

Millcreek Youth Athletic Association Code of Conduct



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MYAA CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Conduct – Policies and Procedures

The Millcreek Youth Athletic Association (MYAA) is a nonprofit community youth organization whose purpose is to create a youth sports program based upon the ideals of good sportsmanship, integrity, personal responsibility and teamwork taught through organized activities. This code of conduct outlines expectations for players, parents and volunteers.

By registering your child for any MYAA program or by participating as a volunteer, you agree to the Code of Conduct (the “Code”) as outlined in this document. All parents, coaches, officials and players must abide by the code or it could jeopardize a child’s opportunity to play, a parent’s opportunity to attend, a coach’s opportunity to coach and an official’s opportunity to officiate at any MYAA activity or event. MYAA has formulated the Code and requires that you commit to be responsible for your words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in MYAA events and that you conform your behavior to the Code.

I. PLAYERS:

A. Sportsmanship:

1. Give your best effort in school.
2. Give your best effort at all games, practices and MYAA events.
3. Do not argue with umpires, referees, coaches or players.
4. Respect and encourage teammates.
5. Listen to your coaches and follow their instructions.
6. Never throw equipment (i.e. helmets, bats, balls, gloves or any other equipment) out of anger or disappointment.
7. Do not throw temper tantrums (i.e. stomping out of anger, yelling/crying inappropriately, etc.)
8. Never use profanity, racial or derogatory comments of any kind.
9. Attend all practices and games or appropriately give notification to head coach.
10. Clean up the location after all practices and games.
11. Do not leave playing area during a game or practice except for injury, illness or to use restroom.
12. Focus on the game at all times and do not converse with others that could distract you outside the playing area.
13. Be on time.
14. Understand your rights to play in an environment free from harassment and/or abuse in any form. Report any such incidents immediately.

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- B. Playing Time:** Playing time in MYAA recreational programs shall be divided as equally as the games allow for players who follow the sportsmanship requirements. Although our recreational programs dictate equal playing time, players that are continuously absent to a point where they do not understand the game situations are at risk for reduced time. Coaches must discuss those situations with the league commissioner and parent before those actions are taken.

Millcreek Riptide Travel programs enforce playing time based on hard work and performance in practice and game situations.

II. PARENTS: (any reference to “parents” in code refers to all family members)

A. Affirmative Acts in General: You are expected to:

1. Support the team, the coaches and MYAA;
2. Be positive & encouraging to your child, teammates & other parents;
3. Be respectful of all others, including opposing players, fans, officials and umpires;
4. Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sports. Make it fun.
5. Encourage your child to play by the rules.
6. Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Work towards eradicating all forms of abuse in youth sports.
7. Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and sport. Communicate with them and support them.
8. Understand your child’s right to play in an environment free from harassment and/or abuse in any form. Report any such incidents immediately.

B. Prohibited Acts in General: You may not at any time or in any manner:

1. Consume alcoholic beverages at any MYAA event
2. Coach or instruct any players during a game or practice (unless you are the coach). Do not interfere with or override your Coach’s instruction.
3. Use profanity, racial or derogatory comments of any kind.
4. Contribute to the destruction of equipment or facilities.
5. Verbally and/or physically assault another person at any MYAA event.
6. Take part in any action that is deemed disruptive to the orderly conduct of the event.
7. Violate any City, State, or Federal regulation, ordinance and law.

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- C. Playing Time/Position:** MYAA prohibits parents from discussing playing time or position with coaches immediately prior to, during or immediately following a game. You may ask your child's head coach what you and the coach can do together to help your child improve. This must be done away from playing field and while other players and parents are not present. Preferably, meetings require 24-48 hours advance notice.
- D. Behavior:** Parents are expected to treat all players, coaches, officials and fans with respect. Parents should be fans. Parents are expected to not coach any players, including their child, during practices and games. Parent instructions to players during practices or games are often inconsistent with instructions given by coaches. Giving a player instructions causes stress to the player. Limit comments to cheering and encouraging the team. Do not yell at the coaches, children, or officials. Let the coaches handle the officials.
- E. Keeping a Proper Distance From The Team:** Parents are not allowed in the team area (i.e. dugout, sideline, etc.) unless as a coach, scorebook keeper, etc. that are required to be in the area for game purposes. Parents are required to remain a proper distance from the team during games, practices and warm ups. Parents may approach these areas when the child is sick, injured, or when coach requests.
- F. Fees:** Parents are expected to pay registration fees on or before the due date. Fees not paid in full by the first game/event of each program will result in that player not being able to participate. In case of financial hardship, please contact the MYAA office. Once the first practice is held for any program, no refunds will be given.

III. Coaches:

- A. Affirmative Acts in General:** You are expected to:
 1. Support the team, other coaches and cooperate with the administration of the MYAA.
 2. Be positive and encouraging to all children and parents.
 3. Promote honesty, teamwork, fair play and responsibility.
 4. Be respectful of all others, including opposing players, fans, officials and umpires.
 5. Treat players with dignity and respect regardless of their athletic ability. Reward their efforts more than their skills.
 6. Encourage and motivate your players with patience and positive talk. Do not let your players get down on themselves.
 7. Schedule appropriate practices and games and conduct them so that all players have opportunities to improve their skill level through active participation.
 8. Understand the program rules, age-appropriate skill development and practice strategies.
 9. Cooperate with the administration of MYAA and the enforcement of rules and regulations. Report any irregularities that violate sound competitive practices.

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10. Protect the health, safety and well-being of the players and ensure players use equipment properly.
 11. Attend any mandatory coaches meetings.
 12. Maintain high levels of fairness and professionalism.
 13. Learn the strengths and weaknesses of players in order to place them in situations where they have a maximum opportunity to achieve success.
 14. Address issues appropriately and communicate any issues to League Commissioner.
- B. Prohibited Acts in General:** You may not at any time or in any manner:
1. Consume alcoholic beverages or use tobacco products at any MYAA event.
 2. Use profanity, racial or derogatory comments of any kind.
 3. Argue with officials, coaches, or players. This is not to be confused with challenging an official call. Arguing results from refusal to accept the final decision of an official after the coach's challenge has been made and considered by the official. It is acceptable to challenge the interpretation of a rule in a courteous non-confrontational manner.
 4. Participate in the destruction of equipment or facilities.
 5. Verbally and/or physically assault another person at any MYAA event.
 6. Take part in any action that is deemed disruptive to the orderly conduct of the event.
 7. Violate any City, State, or Federal regulation, ordinance, and law.
 8. Quit or leave during any team event unless in case of injury or emergency or employment on-call.
- C. Behavior:** Coaches are expected to show as much, if not more, discipline and commitment as players and parents – the MYAA holds its coaches to a very high level of professionalism and integrity. Be a positive role model in your words and actions. Help develop positive character in the youth.
- D. Assistant Coaching:** Head Coaches for each sport must follow proper procedures if adding an assistant coach. Assistant Coach must be approved by League Commissioner and must have proper clearances.
- E. Background Checks:** Any volunteer that will be interacting with youth at any MYAA event must have proper background check performed by MYAA office. Outside clearances are not accepted, it must be done through MYAA.

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IV. Officials: Officials should be diligent and confident when officiating the sport. Each official should enforce all playing rules fairly and respectfully with the safety of the players and the best interest of the game in mind. Players must be held accountable for dangerous and illegal actions with the proper enforcement of the rules at all times.

A. Officials Code

1. Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times and take your role seriously.
2. Know all playing rules, their interpretations and their proper application.
3. Remember that officials are teachers. Set a good example.
4. Make your calls with quiet confidence; never with arrogance.
5. Be fair and impartial at all times.
6. Answer all reasonable questions and requests.
7. Adopt a zero tolerance attitude toward any form of abuse – including verbal, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.
8. Never use foul or vulgar language when speaking to a player, coach or parent.
9. Admit your mistakes when you make them.
10. Never openly criticize a coach, player or fellow official.
11. Keep your emotions under control.
12. Respect your league commissioners and their critique of your performance.

V. Facilities:

A. Conduct Towards Facilities:

1. If you are in doubt about the condition of a facility/field, do not use and contact the MYAA office or league commissioner.
2. Obey all signage and instructions regarding use of facilities.
3. Vandalism in any form will not be tolerated.
4. Clean up after yourself, your team and your player.
5. All MYAA facilities/fields prohibit use of Alcohol and Tobacco of all types.

VI. Addressing Concerns:

A. Steps for addressing and rectifying concerns/problems.

1. Player speaks to coach and/or other person with which the problem lies.
2. Parent speaks to coach and/or other person with which the problem lies.
3. Parent or Coach speaks to League Commissioner.
4. League Commissioner speaks to Director and/or MYAA Board of Directors.
5. League Commissioner and/or Director/Board speak with coaches and/or other person with which problem lies.
6. League Commissioner and/or Director/Board meet with entire team, or parents or coaches.

B. Incident Report Process

1. For any and all situations when an issue occurs (regardless of severity), an incident report is completed and filed at the MYAA office. Past incident reports may be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are being made or when coach selections are completed.

VII. Penalties:

- A. Process:** For the reported first violation of the Code of Conduct, the coach, player and/or parent(s) may be removed from that game/practice. Removal of individual will remain in effect until League Commissioner reviews the situation, discusses with Board President and/or Director and approves the return. Depending on severity of situation, a review by the full Board of Directors may occur. MYAA reserves the right to suspend player/coach/parent from events and in some situations, a violation may result in expulsion from all future MYAA activities.

VIII. Managing Emergencies

A. Guidelines: These are general guidelines, not step-by-step procedures. Volunteers and officials are expected to act within the realm of their training and good judgment. Prevention, organization, planning, and monitoring are vital to good emergency management.

1. Assess the situation: Stay calm, don't panic. Do not move child until you assess the nature of the injury. Decide on the appropriate action and designate team members to manage areas of response.
2. First Aid – Give First Aid only within the realm of your training.
3. For serious injuries – 911 should be called immediately. Be prepared to provide location, caller's name, number, condition of person injured and what kind of First Aid is being administered.
4. Send a person to wait for EMS personnel at a location visible to incoming vehicles.
5. Do not move injured child.
6. Contact parent immediately.
7. Have remaining athletes moved away from the scene and keep them calm and occupied.
8. If the injured player must be evacuated by ambulance and the parents cannot be reached, a coach or MYAA official must accompany the child to the hospital.
9. Team personnel should notify MYAA officials at the first possible opportunity.
10. Incident reports should be completed for all types of injuries, minor or major.

IX. Child Abuse in Youth Sports

A. Overview: MYAA has a zero tolerance policy for any type of abuse. This includes but is not limited to the following actions:

1. One on one contact is prohibited. Two adults must be present with players at all times (games and practices)
2. Grabbing players by their uniforms, helmets, etc.
3. Cursing, yelling or degrading a player.
4. Using excessive physical training techniques to punish/discipline young athletes.
5. Name calling (clumsy, wimp, stupid, etc.)
6. Not allowing a young athlete to take a break or use the restroom when needed.
7. Depriving young athletes of water.
8. Throwing equipment at players.
9. Using racial slurs.
10. Using gender put-downs (you are playing like a girl, etc.)
11. Making cruel comments about body type.
12. Paying attention to only the best players.

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- B. Sexual Misconduct:** All adults participating in MYAA activities must protect the integrity of the sport and the interests of the athletes they serve by strictly avoiding sexual relationships with athletes. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any person to:
1. Solicit or engage in sexual relations with any minor.
 2. Engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence of an adult's position as coach, official or administrator to encourage sexual relations with an athlete.
 3. Engage in sexual harassment by making unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

X. Criminal Conduct:

- A.** All adults participating in the organization's activities are expected to comply with all applicable criminal codes. This obligation is violated by any participant who has a pending charge, been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or no contest to a criminal charge or indictment involving sexual misconduct, child abuse, or conduct that is a violation of a law specifically designed to protect minors, and, depending on the nature of the crime, may be violated by any member who has a pending charge, been convicted of or has entered a pleas of guilty or no contest to any felony charge or indictment involving conduct other than that specifically described above.

Summary

The well-being of our youth is our primary concern. MYAA takes all complaints, situations and issues seriously and negative actions towards our youth will not be tolerated. We thank everyone for being a part of that mission and for supporting our youth. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact your League Commissioner or an MYAA Board Member. Our office phone is 814-833-3298.

Thank You

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Coaching Injury Parent/Spectator Facility Umpire/Ref Other

Incident Date: / /20

Incident Time:

Location of Incident: _____

Program Affected: _____

Current Director of Program: _____

Name of Coach, Parent, Player, or Official involved: _____

Details of Incident: _____

(Continue on back if more space needed)

Prepared by _____

Received by _____ Date _____

Follow Up Actions (to be completed by Executive Board or Program Director): Complete below or attach email notes

Completed Copy of Incident Report should be placed in box of President, Vice Presidents, and Program Director and then kept on file in the MYAA office.