

GALVA YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Code of Conduct

Prohibited and Recommended Behavior

Providing a safe environment for young people who participate in amateur youth sports is the highest priority. All those involved with or who are participating in any GYSA sport or function will abide by a Code of Conduct which defines appropriate and inappropriate behavior. It is our goal to ensure who with young people are dedicated to that objective and qualified to do so.

The following list includes prohibited and recommended behavior for anyone involved with GYSA. *Violations of the Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action.*

Prohibited Behavior

- Consumption of alcohol, intoxication, tobacco or illegal drugs.
- Physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse of any child, including bullying.
- Denying any youth, the opportunity to participate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.
- Failure to respect the privacy of youth, especially in situations calling for changing clothes or taking showers (the only exception is when health or safety issues dictate specific action).
- Disciplining youth by use of physical, emotional or other forms of punishment or failure to provide necessities such as water, food, or shelter.
- Being alone with a single child where others cannot observe you.
- Leaving a child unsupervised.
- Inappropriately touching a youth's body. As a rule, this includes any area of the body that would be covered by a bathing suit. It is normally acceptable to touch a youth on the shoulders, arm or upper back. Tickling, wrestling, or teasing youth is inappropriate.
- Using profanity, abusive language, telling inappropriate jokes, sharing intimate details of one's personal life, and using any kind of harassment or sexual references in the presence of youth or parents.
- Releasing a youth to anyone other than the authorized parent or guardian, or to a person designated by the parent/guardian.
- Lashing out at any official no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
- Fighting and bullying will not be tolerated.

Recommended Behavior

- Ensuring suspicious or unknown individuals do not occupy restrooms with unescorted youth. Always send youth to a restroom in pairs if staff is unable to accompany an individual. Supervise restroom activity without invading the privacy of the individual.
- Using positive reinforcement and encouragement to manage or change behavior. Avoid comparison or criticism. Praise will encourage positive behavior and create an atmosphere of cooperation and fun.
- Treating all youth fairly.
- Serving as a role model by maintaining an attitude of respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, sportsmanship & trustworthiness.
- Welcoming and encouraging parents to attend all youth functions.

Coaches are responsible for instructing their players to play the sport in a safe and sportsmanlike manner.

- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the participant than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in youth sports for fun and enjoyment.
- Be a positive role model to your players. Display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent and honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach; don't yell at players.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of players; be a good listener; never verbally, emotionally, or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach players the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of the sport; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- To play the game is great; to love the game is greater.

Parents are encouraged to support their teams while showing respect for all players, coaches, officials, spectators, and other parents.

- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sports. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches, officials, spectators or other parents. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the playing field. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.

- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or abuse your child at any time - it is destructive. Work towards eradicating all forms of abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about the sport - and volunteer.
- Understand your child's rights to play in an environment free from harassment and/or abuse in any form. Report any such incidents immediately.

Players are encouraged to develop a deep sense of respect for all (opponents and officials) while endeavoring to enjoy the sport and improve their playing ability. Each player is expected to use proper skill and technique when engaging in any type of body contact.

- Play for fun.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a team player - get along with your teammates.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents and officials.
- Never argue with an official's decision.
- Do not engage in any form of abusive behavior toward any other person.
- Bullying will not be tolerated
- Understand your rights to play in an environment free from harassment and/or abuse in any form. Report any such incidents immediately.

Official's Code of Conduct

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.

- Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times and take your role seriously.
- Strive to provide a safe and sportsmanlike environment in which players can properly display their sport skills.
- Know all playing rules, their interpretations and their proper application.
- Remember that officials are teachers. Set a good example.
- Make your calls with quiet confidence; never with arrogance.
- Manage and help to control games in cooperation with the coaches to provide a positive and safe experience for all participants.
- Violence must never be tolerated.
- Be fair and impartial at all times.
- Answer all reasonable questions and requests.
- Adopt a "zero tolerance" attitude toward any form of abuse - including verbal, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.
- Never use foul or vulgar language when speaking with a player, coach or parent.
- Use honesty and integrity when answering questions.
- Admit your mistakes when you make them.
- Never openly criticize a coach, player or fellow official.
- Keep your emotions under control.

Spectators are encouraged to support their teams while showing respect for all players, coaches, officials, parents and other spectators.

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the playing field can cause injury to players and officials.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be supportive after the game - win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Criminal Conduct

Any adult 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 will not be allowed to participate in any GYSA sport or function.

Sexual Misconduct

All adults participating in the organization's 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 member 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.

Conflict of Interest

All adults participating in the organization's activities are responsible for avoiding both actual and perceived conflicts of interest in the conduct of business on behalf of the organization. It is inconsistent with this obligation for any member to:

1. Use, or be perceived as using, the organization's properties, services, opportunities, authority or influence to gain private benefit.
2. Incur expenses in furtherance of the organization's business which are unreasonable, unnecessary, or unsubstantiated.
3. Participate in the deliberation or decision-making process about any issue for which the adult participating in the organization's activities has a direct financial interest.

Enforcement of Code

Compliance with this Code of Conduct depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peers, and, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary action.

Any individual who believes that an individual participating in the organization's activities has failed to meet his or her obligations under this Code of Conduct is encouraged to report the concern to the GYSA board, the individual must file a written complaint with the GYSA Board. That complaint must be signed and must state specifically the nature of the alleged misconduct. (Form A-2) Upon review of the complaint and, where appropriate, additional discussions with the complainant and/or member who is the subject of the complaint. If any one associated with GYSA is found guilty of misconduct in any way, the Board will take immediate action.

Any individual who suspects illegal and/or abusive behavior shall immediately contact appropriate law enforcement agency(s) and notify responsible parties of the organization.

To play the game is great; to love the game is greater

