

# Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association

## CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

August 2001

### I. CODE OF CONDUCT

#### 1. Coaches, managers, players and spectators SHALL NOT:

##### A. Use foul, abusive, derogatory, or offensive language.

*\*No exact standard exists nor will the association attempt to list every word or phrase that would be considered a violation of this provision. The PBGYAA Board of Directors and the Division Boards reserve complete discretion in determining a violation of this provision as the elective Boards of the membership. The Boards will consider the context and circumstances the violative words or phrase are used relative to any disciplinary action, if any.*

##### B. Taunt, verbally harass, threaten, or degrade any other player, coach, manager, spectator, or any official, umpire or referee.

*\*The Division Boards and the PBGYAA Board reserve complete discretion in determining a violation of this provision.*

##### C. Hit, strike, kick, assault, or offensively touch any other player, coach, manager, spectator, official, umpire or referee regardless of the intent to injure. Players would be considered violative of this provision if the contact were considered outside the normal contact of the game.

*\*Due to unforeseen circumstances and the context of the contact, the PBGYAA Board and the Division Boards reserves complete discretion in determining if the contact is violative of this provision.*

##### D. Engage in any conduct that would be considered unbecoming, unsportsmanship-like, or offensive including, but not limited to, spitting, throwing equipment or other objects, offensive and/or threatening gestures, kicking dirt, and "getting into the face" of another person.

*\* The PBGYAA Board and the Division Boards cannot contemplate every scenario or act that would be considered violative of this provision. Therefore, the Boards reserve complete discretion in determining any violations.*

##### E. The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, weapons, (guns, knives, or any other designed device that could cause bodily harm) or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at any PBGYAA event or function by any member or person is strictly prohibited by the PBGYAA. The PBGYAA has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy toward any member or

person who violates this provision which will result in an automatic suspension from the association.

- 2. The game umpire/official/ referee is given complete control of the game and the field or area of the game from the time the players and coaches enter the area of the game and until the players and coaches leave the area of the game following the end of the event.**
  - A. The umpire/official/referee has complete control to eject any player, coach, manager or spectator from the area of the game and surrounding area in his/her discretion if the player, coach, manager, or spectator is in violation of 1 A, B, C, D or E of this Code with or without any prior warning.
  - B. If any coach, manager, player, or spectator of any given team refuses to leave the facilities after being ejected and told to leave the area of the game and surrounding area, then his/her team will forfeit the game and the official/umpire/referee will immediately leave the area of the game without further discussion.
  - C. The game umpire/official/referee shall upon completion of the game submit a written Code of Conduct Violation report to the respective Division Boards or representatives of the Boards of any violation of 1 A, B, C, D or E of the Code by any player, coach, manager, or spectator for further action, if any, by the Division Boards and/or the PBGYAA Board.
3. Any violation of this Code can be reported by anyone with information of any violation of this Code verbally or in writing to any Division Board, its representatives, or the PBGYAA Board. The respective Boards shall diligently investigate any complaints and determine if any action should be taken, if any, against the respective player, coach, manager, spectator or umpire/official/referee.
4. Each Division Board will be responsible for written notification to the YAA of a Code of Conduct Violation report submitted by any umpire, official, referee or member regarding the violation of the Code of Conduct. This report includes information describing the incident, any witnesses to the violation, any action taken, the date and time of the incident, and the nature of the violation. The Division shall forward this Report to the YAA Executive Board upon completion.
5. Any alleged violation of the Code of Conduct should be reported to the Division president along with any incident report for evaluation and further action, if necessary.

## **II. PROCESS FOR CONSIDERING DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. The Division Boards shall consider all reports of any member's violation of the code of Conduct. A quorum of the Division Board shall meet as soon as reasonably possible to consider any reports and determine by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board whether disciplinary action may be warranted. All Board members shall be noticed for any meeting to consider any alleged violation.

2. If a majority vote of a quorum of the Board votes that disciplinary action may be warranted, then the member shall be contacted immediately by certified letter of the alleged violation which should include, but not be limited to, the specific alleged violation of the Code the member is accused of violating and informing the member of his election to request a fact finding hearing before the Division Board to dispute the allegations.

3. Any member who receives a letter describing a violation of the Code of Conduct shall have 72 hours to request a hearing upon receipt of the letter. The member's failure to respond will be deemed as an admission to the allegations and the Board shall then consider the appropriate disciplinary action under Section III of the guidelines.

4. A requested hearing by any member after receiving a violation letter shall be conducted by a quorum of the Division Board no later than 10 days after a requested hearing by a member. The hearing date and time shall be set with the coordination of the accused member. The hearing will be conducted by the president of the Division Board who will set time limits for witness testimony, the number of witnesses to be called, and any statement to be made by the member or his/her representative.

5. A quorum of the Board shall vote at the conclusion of the hearing to determine if disciplinary action warranted against the member pursuant to Section III. A majority vote of a quorum of the Board shall decide the outcome of any action, if any.

6. The member shall be given written notice (by certified mail) of the outcome of the hearing within 72 hours after the hearing. Minutes of the Division hearing shall be forwarded to the YAA secretary at this time.

7. No disciplinary action shall be taken against any member until the member is afforded the opportunity of a hearing. However, the Division president shall have discretion to temporarily suspend any member pending a hearing depending on the nature of the violation, safety of other members and whether the member has violated the Code of Conduct in the past.

8. The Division Board may, by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board, elect to

have the YAA Board conduct a hearing pursuant to these provisions for any reason including, but not limited to, conflicts of interest.

### **III. DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES**

1. The Division Board has the sole discretion with these as **minimum** guidelines to discipline any member for a violation of the Code of Conduct as follows:

**A. Use of foul, abusive, derogatory or offensive language.**

Warning, ejection from game/location or one (1) game suspension.

\*Repeat violators are subject to season suspensions at the discretion of the Board.

\*Three (3) violations shall be an automatic suspension for one (1) year.

**B. Taunt, verbally harass, threaten or degrade any player, coach, manager, umpire, referee, official or member.**

Warning, ejection from game/location or one (1) game suspension.

\*Repeat violators are subject to season suspensions at the discretion of the Board.

\*Three (3) violations shall be an automatic suspension for one (1) year.

**C. Hit, strike, kick, assault, or offensively touch any player, coach, manager, spectator, umpire, referee, official or member.**

One (1) game suspension up to season suspension. Depending on severity of incident, the Board may consider expulsion from association.

**D. Unbecoming behavior, unsportsmanship-like, or offensive conduct.**

Warning, ejection from game/location or to one (1) game suspension.

\*Repeat violators subject to season suspension or expulsion.

**E. Under the influence of/possession of alcohol, drugs, or weapons.**

Automatic suspension from the association for one (1) year or expulsion from the association.

**Each Division Board may determine that a violation of the Code of Conduct may warrant additional or harsher penalties.**