

HCRP SPORTS

STANDARD RULES FOR ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES 2025



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STANDARD RULES FOR ALL ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES

LEAGUE DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary actions handed down by League Commissioners are enforced across the Sports and Facilities Division (unless otherwise specified). A team member who is suspended by a League Commissioner for a specific period of time is ineligible for all Department-sponsored sports activities. Each person sanctioned will have their name added to the HCRP Adult Leagues Suspension List and shared with all Department Sports League Commissioners.

Team members include players, coaches, team managers, or team personnel.

Additional information is provided in the League Rules for the specific league your team is registered in.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Rosters are to be submitted on the official online roster form through SportsEngine by the league deadline. Players listed without an electronic signature and age are ineligible.

Managers of adult teams submitting rosters have the freedom to include any eligible 18 or older male or female adult that they have determined has the skills, knowledge and abilities to play at the level of their assigned division. Some sports leagues have age exceptions. Please check each league's specific rules.

Any individual who has been subject to disciplinary action(s) by the Department may be placed on a the Suspension List maintained by the Department of Recreation and Parks. The list shall include the name of the individual suspended and the release date. The League Commissioner will notify team managers if any of their rostered players are on the Suspension List. Any individual on this list will be ineligible to play.

Any team using an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit each game in which the player participated. If a team uses a suspended player or a player under an assumed name, that team shall automatically be dropped from the league without refund and/or be subject to disciplinary actions as deemed necessary by the Department.

To use an ineligible player, the "protest for an ineligible player" must be made at least 48 hours before the game time. The protest must be submitted by email to the league commissioner by the team manager. The email should state (1) the reason why a player should be made eligible, (2) their name and (3) why they are currently not on the roster.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Game officials and Department staff shall have the authority to impose sanctions on team members or spectators for inappropriate and/or unsportsmanlike behavior and/or non-compliance with Department polices/guidelines, code of conduct, league rules, and standard adult sports leagues rules (www.hcrpsports.org). Before taking suitable disciplinary action, the Department will ascertain the facts from those involved and/or witnesses.

Game officials and Department staff may suspend play or forfeit a game when, in their judgment, conditions justify such actions. Flagrant or repeated misconduct may result in permanent suspension. Team suspensions can be imposed.

In the event that an incident may require more serious disciplinary action, a Disciplinary Committee of persons will be appointed by the Adult Leagues Manager to determine the length of suspension. Serious disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to physical altercations, verbal threats, intimidating behavior towards the other team, fellow team member, officials, or Department staff. Extended suspensions or disciplinary sanctions should be determined within five (5) business days.

A team member who is ejected from a game by an official shall be suspended from any participation for at least 1 game (not including the game from which they were ejected). Any further ejections during the current season shall be dealt with more severely by the League Commissioner.

Anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps or otherwise physically or verbally threatens an official, a member of their team or any other team, Department staff, or spectators shall automatically be suspended from all Department-sponsored activities for at least 1 year from the date of the incident.

A team member found conducting unsportsmanlike behavior before, during or after the game could result in suspension or other disciplinary sanctions (listed below). Any misconduct or inappropriate behavior on Howard County property could result in suspension or other disciplinary sanctions (listed on the next page). Suspensions carry over into the next season.

The use of vulgar or profane language may result in the ejection of that team member from the game.

The team manager is responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators.

Failure to leave the area when requested may result in immediate forfeiture of the game.

The Howard County Employee Manual requires the Department to take action against anyone who harasses any Department of Recreation and Parks staff.

Substance abuse by a team member during the game shall be subject to ejection by game officials and/or disciplinary action to be taken by the League Commissioner.

Any team member suspended from play from another program shall also be suspended from participation in any program operated by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.

Team or team member probation may be used as a disciplinary sanction if multiple violations have occurred during the league season or if reoccurring violations happen from previous seasons.

Team members who receive disciplinary action from the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks may request a review of the decision for appealable disciplinary sanctions (listed below). All requests for reviews must be made within 48 hours of the decision. Any such request should be made in writing to the League Commissioner. Individual player protest can only be received through the team manager.

All team or individual disciplinary actions are communicated to the team manager. It is the team manager's responsibility to notify their team/player of disciplinary action taken by the Department.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

Disciplinary sanctions for teams may include, but are not limited to:

- Payment for Facility Use or Damages
- Suspension of Teams from County Leagues
- Forfeiture of Games
- Team Probation
- Fines
- Exclusion from Playoffs
- Team Sanctions for Unsportsmanlike Conduct from an Individual Player

Disciplinary Sanctions for individuals may include, but are not limited to:

- Suspension
- Forfeiture of Games
- Probation of Team Members and/or Spectators
- Team Sanctions for Unsportsmanlike Conduct from an Individual Player

Non-appealable disciplinary sanctions include:

- Probation
- One or Two-game Suspension for Team Members
- Two-week Suspension

Probation – a period of time when a team member or team cannot commit any more violations in order to avoid being removed from the league.