

Columbus Lesbian & Gay Softball Association

Code of Conduct

1. As a voluntary member of the CLGSA, members agree to conduct themselves in a responsible manner consistent with good sportsmanship. This manner, reflective of the integrity and spirit of the league and its members, is expected to be maintained at all league sponsored/affiliated meetings, events, tournaments, and play. This includes conduct “off the field” at any league complex while league play occurs.
2. Zero Tolerance Policy:
 - a. Unsportsmanlike or abusive behavior by spectators, players or teams will not be tolerated. Individual and team penalties will be given by the CLGSA Board or CRPD Sports and will be based on the severity of the actions (see below). The team manager is responsible for the actions of his/her players and spectators. Their actions will directly affect the eligibility status of the team. Penalties for individuals and teams are not progressive. They include probation, suspension or total elimination from participation.
 - b. Members of the Board of Directors may address unsportsmanlike conduct during any game when the conduct is determined to be impacting the CLGSA’s Zero-Tolerance policy and when the Board Member does not have a direct conflict of interest. It is best to allow the umpire to control the game.
3. Unacceptable Conduct:
 - a. The following violations require a minimum of a 2-game suspension which may also include expulsion from the league:
 - i. Physical violence or threat of physical violence
 - ii. League/Tournament misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct in the league or at a tournament
 - iii. Commission of fraud (examples include playing under an assumed name, falsifying a roster, etc.)
 - iv. Receiving professional consideration such as money or cash prizes
 - v. Competing knowingly with a suspended or ineligible player
 - vi. Any fraudulent behaviors related to the CLGSA in violation of local, state or federal regulations
 - b. Manager Violations:
 - i. Any manager found to be knowingly and intentionally fielding an ineligible player(s) during any regular season or post season playoff game shall be automatically suspended from managing a team in the league for a minimum of one year from the date of the infraction.
 - ii. Suspension from managing a team does not automatically indicate suspension from playing in the league or expulsion. However, any violation of this Code of Conduct by a manager is subject to enactment of further sanctions at the discretion of the CLGSA Board.
 - iii. Team Managers & Coaches may be in violation of the Code of Conduct Policy for the actions or members of the team and/or fans attending the games. It is the responsibility of the Manager or Coach to control the actions of the players and/or fans.
4. Ejection/Suspension:
 - a. A player may be ejected by the game umpire for the following reasons:
 - i. Members may not threaten or flagrantly disrespect an umpire or umpire’s decisions.
 - ii. Team managers are responsible for maintaining control of their players while on the field and the spectators associated with their team.
 - iii. Members may not threaten or flagrantly disrespect players, coaches, managers or spectators.
 - iv. Unnecessary physical contact with other players or rough tactics on the field.
 - v. Physical contact such as assault, including the threat of assault.
 - vi. Flagrant use of profanity or obscene language directed at an individual or in a disruptive manner on or off the field.
 - vii. Throwing any objects for any reason that could be dangerous.

Columbus Lesbian & Gay Softball Association

- viii. Violation of any rules set forth by the Columbus Parks and Recreation or the City of Columbus.
 - ix. Violation of any rules set forth by CLGSA.
 - x. A suspended player may not play in any games in the league until eligible in all conferences.
 - xi. Any action the umpire feels represents unsportsmanlike conduct or is in violation of ASA rules.
 - b. At the time of an ejection/suspension during a game, the umpire shall notify the CLGSA Board of Directors verbally or in writing (by way of the score card) of the player's name and reason for ejection. Any player ejected from a game by any umpire will be automatically suspended from the team's next two (2) scheduled games and may be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
 - c. Each ejection/suspension will be reviewed by the Board of Directors to determine if further action is needed. Further action may be up to and including expulsion from the league.
 - d. The Board of Directors may be notified of actions that violate the code of conduct that were not addressed on the field by the umpire at the time of the violation. With a majority vote, the board of directors may agree to review and take action against a player/manager/coach that is determined to be in violation of the code of conduct or league rules/policies. Action may be a warning up to and including expulsion.
5. Expulsion:
 - a. Same as "Suspension: Greater than 2 games ..." except the term is for an undetermined length of time. In order to be reinstated to the league, the member must re-apply in writing to the Commissioner.
6. Violation Procedure:
 - a. All decisions by the CLGSA Board of Trustees or Full Board are final with the exception of an expulsion, which may be appealed.
7. Notification:
 - a. The individual will be notified in writing of any code of conduct violation(s) within five (5) days following notification of the violation(s). Team manager/coach will also be included in notification.
8. Suspension Review:
 - a. Prior to any CLGSA Board of Directors meeting to review any violation, the team or individual shall be given an opportunity to submit a statement in writing and include any witness statements related to the suspension. The information submitted will only be used for additional action and will not overturn the umpire action on the field. The statements and witness statements must be provided to the CLGSA Commissioner within seven (7) days of the notification.
9. Ruling:
 - a. After hearing and reviewing all relevant information, the CLGSA Board of Directors will meet and with a majority vote will determine if any additional action to be taken. The suspension review will take place within 10 days of the notification to the player/coach. The review does not need to be completed in person and may be done via email or conference call.
10. Appeal:
 - a. A team or individual may appeal only an expulsion ruling. This appeal must be presented to the CLGSA Commissioner within seven (7) days of the CLGSA Board of Director's notification of additional action to be taken. At that time, a random group comprised of five (5) team managers representing all conferences will be selected by the CLGSA Commissioner to review the appeal and make a final decision via a majority vote. An appeal will only review the process for fairness and to ensure that the process was followed correctly.
11. Exceptions:
 - a. Extensions for hearing and ruling dates may apply in situations where expulsion or extenuating circumstances exist that require review and voting by the full Board of Directors.
 - b. The decision for expulsion only from the league may be appealed to the entire CLGSA Board for review following the steps listed above.