining, heckling, and bickering will result in immediate ejection from the contest and playing facilities for an amount of time deemed necessary by Lowell Parks and Recreation Department.

C. Abusive Language. No person involved in any Lowell Parks and Recreation Department activity or facility will be allowed to use profane, vulgar, excessively loud, or abusive language. Failure to comply will result in immediate ejection from the contest and playing facility for an amount of time deemed necessary by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department.

D. Alcoholic Beverages. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed, including playing facilities, dugouts, parking lots, restrooms, etc. or on any property used by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department. No person having the discernible odor of alcohol about his or her person will be allowed on the property. Failure to comply will result in immediate ejection from the contest and removal from the premises for an amount of time deemed necessary by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department. Anyone associated with a youth or adult team that is found with alcoholic beverages in the parking lot, dugouts, basketball gyms, restrooms, etc. is in violation of the law and could result in the entire team being removed from the premises for an amount of time deemed necessary by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department.

E. Tobacco Products. Cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, vapes or any other tobacco products are not allowed within the playing facilities, dugouts, parking lots, restrooms, etc. or on any property used by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department.

Failure to comply will result in immediate ejection from the contest and playing facility. Coaches and other team representatives will not be allowed to leave the playing facility to use tobacco products during a game.

F. Fighting. Fighting in any form by any person involved in any Lowell Parks and Recreation Department activity or facility will not be tolerated. Fighting shall be defined as “an act or attempted act of violence by one person towards any other person, including physical or verbal abuse and/or thrown objects.”

SECTION 3. SUSPENSION WILL OCCUR AS FOLLOWS CONCERNING FIGHTING AND THREATENING:

A. Threatening a game official, participant, coach, spectator, or representative of the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department will result in immediate ejection from the contest and a one-year suspension from all Lowell Parks and Recreation Department sponsored activities and facilities.

B. Physically striking or attempting to strike a coach, player, or spectator will result in immediate ejection from the contest and a one-year suspension from all Lowell Parks and Recreation Department sponsored activities and facilities.

C. Physically striking or attempting to strike a game official or representative of the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department will result in immediate ejection from the contest and a permanent suspension from all Lowell Parks and Recreation Department sponsored activities and facilities.

SECTION 4. OTHER GUIDELINES AND PENALTIES CONCERNING YOUTH LEAGUES

A. If a player quits or leaves a team for any reason, the coach must contact the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department.

B. If an incident occurs with a participant in whom the coach feels the participant should be removed from the team, the coach must submit a written statement to the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department outlining the incident and reason(s) for removal. Staff will review the information with the coach and all parties involved before any action will be taken.

C. If a player or coach is ejected from the contest by an official, the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department will review the circumstances surrounding the ejection and determine the suspension. The suspension will be final. An ejection will result in at least a one game suspension.

D. The Lowell Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to determine violations of the above rules, to set penalties for violations, and to set in place other rules of conduct deemed necessary for the proper administration of the program.

SECTION 5. COACHES

All coaches, including assistant coaches, must complete a volunteer application and read the coach's code of ethics. Coaches must also complete a background check form. All coaches, including assistant coaches, must be approved by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department.

Baseball: a maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed during regular season.

Basketball: a maximum of two (2) coaches are allowed during regular season.

Soccer: a maximum of two (2) coaches are allowed during regular season.

SECTION 6. TEAM ROSTERS

- A. Lowell Parks and Recreation Department will determine the process in which teams will be formed.
- B. Team preferences will not be granted. Request for a specific team and players placed on the same team will not be accepted. The only guarantee of placement on the same team is brothers/sisters and coaches children, provided that staff is made aware of this at registration.

SECTION 7. DRAFT GUIDELINES

- A. A separate form will be given with the draft rules/guidelines.

SECTION 8. SCHEDULING

- A. All regular season and post-season games will be scheduled by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department. Games will be scheduled Monday through Saturday. Games may be played in Lowell and possibly at other locations with other organizations.
- B. Every effort will be made to schedule games around conflicting dates, provided that coaches notify staff prior to scheduling preparations. Once the schedule is made, no changes will be allowed.

SECTION 9. CANCELLATIONS AND MAKE-UPS

- A. Lowell Parks and Recreation Department will make every effort to play all games if reasonably possible. Coaches will be notified by 3 p.m. if a game will be cancelled. If you do not hear anything, teams should report to the playing facility and the official will make the decision.
- B. Lowell Parks and Recreation Department will contact the head coach only in the event a game is cancelled. Coaches should contact their players concerning inclement weather games.
- C. All cancelled games will be rescheduled by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department staff at the earliest possible date and is final. Both coaches will be notified of the new date, time, and location, which may include Wednesdays and other days that 3 games are not normally played. Officials will be arranged by the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department staff through a booking agent.
- D. In the event of a large number of cancellations, the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department may have to reschedule games at the end of the regular season schedule. The Lowell Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel games rescheduled for the end of the season that do not affect league standings.

SECTION 10. PRACTICE POLICY

- A. The Lowell Parks and Recreation Department will make our facilities as readily available for practice as possible. Practices will be limited due to the number of fields/gyms available and the number of teams in our leagues. The Lowell Parks and Recreation Department will set up practices for the preseason at the coaches meeting. There will be a preseason and in season practice schedule. Lowell Parks and Recreation Department may cancel practices to reschedule make-up games.

B. Should teams schedule additional practice sessions elsewhere, these sessions must be reported to the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department. It is the responsibility of the coach to obtain permission at a practice site not belonging to the Lowell Parks and Recreation Department. The intent is to make practice time equitable to ensure that no single team enjoys an advantage.

SECTION 11. TIES

In the event two or more teams are tied at the conclusion of regular season play, the following steps will be taken to break the tie:

- A. Head-to-head competition; the record between the two or more teams will be considered.
- B. Point spread between the two or more teams; an examination of the final scores between the two teams will be considered.
- C. Least runs/points allowed between the games of the two or more teams.
- D. A review of common opponents and each team's record against such teams will be considered.