

## General policy statement

The Town of Bedford is committed to encouraging and promoting the high ideals of sportsmanship, integrity and ethics, as well as developing a safe, healthy and constructive environment for athletic events at all levels. Ingrained in this competition is respect for rules, regulations, opponents and officials. Good sportsmanship is conduct that imposes self-control involving honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of results. The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity should be at the core of athletics in our community, regardless of level of play. Good sportsmanship shall be defined as qualities of behavior characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others.

(Adapted from MIAA sportsmanship manual)

### Individual considerations: players, coaches, spectators

- Abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit
- Treat other players, coaches, officials and fans with respect. Abstain from taunting, disrespectful sounds, gestures or profanity.
- Recognize and appreciate skilled performance, regardless of affiliation
- Create a positive environment by promoting fun, sportsmanship and fairness at all times.
- Practice self-control at all times.
- Abstain from bullying, teasing and otherwise harassing other participants. This pertains not only to oral but also written and electronic communication.
- Abstain from addressing game officials. Only coaches should address officials, and this communication should be limited to matters germane to the course of the game. Everyone must respect officials' calls.

Respect town property and the property of others. Always use trash receptacles (or remove trash from fields that do not provide receptacles).

- Avoid behavior that could endanger others, including pushing, hitting or inappropriately touching.
- Abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco and controlled substances.

Any player, coach, parent or fan ejected from a game by an official may be barred from additional games later in the season, based on the policies governing that particular league.

Illegal activity outside the scope of typical athletic activity should always be referred directly to the Bedford Police Department

## Paths to Follow

Because youth sports in Bedford involves the Town, School, and various groups and organizations, no one group can deal directly with every matter of concern to citizens; therefore, in order to facilitate responses and help citizens who have questions or concerns about a sports related matter, members of the public should be advised to follow the procedures of each respective sports authority. Those policies and procedures are usually distributed or posted. In the event that those are not known, consider the guidelines listed below.

If you have a question concerning:

**A player:** Talk to the coach first, then the sponsoring organization, if necessary.

**A parent of a player or spectator:** Talk to the parent/spectator first, then the coach, and then the sponsoring organization, if necessary.

**A referee:** Talk to the coach first, and then the sponsoring organization. Complaints about personnel should be presented in writing.

**A coach:** Talk to the coach first, then the sponsoring organization, and then the Recreation Commission, in that order. Complaints about personnel should be presented in writing.

**Policies or Procedures of the sports authority:** Talk with the Coach first and, if necessary, the appropriate sponsoring organization.

Problems that cannot be resolved at the personal or organizational level should be presented to the Recreation Director who will assign a Recreation Department staff member to resolve it or consider the matter at the next scheduled public meeting of the Recreation Commission. Matters unresolved at the various levels indicated above should be presented to the Recreation Commission directly.

### **ACCEPTANCE of this policy document by the Town of Bedford Recreation Commission.**

**Town of Bedford Recreation Commission**

**Date**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---