

## **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

### *Athletic and Facilities Services Division,*

300 N. Park Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203

Office: 703-228-4747 / Inclement Weather: 703-228-4715 /

### **Official's Code of Conduct**

Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation has entrusted you to assist us in the development of our youth participants through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials be independent, impartial and responsible to people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is hereby established a Code of Conduct for all officials. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for the standards of conduct for all officials.

- Officials shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.
- Officials must maintain self-control under all conditions.
- Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.
- Officials shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that athletes, coaches, spectators, and the public hold for the profession.
- Official shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform on site staff and league administration of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.
- Officials must make clear all interpretations and rulings during the progress of a game yet conduct the game in an unobtrusive manner.
- Officials must refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play or game situation with those not immediately concerned.
- Officials must conduct the games as to enlist the cooperation of players, coaches and spectators in the interests of good sportsmanship.
- Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official.
- Officials will be an advocate for a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language. Officials will refrain from their use or being under the influence at all youth sports events.

---

**Official's Signature**

---

**Date**