

**ARTICLE XI**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT**

By registering your child for any GYAC programs, or by participating as a Member in GYAC, you agree to the Code of Conduct (the “Code”), as attached hereto as Exhibit A. 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 GYAC activities or events. GYAC has formulated the Code and requires that you commit to be responsible for your words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in GYAC events and that you conform your behavior to the Code.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**BACKGROUND CHECKS**

All head coaches will be expected to submit to a background check to be performed as part of their registration. Background checks shall be performed in conformity with applicable law and may be modified from time to time in the Board’s discretion. GYAC reserves the right to deny or remove any coach based on the results of the background check. Background check results will only be visible by the President and one individual designated by the President to manage said background checks.

**EXHIBIT A**

**GLENSIDE YOUTH ATHLETIC CLUB  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Dated as of January 19, 2015**

**Section 1.**     *General.*

Youth sports play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of young people who can recognize choices, think about consequences and base their actions on that information. It is essential, therefore, for parents, coaches, spectators and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Furthermore, parents, coaches, spectators and officials involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self-control.

GYAC is a volunteer-staffed organization that offers recreational sports activities for children of the community. The primary goal of the GYAC programs is to provide a safe, enjoyable environment in which our children can develop sports skills, as well as experience in a positive manner the emotional and social benefits of team play.

**Section 2.**     *The Parent/Guardian/Adult Code.*

By registering your child for any GYAC programs, you agree to the Code of Conduct as applicable to all adults (the “Adult Code”). All parents/guardians/adults must abide by the Code or it could jeopardize your player’s opportunity to play and your opportunity to attend and be a spectator at GYAC activities that your player is involved in. GYAC has formulated the Code and requires that you commit to be responsible for your words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in GYAC events and that you conform your behavior to the Code.

- a.       I will treat everyone whom I encounter with respect.
- b.       I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct/behavior towards any coach, player, parent, participant, official or any other attendee.
- c.       I will encourage fair play and good sportsmanship from my player, other players, coaches, officials, and parents
- d.       I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
- e.       I will not use drugs, alcohol or tobacco products while involved in any activities, whether training, attending games or officiating.

f. I will not use profanity, obscenity or any other offensive language while involved in any activities, whether training, attending games or officiating.

g. I will endeavor to ensure that no parents, spectators or anyone associated with my team uses profanity, obscenity or any other offensive language while within the hearing of players or officials.

h. I will not engage in verbal or physical abuse towards any other coach, player, parent, participant or official.

i. I will respect each player's rights to voice their opinions and give them opportunities to voice concerns.

j. I will be accepting, non-judgmental and inclusive of all individuals, and challenging of negative or inappropriate behavior.

k. I will operate within the law and report any serious crimes immediately to the authorities.

**Section 3.** *Player Code of Conduct.* In addition to the Parent's Code there are additional items applicable to players, parents and coaches, outlined below in the Player Code of Conduct. The following standards are established by the GYAC and govern the behavior of all GYAC players before, during and after GYAC events:

a. I will attend every practice and game that I can, and I will notify my coach if I cannot make a practice or game.

b. I will come to practices and games on time and ready to learn. I accept responsibility for bringing any equipment necessary for practice and games.

c. I will be generous when I win; I will be gracious when I lose.

d. I will obey the rules of the game and be fair always, no matter what the cost.

e. I will follow coaching direction and will not be disruptive during practice or games, nor will I "mouth off" or use bad language.

f. I will treat other players, teams, coaches, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, gender or ability, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.

g. I will respect the authority of the official, even though I may sometimes disagree with the call.

h. I deserve to have fun during my GYAC experience. I will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun.

i. I will conduct myself with honor, dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated. I will remember at all times that I am representing GYAC, my team and my community.

j. I understand that poor behavior during practices, games or tournaments may result in lost playing time and/or expulsion from the team.

**Section 4.** *Volunteer Code of Conduct.*

GYAC is a volunteer-staffed organization that offers recreational sports activities for the children of our community. The primary goal of GYAC programs is to provide a safe, enjoyable environment in which our children can develop sports skills, as well as experience in a positive manner the emotional social benefits of team play.

The role of volunteers is critical to the success of the GYAC program. It is, therefore, important that all volunteers follow the guidelines set forth below.

- a. Fulfill any volunteer obligations willingly, knowing that the effort you put forth will directly impact the player's GYAC experience.
- b. Always keep in mind that GYAC is a recreational sports program with an emphasis on developing skills and having fun. Although competition is a natural part of sports activities, do not make winning the primary goal for you or any of the athletes.
- c. Support the athletes and their teams in a positive manner. Cheer for the athletes and/or their team, not against the opposing athletes or team.
- d. Always show respect for all players, coaches, game officials and other fans. Allow for the fact that anyone can make a mistake. Set a positive example for our children with your behavior.
- e. Ensure that the athletes and all of their equipment get to games and practices on time when it is your responsibility to do so.
- f. Pick up the athletes promptly at the end of games, practices or other team functions when it is your responsibility to do so. Do not make the coaches wait for you.
- g. Coaches are in charge of overall team direction and instruction during play and practice.
- h. Disagreements with the coach do not belong on the field before, during or after a game or practice. Questions and comments should be voiced later in an adult atmosphere.

**Section 5.**     *Code of Conduct for Coaches.*

As a volunteer organization, GYAC relies on parents, guardians and other individuals to volunteer to be coach for various sports programs. As coaches there is a great emphasis placed on your personal behavior as you are role models and teachers for the athletes. It is important that coaches foster a safe and inclusive environment for all players to participate.

The role of coaches is critical to the success of the GYAC program. It is, therefore, important that all coaches follow the guidelines set forth below.

- a. All players participating in GYAC's programs are guaranteed playing time, to ensure all participants' enjoyment of the sport.
- b. Set a good example for all athletes and fans to follow.
- c. Take considerable effort to learn all rules of the sport and enforce the rules with your players.
- d. Respect officials and their judgment and abide by the rules of the event.
- e. Treat your team and opposing team coaches, parents, athletes and spectators with respect.
- f. Instruct athletes in sportsmanship and demand they display good sportsmanship.
- g. Coach in a positive manner and do not use derogatory comments or abusive language.
- h. Although competition is a natural part of sports activities, do not make winning the primary goal for the athletes.
- i. Identify your role as a coach to parents/guardians of players.
- j. Maintain a proper coach/player relationship with the athletes; do not participate in inappropriate behavior.
- k. Seek parental consent for any activity away from the usual meeting place of a group, or any activity involving the transportation of the athletes, or any planned activity involving any element of risk.
- l. Ensure there is at least two adults present at all practices and events.

**Section 6.** *Conduct towards Umpires/Referees/Officials.*

- a. There are no circumstances in which a coach, parent, fan or player should confront an umpire, referees, or any other official during or after a game. Coaches must engage umpires, referees and other officials in a respectful manner consistent with the rules of GYAC and the leagues' individual sanctioning bodies (e.g., Cal Ripken Baseball, etc.).
- b. There are no circumstances in which a coach, parent, fan or player should verbally harass an umpire, referee or any other official. If a coach, parent or player disagrees with a call, he or she should do so quickly, calmly and then allow the game or event to move on. Officials will make mistakes and it is only a game.
- c. Coaches will take reasonable action to ensure that parents comply with this portion of the Code of Conduct. A coach who, in the opinion of the official, commissioner or other GYAC Board Member, fails to act against unruly parents or fans may be subject to discipline.

**Section 7.** *Conduct towards facilities.*

GYAC strives to maintain quality fields and facilities, and thus all Members of GYAC will be held to the following code of conduct towards facilities:

- a. If you are in doubt about the condition of a field, stay off the field and contact the Facilities Committee.
- b. Obey all signage and instructions regarding use of the facilities.
- c. Vandalism in any form will not be tolerated.
- d. Clean up after yourself, your team and your player.

**Section 8.** *Failure to Conform to Code of Conduct.*

Anyone who fails to conform to the preceding Code of Conduct while attending, coaching, training, officiating or participating in an event sanctioned by GYAC will be subject to disciplinary action through the grievance policy outlined in the bylaws.

Any complaints concerning a coach/parent/guardian/child who has violated this code shall be handled by the above outlined grievance policy.