

# CONDUCT DURING LEAGUE PLAY

## SECTION 6

All members are required to exercise good sportsmanship and proper conduct. Individuals who cannot conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner will be removed from the League. The purpose of this section is to outline what action(s) should be taken by Local League Management when misconduct occurs during League play. Your League Operator is responsible for imposing sanctions and penalties on those players and/or teams that fail to practice good sportsmanship or who don't display proper conduct. The guidelines contained herein deal with **PHYSICAL CONTACT and VERBAL ABUSE**. There is room for judgment in some areas and not others.

The League Operator can take either immediate action, and/or follow-up action, when misconduct occurs.

- **Immediate Action** is an action that immediately impacts the result of the team match. Immediate action impacts the entire team, and it is understood that innocent individuals may be affected.
- **Follow-Up Action** is an action after the fact, specifically against the individual(s) involved in misconduct.

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### 1. PHYSICAL CONTACT

Hostile physical contact is not tolerated. This contact could be in the form of bumping, shoving, pushing or hitting. Although this contact normally involves members engaged in League play, Local League Management should impose a penalty when a non-member is involved, if it is deemed the non-member involved is *associated with* one of the teams. Whether a non-member is *associated with* one of the teams is a judgment call to be made at the sole discretion of Local League Management.

**IMMEDIATE ACTION** - If hostile physical contact occurs, the match is over. There is one issue for the League Operator to resolve in such a situation: whether only one team was guilty of hostile physical contact or both teams were guilty

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of hostile physical contact. When hostile physical contact occurs, your League Operator must exercise one of the following two options:

- a. **Where only one team was involved.** If it occurred during League play, the offending team loses all points. The non-offending team will receive bye points. If the match took place during Session Playoffs or any type of Tournament, the non-offending team would advance to the next round.
- b. **Where both teams were involved.** If this occurred during League play, neither team would receive any points for the night. If it occurred during Session Playoffs or Tournament play, both teams would be disqualified.

Your League Operator has no alternative other than to enforce one of the two options above. Local League Management cannot consider who started it, nor should they consider whether the retaliation, if any occurred, was justified. The only way both teams can avoid the same penalty is for one of the teams to refuse to retaliate no matter what provocation they may have had to endure.

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## 2. VERBAL ABUSE

Verbal abuse consists of any name calling, threats or any other language that could reasonably be considered harassment, an effort to provoke a player or team, or an attempt to cause embarrassment to the opponent. Local League Management will always have to make judgments in this area. It is not considered harassment to root for your team, just do not do it while your opponent is shooting.

**Immediate Action** - If your LO can determine that only one team, or person associated with that team, engaged in the verbal abuse, the individual match must be awarded to the non-offending player. The verbal abuse could be coming from the opponent, anyone on the opponent's team or anyone who is *associated with* the opponent. If your LO determines that the verbal abuse put the non-offending team in an unfair competitive situation, they have the discretion to declare a forfeit of the entire team match. If both teams engage in verbal abuse, your LO has discretion to change the final results of the team or individual match(es). If two teams engage in verbal abuse during Session Playoffs or Tournaments, your LO has the authority to disqualify the team as such behavior is extremely disruptive.

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## 3. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

In addition to the actions a League Operator takes regarding verbal or physical abuse, they may also take follow-up actions. Follow-up action addresses the

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long-term issues. During follow-up action, Local League Management has the opportunity to evaluate who started the problem.

Local League Management must take action against any member(s) involved in any occurrence of physical contact that is associated with League play in any way. It is not acceptable for a couple of members to take their fight outside or to agree to meet and fight it out at a later date. If they do fight at a later date, and Local League Management determines it was as a result of League play, then Local League Management must take action. A fight that occurs outside, but during League time, will be considered to be the same as one that occurs inside. If a player threatens to wait outside until the match is over, Local League Management should rule that the entire team match is forfeited. A threat to commit physical contact may be handled as if the person making the threat committed an act of physical contact. There is certainly room for judgment by Local League Management.

Follow-up action by Local League Management may result in penalties such as probation, suspension and permanent termination of APA membership. Local League Management has discretion regarding what penalty is appropriate, but the following guidelines should be observed:

- a. Any person who starts a fight or brawl should have their APA membership terminated.
- b. Generally, a person who gets into a fight or a brawl defending themselves should be suspended for at least one month, if it is their first violation of these Rules of Conduct, or longer if they have previously violated these Rules.
- c. Generally, a person who consistently uses foul, provocative or intimidating language should receive a six month suspension, though the suspension could be longer if they have committed a prior violation of these Rules of Conduct.
- d. Generally, a person who uses a lesser degree of verbal abuse should be placed on probation, or suspension, depending on what the Local League Management deems appropriate.

**Probation Terms** - A player who is placed on probation must be a current APA member and actively participating throughout the entire term of the probation to complete their probation period. Players who drop out or quit while on probation will be required to serve the amount of time that was left on their probation period at the time they dropped or quit.

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**Suspension Terms** - Players who are suspended may not participate in any League activities and forfeit their eligibility to participate in any Tournament(s) that may occur during their suspension term. It is recommended that players who are suspended not attend League matches. All suspension terms will be followed by a one-year probationary term.

It is important that all team members be aware of APA's Rules of Conduct. Teams should consider dropping anyone from their roster who does not agree to comply with these rules. Any individual or team suspended from League play will immediately lose certain other membership privileges, including but not limited to, eligibility and/or qualification for Tournaments, until and unless the suspension is lifted.

Once a player is suspended, that player will not have the privilege to coach their team, keep score, strategize or put up players until their suspension has been lifted. Breaking this rule may result in a longer suspension.

You joined this League to have a good time and so did other members. Every member has the right to be treated in a sportsmanlike manner, and members who display offensive behavior will not be tolerated.