

YOUTH SPORTS

Chapter 92

YOUTH SPORTS

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Gloucester City as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

ARTICLE I

Youth Sports Code of Conduct

[Adopted 4-4-2002 by Ord. No. 3-2002]

§ 92-1. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CODE OF CONDUCT — A written specification of the behavior of parents, guardians, coaches and officials prepared by each sports team which must at a minimum incorporate the within ordinance and must be agreed to in writing by the parents and legal guardians of the minor participants of each youth sports team.

YOUTH SPORTS EVENT — Any competition, practice or instructional event involving one or more youth sports teams.

YOUTH SPORTS TEAM — As used herein, shall refer to any sports organization organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter which is affiliated with or received monetary or other support from Gloucester City or regularly utilizes any facilities owned, operated or maintained by Gloucester City, which sports organization participates in sporting competitions involving minors.

§ 92-2. Establishment of Code of Conduct.

Every sports team shall be required to establish an athletic Code of Conduct incorporating at a minimum the requirements of this ordinance.

§ 92-3. Agreement acknowledging receipt of Code of Conduct.

The parents and guardians of each child participating in a sports team shall be required by the sports team to execute an agreement acknowledging receipt of said sports teams Code of Conduct and agreeing to be bound thereby.

§ 92-4. Fights, scuffles, etc.

Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event who initiates a fight, scuffle or any type of physical abuse or threats or abuse towards any player, coach, official, parent or spectator shall be banned from attendance at all youth sports events within the City of Gloucester City for a period of 12 months from the date of the incident.

§ 92-5. Entering fields, courts, etc.

Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sporting event who enters the field of play, court or rink during any youth sporting event for the purpose of physically or verbally abusing or confronting coaches, players or officials shall be banned from attendance at all youth sports events within the City of Gloucester City for a period of 12 months from the date of the incident.

§ 92-6. Verbal abuse.

Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event who verbally abuses officials, players or spectators, including the use of obscene or profane language or gestures,

racial, ethnic or sexual slurs, may be banned from all youth sports events for a period of up to 12 months from the date of the incident and shall be subject to such discipline as provided for by the applicable sports team's Code of Conduct.

§ 92-7. Throwing objects on fields, courts, etc.

Any parent, guest, spectator or official at any youth sports event who throws or causes to be deposited any object on the field of play, court or rink during any youth sports event may be banned from attendance at all youth sports events for a period of 12 months from the date of the incident and shall be subject to such discipline as provided for by the applicable sports team's Code of Conduct.

§ 92-8. Anger management or counseling program.

Any person banned for 12 months from youth sports events for a violation of this Code of Conduct prior to being allowed to resume attendance at any youth sports event shall be required to complete an anger management or equivalent counseling program consisting of no less than 12 hours of instruction and shall provide proof of satisfactory completion to the Code of Conduct Committee. Any banning for less than 12 months may include up to 12 hours or anger management.

§ 92-9. Authority of field officials.

Any parent, official, coach or spectator at any youth sporting event shall be subject to the authority of all field officials, including umpires and referees and elected league officials of the youth sports team or teams sponsoring the youth sports event, or in the absence of such persons at a youth sports team's practice or instructional event, to the authority of the ranking youth sports team coach on the premises. Such authority shall include the authorization to direct any person or persons involved in any incident in violation of this ordinance or the

applicable sports team's Code of Conduct to immediately remove themselves from the premises.

§ 92-10. Violation procedures and hearing.

- A. Upon a determination by a majority vote of the highest ranking elected official and the governing board of a youth sports team that a parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event sponsored by such youth sports team has violated a provision of this ordinance or the Code of Conduct of the youth sports team, such official shall forward to such violator a notice via regular and certified mail indicating the date and location and nature of the violation and the period of banning or other action to be taken in response to such violation.
- B. Any person receiving such a notice who wishes to contest same shall appeal to the Gloucester City Code of Conduct Committee within seven calendar days of the mailing of said notice by forwarding a copy of said notice with a written request for appeal specifically setting forth the basis of such persons contest of the notice of violation via personal delivery or certified mail to the Chairperson of the Code of Conduct Committee at 512 Monmouth Street, Gloucester City, New Jersey.
- C. Upon receipt of such an appeal, the Code of Conduct Committee shall convene within seven days and provide an opportunity for said person and any interested person to appear and be heard with respect to the occurrence of any violation and the action taken by the youth sports team.
- D. The Code of Conduct Committee shall be authorized to hear testimony under oath, review affidavits and such other and further information or documentation relevant to the violation and, upon a majority vote of the members of the Committee present at such hearing, may sustain, overturn or modify the youth sports team's

notice of violation and the period of banning or other action taken in response to such violation consistent with this ordinance or the youth sports team bylaws or Code of Conduct.

- E. All notices of violation and bannings shall remain in effect until overturned or modified by the Code of Conduct Committee.
- F. In the event any notice of violation is not appealed within seven days of such notice, said notice of violation and the action taken by the youth sports team official, including banning from youth sports events, shall become final.

ARTICLE II

Youth Sports Code of Conduct Committee [Adopted 4-4-2002 by Ord. No. 4-2002]

§ 92-11. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

YOUTH SPORTS TEAM — As used herein, shall refer to any sports organization organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter which is affiliated with or received monetary or other support from Gloucester City or regularly utilizes any facilities owned, operated or maintained by Gloucester City, which sports organization participates in sporting competitions involving minors.

§ 92-12. Composition.

The Code of Conduct Committee shall be made up of the president of each youth sports team who is duly elected pursuant to the bylaws or rules and regulations governing each respective youth sports team. The Committee shall also include

the Gloucester City Superintendent of Public Works and one representative from each high school.

§ 92-13. Notification to Clerk of name, etc., of president.

Each youth sports team shall annually advise in writing the Gloucester City Clerk of the name, address and telephone number of its duly elected president who shall serve on the Code of Conduct Committee commensurate with his/her term of office with the youth sports team.

§ 92-14. Notification of change of president.

Each youth sports team shall notify the City Clerk in writing promptly upon any change of the identity of the youth sports team's president.

§ 92-15. President's designee.

Any youth sports team president serving on the Code of Conduct Committee may designate an active member of such youth sports team to appear and act as his/her designee with full voting powers at any meeting of the Code of Conduct Committee.

§ 92-16. Presidents serving on more than one team.

In the event the same person is the president of more than one youth sports team, said person shall serve on the Code of Conduct Committee as a representative of only one youth sports team and shall designate an active member of such other youth sports teams to appear and act at a Code of Conduct Committee Meeting with full voting powers.

§ 92-17. Enforcement.

The Code of Conduct Committee shall be charged with enforcing the provisions of the ordinance establishing a Youth Sports Code of Conduct, Ord. No. 3-2002.¹

§ 92-18. Officers; meetings.

The Code of Conduct Committee shall meet in January of each year to elect a Chairman, Secretary and such other officers as the Code of Conduct Committee shall deem appropriate, and may meet as often as is necessary to conduct its business and for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of the ordinance establishing a Youth Sports Code of Conduct, Ord. No. 3-2002.

§ 92-19. Rules and procedures.

The Code of Conduct Committee may establish rules and procedures as it deems appropriate for the conduct of its business and, in default thereof, shall operate pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order to the extent they are not in conflict with the within ordinance or the ordinance establishing a Youth Sports Code of Conduct, Ord. No. 3-2002.

¹ Editor's Note: See Art. I, Youth Sports Code of Conduct.