

CHICOPEE YOUTH SPORTS SPORTSMANSHIP POLICIES AND WAIVERS

November 2025

Welcome Athletes and Families!

The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department welcomes you to participate in our upcoming youth recreational athletics season! We look forward to providing a safe and fun opportunity to develop skills, grow confidence, and have fun competing with friends.

The mission of the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department is to encourage participation in and utilization of recreational facilities for the youth and adult residents throughout the City of Chicopee. The department provides parks, in addition to various services and programs, in order to allow each individual to make the most of their leisure time. It is our responsibility to promote healthy lifestyles while encouraging continued betterment of the quality of life for our residents.

This packet layouts the expectations for players, parents and spectators, coaches, and officials to promote sportsmanship and create a positive experience for everyone involved. Failure to adhere to these expectations will result in disciplinary action.

Our goal is to create a positive environment that teaches young athletes the importance of hard work, sportsmanship, and teamwork. We appreciate your efforts in helping us achieve that goal.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department has adopted this Zero Tolerance Policy to promote a positive, safe, and respectful environment for all youth athletes. This policy establishes expectations for behavior and outlines consequences for actions that undermine the values of sportsmanship, safety, and respect.

This policy applies to all participants, who shall include all players, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, officials and staff. There shall be zero tolerance for any misbehavior at all sporting events. This includes but is not limited to:

- Shouting at referees, including arguing any calls, criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after a game.
- Abusive and obscene language or gestures
- Violent play or conduct of any kind
- Fighting
- Other behaviors deemed detrimental to the game.

Any spectator, participant and coach who does not behave appropriately, as stated in the Zero Tolerance Policy, will be asked to leave the sporting event and may be subject to disciplinary action (including suspension). Play will not resume until the violator has left the facility. If they refuse to leave, their team will forfeit, and the game will be over.

Any violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy must be reported to the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department, and all reported violations of the policy will be investigated and subject to disciplinary action (including suspension).

Three Strike Policy

The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department has implemented a Three Strike Policy for disciplinary action as a result of any violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

Violations in any class, sporting or non-sporting event sponsored or co-sponsored by the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department will result in the following:

STRIKE #1: Suspension from three games and placed on probation for the remainer of the season.

STRIKE #2: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.

STRIKE #3: Permanent banishment from all recreational activities.

Disciplinary action shall not be season specific and may carry over to other programs or activities.

Abuse of Official No participant shall at any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten an official, coach, player, or spectator. Officials are required to suspend any player who violates this rule immediately from play and report players to the Parks & Recreation Department. Such players shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Parks & Recreation Department. Minimum Penalty: Suspension from three league games and placed on probation for the remainer of the season. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.	**Interactions with Official** No participant or spectator shall discuss with an official in any manner the decision reached by an official. The coach or team captain is exempt from this rule. The degree of infraction of this principle of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgement, draw the following: Minimum Penalty: Warning by official Maximum Penalty: Removal from the game.
Official's Decisions No participant shall refuse to abide by an official's decision. Officials are required to suspend any player violating this rule immediately from further play and report such player to the Parks & Recreation Department. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Parks & Recreation Department. Minimum Penalty: Placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.	**Bullying** No participant shall participate in any bullying activity. Bullying is the act of one or more individuals intimidating one or more persons through verbal, physical, mental, written interactions or by electronic means. Minimum Penalty: Suspension for three league games and placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.
Abusive Language No participant shall use abusive language or verbally attack another player, coach, official, or spectator. Officials are required to suspend any player who violates this rule immediately from further play and report such player to the Parks & Recreation Department. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Parks & Recreation Department. Minimum Penalty: Removal from game. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.	**Obscene Gestures** No participant shall use obscene gestures or objectionable demonstrations of dissent concerning an official's decision. The degree of infraction of this principle of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgment, draw the following: Minimum Penalty: Immediate removal from the game. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.
Unnecessary Roughness No participant shall use unnecessary roughness in the play of a game against an opposing player. Officials are required to suspend a player who violates this rule immediately from further play and report such players to the Parks & Recreation Department. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Parks & Recreation Department. Minimum Penalty: Placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Maximum Penalty: Suspended from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation the following year.	**Fighting** No participant shall fight, physically attack as an aggressor upon any player, coach, official, or spectator. Officials are required to suspend a player who violates this rule immediately from further play and report this player to the Parks & Recreation Department. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum penalty period or until reinstated by the Parks & Recreation Department. Minimum Penalty: Suspension from three league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for an indefinite period of time. Referred to City Solicitor for possible criminal complaints.
Abuse of Alcohol / Drugs No participant shall appear on the court or field of play under the influence of alcohol or drugs. No participant shall consume alcohol or drugs or be cited in violation of the City of Chicopee's open container or other alcohol/drug laws in city parks or school facilities. Minimum Penalty: Suspension from three league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for an indefinite period of time. Referred to City Solicitor for possible criminal complaints.	**Vandalism** No participant shall cause intentional damage to any city property or facility, including but not limited to glass breakage, graffiti, theft, arson, or property damage. Any reports of vandalism will result in police called and a report filed. Those involved perpetrating vandalism will be required to pay 100% restitution for the damage. Minimum Penalty: Suspension from three league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for an indefinite period of time. Referred to City Solicitor for possible criminal complaints.

CHICOPEE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARENT'S/ GUARDIAN'S/SPECTATOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

I pledge to be fully responsible for my words and actions while attending practices and games and ensure that my behavior adheres to the following code of conduct as established by the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department:

- I will not force my child to participate in a sport.
- I will remember that children participate in athletics to have fun, and that the game is for the children and not the adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, spectators, staff and volunteers at every game, practice or other sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands or using profane language or gestures.
- I (and my guests) will not encourage any behavior or practices that would endanger the health, safety, and well-being of my child or other participants.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will treat every coach, parent, player, official, spectator, staff and volunteer with respect regardless of race, creed, national origin or sexual orientation and will encourage my child to do the same.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of the game or their performance.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize competition in lower age groups.
- I (and my guests) will refrain from making threats, initiating a fight or scuffle with any coach, official, parent, player, participant or any other attendee.
- I (and my guests) will respect the officials and coaches and their authority during games. I will never question, discuss or confront officials or coaches at the game. I will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I (and my guests) understand that the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs are prohibited at all youth sports events. I will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I (and my guests) will refrain from coaching my child or other players during the games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I hereby agree that if I fail to adhere to the conduct established above while attending any practice, game or function related to the youth sports program I may be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning issued by the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department
- Written warning issued by the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department
- Immediate dismissal from the facility for inappropriate conduct.
- Suspended from attending practices, games or program functions for a specified period of time as designated by the program.
- Life-long banishment from the program.

CHICOPEE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

I pledge to provide a positive attitude and be responsible for my behavior at all practices, games and events by following this code of conduct as established by the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department:

- I will play to have fun, win or lose; I will try to enjoy every moment on the field / court.
- I will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times and encourage my teammates, coaches, officials, and parents to do the same.
- I will obey the rules of the game and play within the spirit of the rules.
- I will respect my coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials. I will not do anything to deliberately hurt or injure them.
- I understand that things I put on social media is public information, and I should always think twice before posting anything negative about any coach or player on my team or opposing teams.
- I will be patient with my teammates.
- I will do my best to learn and listen to my coaches.
- I will not argue or complain about the official's calls or decisions.
- I will maintain self-control at all times. I understand that fighting and mouthing off can hurt my team and spoil the game for everyone.
- I will refrain from using foul language, bullying, intimidating or taunting my teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials.
- I will adhere to rules of the park, school buildings and gyms. I understand that water bottles are allowed but must be picked up before leaving practice or games.
- I will take responsibility for my own behavior.
- I will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

I understand that if I violate any of the above code of conduct, I will have consequences given to me. These consequences include, but are not limited to being sent home practice, sitting out a portion of a game, being suspended from games, or being suspended for the remainder of the season or longer.

CHICOPEE YOUTH SPORTS POLICIES AGREEMENT AND WAIVER

On this date, _____, I confirm that I have read, and I understand the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department's Youth Sports Policies. I agree to abide by the policies and procedures listed within. I also understand that failure to do so would lead to disciplinary action.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing you will be waiving and releasing all claims for injuries you or your child might sustain arising out of this program.

As a participant or parent/guardian of a participant, in the program, I recognize that there are certain risks of physical injury and I agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, including death, damages or loss for which I or my minor child/ward may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with this program.

I do hereby fully release, discharge and agree to identify and hold harmless and defend the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department, its officers, agents, servants and employees from any and all claims from injuries, including death, damages or loss sustained by me or my minor child/ward may or sustain, arising out of, connected with as a result of participating in this activity or the program.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PROGRAM DETAILS AND WAIVER RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

Signature: _____ Date: _____