

## Chapter 16

### CODE OF CONDUCT, YOUTH SPORTS

#### GENERAL REFERENCES

Drug-free zones — See Ch. 21.

Regulation of basketball — See Ch. 63.

Drunk-driving-free school zones — See Ch. 45. Peace and good order — See Ch. 153.

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#### § 16-1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CODE OF CONDUCT — The written specification of the behavior of the parents, guardians, coaches and officials as adopted by the Stafford Township governing body and incorporated into the Stafford Township Code.

CODE OF CONDUCT COMMITTEE — Comprised of a representative from each Stafford Township youth sports league, including: 1) Little League baseball, 2) girl's softball, 3) soccer, 4) Pop Warner football/cheerleading, 5) basketball, 6) lacrosse, 7) wrestling, and 8) roller hockey, and 9) the Director of Recreation, 10) one of the community policing officers, and 11) the Township Administrator.

YOUTH SPORTS ACTIVITY — Any youth sports organization operating in Stafford Township that utilizes Township-owned fields or facilities.

YOUTH SPORTS EVENT — Any competition, practice, tryouts or instructional event involving one or more youth sports activities.

#### § 16-2. Information to be filed with Township Clerk.

Each youth sports activity shall annually advise the Township Clerk of the name, address, and telephone number of its respective recommendation as to the designated member who shall serve on the Code of Conduct Committee, subject to confirmation by the governing body.

#### § 16-3. Adherence to Code of Conduct.

Every youth sports activity shall be required to follow the Code of Conduct as set forth in this chapter.

#### § 16-4. Enforcement.

The Code of Conduct Committee shall be charged with enforcing the provisions of the Code of Conduct as contained in this chapter.

**§ 16-5. Availability of Code of Conduct.**

Each youth sports activity shall make the Code of Conduct available to all parents and guardians of each child participating in a youth sports event.

**§ 16-6. Prohibited acts; violations and penalties.**

- A. Any parent, guest, spectator, coach, participant or official at any youth sports event who initiates a fight, scuffle, or any type of physical abuse or threat of physical abuse toward any player, coach, official, parent, or spectator shall be banned from attendance at all youth sports events within the Township of Stafford for a period not to exceed 36 months from the date of the incident.
- B. Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event who enters the field of play, court or rink during any youth sports event for the purpose of physically or verbally abusing or confronting any coach, player or official shall be banned from attendance at all youth sports events within the Township of Stafford for a period not to exceed 36 months from the date of the incident.
- C. Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event who verbally abuses any official, player, or spectator, including the use of obscene or profane language, obscene or profane gestures, ethnic or racial slurs, may be reprimanded from the date of the incident and shall be banned from attendance at all youth sports events within the Township of Stafford for a period not to exceed 24 months from the date of the incident.
- D. Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event who throws or causes to be deposited any object on the field of play, court or rink during any youth sports event shall be banned from attendance at all youth sports events within the Township of Stafford for a period not to exceed 24 months from the date of the incident.

**§ 16-7. Authority to remove violators from premises.**

Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event shall be subject to the authority of all field officials, including umpires, referees and elected league officials of the youth sports activity. This authority shall also include any youth team practices or instructional events, and such authority shall include authorization to direct any person or persons involved in any incident in violation of this chapter or applicable Code of Conduct to immediately remove themselves from the premises.

**§ 16-8. Anger management counseling for violators.**

- A. Any parent, official, coach or spectator 18 years old or older who is banned for 12 months from a youth sports event for violation of the Code of Conduct shall be required to complete anger management or an equivalent counseling program consisting of not less than 12 hours

of instruction and shall provide proof of satisfactory completion to the Code of Conduct Committee.

- B. Any person 17 years old or younger who is banned for 12 months from a youth sports event for violation of the Code of Conduct shall be required to complete anger management or equivalent counseling program consisting of not less than six hours of instruction and shall provide proof of satisfactory completion to the Code of Conduct Committee.

**§ 16-9. Code of Conduct Committee.**

- A. The Code of Conduct Committee shall annually elect a Chairman and a Secretary.
- B. In order to conduct business and hearings, a quorum of six members must be present.
- C. The Code of Conduct Committee may establish rules and procedures it deems appropriate for the conduct of its business and shall conduct business pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order.

**§ 16-10. Violation procedures and hearings.**

- A. The Code of Conduct Committee shall conduct hearings on alleged violations of the Code of Conduct pursuant to matters referred to the Committee in the following manner:
  - (1) Following a vote where at least a majority of the governing board members of any Stafford Township youth sports organization have voted in the affirmative to refer a violation of any provision of the Code of Conduct to the Committee for a hearing and a decision. The Code of Conduct Committee shall forward a notice to the alleged violator(s) by way of certified mail and regular mail setting forth the alleged violation, including the date, time, location, and nature of the violation, and further notifying the alleged violator(s) of the date of a hearing.
  - (2) Any parent, official, coach or spectator at a youth sports event who reasonably believes that he/she has witnessed a violation of the Code of Conduct may file a written notice with the Code of Conduct Committee which shall include a description of the event, including the date, time, location, nature of what occurred and whether or not there were any witnesses to the event. The Committee will then investigate the incident, and if a majority of the Committee votes in the affirmative to hear the matter, then the Code of Conduct Committee shall forward a notice to the alleged violator(s) by way of certified mail and regular mail setting forth the alleged violation, including the date, time, location, and nature of the violation, and further notifying the alleged violator(s) of the date of a hearing.
- B. Any person receiving notice and wishing to contest the charges shall file a notice of appeal to the Township of Stafford Code of Conduct

Committee within seven calendar days of the mailing of said notice by forwarding a notice of appeal, including the basis for filing of an appeal. The written notice must be filed with the Director of Recreation at 260 East Bay Avenue, Manahawkin, NJ 08050, either by way of certified mail or by personal delivery. Failure to file a notice of appeal will close the matter, and the action taken by the Code of Conduct Committee shall be deemed to be final.

- C. Upon receipt of a notice of appeal, the Code of Conduct Committee shall convene within seven days and provide an opportunity for said person and any interested person or persons to appear and be heard with respect to the occurrence of any violation and action taken by the Code of Conduct Committee.
- D. The Code of Conduct Committee shall review statements, firsthand accounts and any other pertinent information or documentation relevant to the violation and, upon a majority vote of members of the Committee present at such hearing, may sustain, overturn or modify the notice of violation consistent with the Code of Conduct.
- E. Any person, while appealing his/her violation of the Code of Conduct, shall be reinstated with full rights and authority until such time that a determination and disposition of his/her appeal has been made. Failure to appear before the Code of Conduct Committee, however, will result in immediate denial of the appeal request.
- F. All notices of violation and sanctions shall remain in effect until they are overturned or modified by the Code of Conduct Committee.
- G. In light of the fact that serving as a volunteer coach or official or coming to watch a youth sports event or activity constitutes a "privilege" and does not involve legal rights, any individual who has been charged with a violation of the Code of Conduct shall represent themselves in defending or explaining his or her actions. If any individual seeks legal representation, the Code of Conduct Committee shall then utilize the services of the Township Attorney's Office to assist the Committee in conducting the hearing and rendering a written decision.