

Lower Macungie Youth Association	Section: Administrative	Original: October 1st, 2010
Policy:	LMYA Code of Conduct	Revised: February 6th, 2024 Effective: March 3rd, 2024

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To assure that all Lower Macungie Youth Association (LMYA) members, whether a coach, player, parent, or spectator; conduct themselves in a appropriate manner at all LMYA-related sporting and non-sporting events, as well as in public when wearing apparel identifying LMYA or its sport programs, and to establish consistent reporting and disciplinary procedures.

2.0 Scope

2.1 This policy sets forth guidelines for the appropriate conduct of all players, coaches, parents and spectators; both on the field of play or in the vicinity. Players, coaches, parents and spectators are bound by this policy any time they are representing the organizations or any of its sports programs. Additionally, players, coaches and parents are bound by this policy any time that they are representing the organization or any of its sports programs or even wearing apparel associated with LMYA or its sports programs.

3.0 Responsibilities

3.1 The following establishes the responsibility of the various groups of participants:

3.2 Executive Board of Directors

3.2.1 The communication and enforcement of this policy to LMYA Board of Directors and to all LMYA members.

3.2.2 Review of all violations of the Code of Conduct including, but not limited to events where action is taken.

3.3 Sport Coordinators

3.3.1 Review any report of violation of the Code of Conduct by any player, parent or coach within their specific sport.

3.3.2 Determine the proper discipline for the violation.

3.3.3 Make a report to the Executive Board of Director of LMYA for notification of the Board of Directors

4.0 Codes of Conduct

4.1 Coaches

4.1.1 I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the child ahead of the desire to win.

4.1.2 I will support a drug, alcohol and tobacco-free sports environment and refrain from their use at all youth sports events

4.1.3 I will provide a safe playing environment for all players.

4.1.4 I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship.

4.1.5 I will learn the rules of the sport coached and ensure that players are familiar with them as well.

4.1.6 I will remember that I am a youth coach and that the game is for children, not for adults.

4.1.7 I will organize practices that are fun as well as instructive and challenging for all players.

4.1.8 I will treat each player with respect and as an individual, remembering the large spread of emotional and physical development in the age group being coached.

4.1.9 I will respect and support the referees or officials. I am responsible for the conduct of my players and spectators and the public criticism of officials by any of these individuals will not be tolerated.

4.1.10 I will attempt to give each child as much playing time as possible and refrain from favoritism.

4.1.11 I will be courteous to parents and give them as much information as practicable about schedules, etc.

4.1.12 I will refrain from the use of abusive or offensive language or behavior.

NOTE: Inappropriate physical contact is absolutely forbidden.

4.1.13 I will follow these behaviors whether on the field of play, or in its vicinity, while representing LMYA or its sports programs and in public while wearing apparel associated with LMYA or its sports programs.

4.2 Players

4.2.1 I will attend practices and games. If I cannot attend, I will notify the coach in advance.

4.2.2 I will pay attention to coaches and be courteous of other players at practices and at games.

4.2.3 I will respect officials and will not publicly criticize them.

4.2.4 I will respect opponents and conduct myself in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.

4.2.5 I will respect the uniforms and equipment provided by the Association and the personal property of others.

4.2.6 I will respect the facilities provided and obey all rules governing their use.

4.2.7 I will refrain from the use of abusive or offensive language or behavior.

4.2.8 I will play fairly and obey the rules of the sport at all times.

4.2.9 I will follow these behaviors whether on the field of play or in its vicinity, while representing the Association or its sports programs, and in public while wearing apparel associated with the Association or its sports programs.

4.3 Parents/Spectators (may include, but not limited to, family members, friends or anyone else in attendance):

4.3.1 I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

4.3.2 I will not force my child to participate in sports.

4.3.3 I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.

4.3.4 I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.

4.3.5 I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.

4.3.6 I (and my guests) will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.

4.3.7 I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.

4.3.8 I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.

4.3.9 I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

4.3.10 I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.

4.3.11 I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.

4.3.12 I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.

4.3.13 I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.

4.3.14 I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit the child over winning. I will de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.

4.3.15 I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire that I may have for my child to win.

4.3.16 I will respect the officials and their authority during a game and will never question or confront coaches after a practice or a game. I understand that emotions are at their highest at the time and can lead to volatile situations. I will observe a 24-hour cooling off period before discussing an issue with a coach.

4.3.17 I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

4.3.18 I will follow these behaviors whether on the field of play or in its vicinity, while representing LMYA or its sports program, and in public while wearing apparel associated with LMYA or its sports programs.

5.0 Definitions of Abuses of Conduct are defined as, but not limited to, the following:

5.1 Excessive unsportsmanlike conduct by a participant, coach or parent/spectator;

5.2 Damaging property or possessions of another participant, youth association, community or parent/spectator;

5.3 Verbal abuse, harassment and/or physical assault of another team member, opponent, official/referee/umpire, coach parent/spectator by an LMYA team member, coach, parent or spectator;

5.4 Attempting to harm or slander another LMYA member through incorrect accusations, malicious rumors or other irresponsible actions by any LMYA coach, player or parent;

5.5 Inappropriate physical or verbal behavior toward another person both on the field and in its vicinity.

6.0 Procedure

6.1 All coaches, players and parents are required to electronically sign the Code of Conduct at the time of registration prior to the start of any sport season that they are participating in. Coaches should also review the Coach, Player and Sports Parent Codes of Conduct at a pre-season team meeting.

6.2 Whenever an abuse of the LMYA Code of Conduct has been observed or experienced, the following procedure should be implemented:

6.2.1 Immediate suspension of the accused from all activities pending an investigation of the accusation;

6.2.2 A timely written report identifying the date, time, location, event, activity, abuses and names of the abusing parties, unless minors, belonging to LMYA, should be prepared and submitted to the Sports Coordinator of the particular sport or to the Executive Board of Directors if the violation involves a Sport Coordinator or is requested by a Sport Coordinator.

6.2.3 This report should be made by the supervising or highest ranking members on site, but can be made by anyone who witnessed or was involved in the incident. The report should also include the names of as many witnesses as possible.

6.3 The Sport's Coordinator or Executive Board of Directors will do the following:

6.3.1 Review the written report;

6.3.2 Interview any or all of the witnesses as desired or deemed necessary;

6.3.3 Interview the accused abuser and/or the accused abuser's parents, as desired or deemed necessary.

6.4 If the Sport Coordinator is preparing the report, he / she will issue a decision, including the relevant highlights of the interviews of witnesses and the accused to the Executive Board of Directors. Upon the Executive Board of Director's approval, the decision will be issued to:

6.4.1 The parties involved;

6.4.2 The Sport's Coordinator of said sport;

6.4.3 The Executive Board of LMYA.

6.5 The Sport's Coordinator ruling should be considered final, unless the Executive Board of Directors deems that the punishment is either too severe or not severe enough.

6.6 If the Executive Board of Directors is preparing the report, they will issue a decision, including relevant highlights of the interviews of witnesses and the accused to the entire Board of Directors of LMYA. Upon the Executive Board's approval, the decision will be issued to:

6.6.1 The parties involved;

6.6.2 The Sport's Coordinator;

6.6.3 The entire Board of LMYA.

6.7 The Executive Board of Director's ruling should be considered final, unless the entire Board of LMYA deems that the punishment is either too severe or not severe enough.

6.8 Possible disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

6.8.1 A formal letter warning the abuser, and placing him/her on probation.

6.8.2 Suspension or termination from future participation, coaching or assistant coaching or spectating in the particular sport during which the abuse occurred. The length of the suspension can vary from one day to longer periods, depending upon the severity of the offense.

6.8.3 Expulsion from present and future LMYA membership and participation in any sport.

6.8.4 Formal legal action may be sought if advisable.

6.9 Levels of discipline may be skipped or combined if actions warrant such discretion.

7.0 Related Policies/Procedures (Listing only)

Individual Sport policies (If applicable)

First Aid

Insurance

Coach Selection Policy

8.0 Exhibits (Forms, flowcharts, organization charts, etc.)

Coaches Code of Conduct

Player Code of Conduct

Sport Parent Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct - Incident Report