

# Sportspark's Rules of Conduct

1. This Rule of Conduct section is a guide for the disciplining of the El Paso County Sportspark's members, guests, and other spectators or participants attending other Sportspark's functions or meetings, for violations of certain rules and regulations.

The primary objective is to maintain objectivity in disciplining members, and, most importantly, seek to implement measures to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its participants.

The offenses below may be of varying degree, first, second or third offenses, as well as constituting an incident of a serious nature, all may be dealt with under this Article.

**Note:** As used in the following document, the definition of "Member" shall include, but not be limited to, players, parents, guardians, grandparents, family members, coaches, volunteers, umpires, or any other guest on El Paso County property.

2. Severe Infractions: Sportspark considers all infractions under this section to be the most serious in nature and carry at least a requirement for suspension or permanent expulsion from the league.
  - a. Physical Assault: Physical Assault by any umpire, guest, or participant toward any other member, guest, participant, or umpire will not be tolerated. The offender's penalty shall be immediate removal from the area under the El Paso County Sportspark's jurisdiction including both playing fields and any area designated for practice. Physical assault is defined as any physical action such as hitting, punching, kicking, pushing, slapping, or grabbing any member, guest, spectator, staff, participant, or umpire.

**First offense for Physical Assault: Ejection and Minimum of one-year suspension**
  - b. Verbal Abuse: Profanity, obscene or vulgar language, racial/ethnic slurs, trash-talking, yelling at umpires, coaches, players, staff, guests, or participants.
  - c. Threats of Physical Assault: Verbal, written, or other threats made to umpires, coaches, players, staff, guests, or participants.
  - d. Smoking or the use of chewing tobacco products in the park, including the use of electronic cigarettes: No tobacco products, electronic cigarettes or vaping is allowed in the Sportspark.
  - e. The Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages: No alcohol use is allowed by team coaches, scorekeepers, team representatives, any other member, guest, participant, or umpire, before, during, or at El Paso County Sportspark. Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed in the Sportspark's parking lot at any time. Any person found in possession of alcohol inside the Sportspark or outside in the Sportspark's parking lot is in violation.
  - f. Unsportsmanlike Conduct (throwing bats, helmets, gloves, or other equipment in anger): It is mandatory for all players and coaches at the completion of their game to participate in a postgame handshake ceremony on the field of play.
  - g. Entering the Field of Play: For Managers and Coaches, this is defined as crossing, in a hostile manner, onto the playing field. For all other members, guests, and other spectators or

participants it is defined as going onto any part of the playing field, at any time without permission in advance.

For offenses stated in “B, C, D, E, F, and G”, as stated above, the following penalties shall be instituted:

- (1) First offense -Ejection and 3 Day Suspension (with no entrance to the park complex); the suspension does carry to the next season.
- (2) Second Offense – Ejection and Minimum of one-year suspension
- (3) Third Offense – Ejection and Lifetime expulsion from the El Paso County Sportspark

h. Umpire Abuse: This is defined by:

- (1) Repeated or uncontrolled questioning of an umpire's ruling,
- (2) Repeated heckling of the umpire during play.
- (3) Approaching an umpire after game to discuss the umpire's performance during the game.

The umpire shall request that the Head Coach speak to the offender. If the behavior continues, the offender shall be ejected.

Umpire abuse will result in the following penalties for the offender:

For offenses under section “H”, as stated above, the penalties shall be instituted as follows:

- (1) First offense -Ejection and 3 Day Suspension (with no entrance to the park complex); the suspension does carry to the next season.
- (2) Second Offense – Ejection and Minimum of one-year suspension
- (3) Third Offense – Ejection and Lifetime expulsion from the El Paso County Sportspark

Umpires do not need to give warnings for certain infractions.

### 3. Miscellaneous Infractions:

- a. Interference with game or players: Members, guests, and other spectators or participants are prohibited from engaging in any actions which interfere with the game or players. Such actions include noises which are intended to disrupt pitchers, hitters, or fielders during the game.
- b. Taunting: No member, guest, spectator, participant, or umpire shall engage in taunting another member, guest, or participant.
- c. Purposeful Game Delays: No member, guest, spectator, participant shall engage in actions intended to delay the game.

For infractions under this section “a, b, or c”, as stated above, the following actions/penalties shall be taken:

- (I) The umpire shall stop the game and ask the respective coach to warn the member, guest, spectator, or participant that any further infraction will result in ejection.
- (II) If the infraction is continued, the member, guest, spectator, or participant will be ejected from the game.

Persons ejected in this manner may also be subject to the following:

- (1) First offense -Ejection and 3 Day Suspension (with no entrance to the park complex); the suspension does carry to the next season.
- (2) Second Offense – Ejection and Minimum of one-year suspension
- (3) Third Offense – Ejection and Lifetime expulsion from the El Paso County Sportspark

#### 4. Special Categories of Infractions

- a. **Illegal Player(s):** Illegal player(s) and the Head Coach will be removed from coaching the game and suspended for a minimum of a one-year suspension from the Sportspark for all coaching. (Employees will not forbid the mentioned coach from viewing a game in their capacity as a parent of a player.) All games in which the illegal player(s) played will be forfeited. The team will be permitted to finish the season, but they will not be permitted to take part in the playoffs.
- b. **Roster Changes:** Head coach dropping a player(s) from the team without notifying league manager will result in a one game suspension as a coach and the team may be eliminated from the playoffs.
- c. **Rules:** Failure to follow the rules and regulations of the El Paso County Sportspark Youth Program can result in forfeiture and/or all rights in coaching and/or participating in any future program.
- d. **Conduct:** Head Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and fans. Games can be forfeited if head coaches cannot control their fans and the game is disrupted. It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to familiarize themselves and their teams with the league, game, and El Paso County Sportspark rules and regulations. Coaches/managers are required to stress good sportsmanship and fair play.
- e. **Child Abuse:** Child Abuse is a violation of state law. Anyone who observes what they believe may be child abuse should immediately report this to law enforcement authorities and league officials. The league will immediately take every action necessary to protect the children within this league.
- f. **Sexual Harassment:** Sexual Harassment will not be tolerated by the El Paso County Sportspark. All reports of sexual harassment shall be immediately brought to the El Paso County Sheriff's office.
- g. **Discrimination:** Discrimination based on race, color gender, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation will not be tolerated by El Pas County Sportspark. All reports of discrimination shall be immediately brought to the El Paso County Sheriff's office.

#### 5. Appeal Process

- a. The "Member" ejected or suspended can appeal the decision.

- b. The League Manager has the authority to suspend fans, players, or coaches, or to forfeit games for violation of these rules. If there is a disagreement with the League Manager's decision an appeal can be made to the Sportspark Manager for review with the appeals committee. All decisions will be final.
- (1) A three-day punishment or being ejected from a game are not grounds for appeal. (We will record any objections.)
  - (2) The appeals process follows a minimum one-month suspension.
    1. Once a suspension letter is received, a written notice of appeal along with witness testimony (if applicable) must be submitted to the Sports manager within 48 hours to be reviewed by the appeals committee.
      - a. Grievance include date of incident, name of person(s) involved, name of any witness(es), and a brief description of the incident(s)
      - b. Gather information and eyewitness accounts of the event(s) that took place from all parties involved.
  - (3) A meeting will be scheduled to evaluate the suspension and the appeal request by the same month.
  - (4) If an appeal is lodged, the appeals committee will meet on the third Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. The committee will convene on the second Friday in the event of a holiday. (Five people make up the committee, whereas each appeals meeting requires a minimum of three members).
  - (5) The meeting will be rescheduled for the following month if, by chance, the suspended participant is unable to attend the planned meeting with an illness or emergency. (In this unique situation, each will be considered case by case.)
  - (6) The appeals committee will render a decision following conclusion of the meeting.
    1. All decisions are final. If someone is suspended for more than three days, they are not allowed to visit the sports park in any capacity.
    2. Any member suspended/ejected person not following rules of suspension will adhere to an additional 3 months added to suspension for each additional infraction.