

# **RAMMS CODE OF CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE & RULES**

This is the Code of Conduct that governs participation in RAMMS sponsored activities. This Code of Conduct is intended to be an outline of the principles and rules that govern the conduct of all coaches, players, parents and guardians, spectators, and officials during RAMMS sponsored activities. RAMMS' programs are designed to teach sportsmanship, improve athletic skills, and provide wholesome and enjoyable entertainment for the children involved.

To achieve these goals requires that everyone adhere to certain rules of conduct. Coaches, officials, parents and guardians, and spectators should remember the following principles:

1. Children need positive examples. Negative criticism can damage young egos and discourage athletes. Make athletic participation for the athletes a positive experience.
2. Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, rather than increase it.
3. Always show respect to opposing coaches and officials.
4. All coaches are volunteers giving personal time and, in many cases, money, to provide a recreational activity for the athletes. Coaching is a valuable community service and should be encouraged and rewarded, not criticized.
5. Applaud good plays made by your team and by members of the opposing team. Do not criticize bad plays by either team or any player.
6. The officials try to officiate to the best of their ability. They will make mistakes. Do not question the official's judgment, and never question the official's honesty. The official is a symbol of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship for athletes.
7. Accept the results of each game. Encourage athletes to be gracious in victory and proud of their conduct and effort in defeat.
8. Parental behavior greatly influences children. The attitude shown by parents at games towards their child, other children, opposing team members, officials, and the coach, influences the child's values and behavior in sports and in life.

Criticism and disrespect for officials and opponents undermines the purpose of sport and brings into the game stressors beyond those of competition. Coaches, parents and guardians, and spectators should be positive and constructive at all times.

## **SPECIFIC CONDUCT**

### **COACHES:**

By accepting a coaching position on a RAMMS team, a coach agrees to follow RAMMS rules and disciplinary procedures.

1. Coaches must have their teams at the field a minimum of 20 minutes before game time.
2. Coaches are responsible for informing officials of all local ground rules before game time. Coaches must be aware of all local rules governing the game or field of play.

3. Coaches must have a copy of the rules of the sport and must read the rules before the season begins. Each coach should have a copy of the rules handy at each game. Knowledge of, and playing within, the rules is an integral part of coaching in any sports program. Coaches must be aware of the difference between judgment calls and rule interpretations. An official's judgment call is just that and should not be disputed by a coach or any fan. An official should never change a judgment call, and prolonged questioning or arguing by a coach only sets an inappropriate tone that affects players, fans, and all concerned with the game.
4. Coaches must discuss questions of rule interpretations in a mature, calm, and reasonable manner at all times. Coaches shall not use loud or abusive language in front of coaches, officials, parents and guardians, or spectators.
5. Coaches shall not use profanity at any time.
6. Coaches shall not criticize their players or opposing players in a manner that embarrasses or discredits the athlete. Coaches shall not have alcohol at any time on the field of play or during the game.
7. Coaches shall exercise discipline over, and be responsible for, the conduct of the players on their team. A coach may suspend a player for one game if necessary. However, suspension beyond one game for misconduct must be approved by the D&R Committee.
8. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of parents and fans of team members and shall cooperate with the official in dealing with any loud, abusive, or otherwise disruptive parent or spectator.
9. If a player fails to attend practice the week of a game, the coach may decide how much time to allow that athlete to participate in the game.
10. Coaches should hold practice at least once per week.

#### PLAYERS:

1. No player may play in any RAMMS sponsored regular season game, playoff game, or championship game unless the player has registered for the sport and paid all applicable fees or the fees have been waived.
2. Players shall follow the direction of their coaches and all officials during the game.
3. Players shall not use loud, abusive or profane language.
4. Players shall not criticize their team members, opposing team members, coaches or officials.
5. Players shall be responsible for their uniforms and any equipment provided by RAMMS. Players shall return the equipment and uniforms at the end of the season, if required, in clean condition and good state of repair.
6. Players shall wear their uniforms in the appropriate manner at all games. Players shall not argue with an official's call.
7. Players shall show good sportsmanship during the game.
8. Players shall be gracious in victory and in defeat.

## PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

By enrolling a child to participate in a RAMMS sponsored program, parents and guardians agree to be subject to the rules and disciplinary procedures of RAMMS with regard to the conduct of the parent and child during RAMMS activities.

1. Parents/guardians shall remain in the designated spectator areas at all times during games.
2. Parents/guardians may come onto the field of play or into the players' area only when invited by a coach to help conduct the game. Once a parent/guardian has agreed to help a coach, the parent/guardian is subject to all rules governing RAMMS coaches.
3. A parent/guardian shall never use loud, abusive, or profane language while attending a RAMMS event.
4. A parent/guardian shall not question the call of an official or the actions of a coach during the game and may be asked to leave the premises if such action occurs.
5. Parents/guardian shall not have alcohol at any time on the field of play or during the game.

## D&R COMMITTEE

### PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the D&R Committee is to review and take appropriate disciplinary action resulting from misconduct related to RAMMS athletics. The D&R Committee shall hear complaints and render appropriate disciplinary action.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee consists of members of the RAMMS board of directors as selected by the president of RAMMS.

### JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

The jurisdiction of the D&R Committee shall extend to all events sponsored by RAMMS. Misconduct by coaches, officials, players, parents and guardians, or spectators, or other persons that occurs prior to, during, or after a RAMMS event may be reported to the D&R Committee.

Complaints against the officials are to be directed to the overall League Commissioner for the sport at issue. The D&R Committee does not have jurisdiction over officials except through the League Commissioner. The League Commissioner will inform appropriate persons within the officials' association and provide whatever information or documentation the officials' association requires to handle the complaint.

The D&R Committee has the authority to find any participant (coach, official, player, parent or guardian, or spectators) guilty of a Code of Conduct Violation and sanction the offending party. If an official terminates a game due to misconduct, the D&R Committee has the authority to award a win to the opposing team.

## COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

A coach, official, player, parent or guardian, or spectator may make a complaint regarding misconduct. Any complaint must be made by contacting the President of RAMMS, the League Commissioner, a member of the board of directors, or a coach. Any complaint should include a description of the incident and, if possible, include the names of all pertinent witnesses to the incident. Complaints may also be sent directly to [conduct@ramms.org](mailto:conduct@ramms.org).

Upon receiving the complaint, the D&R Committee will notify the accused individual of the complaint (keeping the complainants' name(s) anonymous if deemed appropriate). The D&R Committee will investigate the complaint. All actions by a coach, player, official, parent or guardian, or spectator will be carefully considered. The disciplinary committee's decision is final.

Examples of Misconduct:

1. Violence directed towards a coach, player, official, parent or guardian, or spectator (to include striking or attempting to strike).
2. Premeditated rough play towards a player by another player.
3. Non-premeditated rough play towards a player by another player.
4. Abusive behavior directed at an official.
5. Use of foul or abusive language, disruptive conduct, or unsportsman-like behavior.

### **Penalty:**

The D&R Committee has the authority to impose sanctions ranging from a verbal warning to a permanent ban from RAMMS athletics.

## PROTEST PROCEDURES

All protests of RAMMS sponsored games must be in writing and submitted to the President of RAMMS or the League Commissioner within twenty-four hours of the incident that gave rise to the protest. A coach must file an official protest as follows:

1. The coach must announce his decision to protest the game immediately following the incident that gives rise to the protest and before play continues.
2. The decision to protest must be made to the official, the opposing coach and the official scorekeeper.
3. The official will sign the official score book noting the protest and any relevant facts. The coach should also prepare a written report detailing the circumstances of the protest

indicating relevant information and deliver the report to the President of RAMMS or the League Commissioner.

4. Within two weeks of receiving a protest or complaint, the D&R Committee Chairman shall convene a meeting of the D&R Committee to hear the facts. After discussion, the Committee will vote. If a protest is allowed, the protested game will be replayed from the point at which the protest was made. If the protest is disallowed, the game result will stand.