

# Westborough Youth Basketball Association (WYBA)

## Code of Conduct

The Westborough Youth Basketball Association (WYBA) promotes good sportsmanship, fair play and mutual respect among all participants including players, coaches, officials and spectators. The WYBA Board of Directors has adopted this Code of Conduct to guide, advance and judiciously appraise the behavior of the organization's participants.

As such, all players, coaches and parents are asked to review and agree to follow the relevant actions contained with this document. Your signature on this document demonstrates your understanding, support and compliance with the standards set forth.

Compliance with the Code of Conduct depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peers, and - when necessary - upon enforcement through disciplinary action. Please see Code of Conduct Resolution Policy at the end of this document.

### Expected Conduct for Coaches, Players and Parents/Spectators

#### Coaches:

- Be a positive role model to your players. Display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of the sport. Encourage all your players to be team players. Emphasize skill development at all practices and work to develop all players over the course of the season.
- Adjust to personal needs and issues that individual players may have; be a good listener; never verbally, emotionally, or physically abuse a player, opposing team, official or fan.
- Ensure all team members and their fans practice good sportsmanship including, but not limited to: the opposing team's players and coaches, their fans/spectators, game officials, and town/school administrators. This includes before, during and following all games, all practices and all team events.
- Remember, players are involved in youth sports for fun and enjoyment. Winning is a consideration, but not the only one. Effort and attitude of each participant is more important than winning the game.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players and their parents. Explain the objectives of your season and what everyone can do to support and enhance these goals. Ensure that information regarding the scheduling of games, practices, and tournaments is timely.
- Promptly record game results and provide required feedback; ensure that all rosters are current.

\_\_\_\_\_ Coach's Initials

**Players:**

- Learn the rules and play by them. Always demonstrate great sportsmanship. Treat your teammates, opponents, coaches, spectators and officials with respect. Proudly represent yourself, your team, your families and your town.
- Remember “safety first”. Do not do anything that would endanger yourself, your teammates, your opponents, officials or spectators.
- Practice mental and physical discipline. Work hard to improve your skills. Be on time for practices and games. Learn from your coaches and teammates. Compete hard, but never cheat to win.
- Use appropriate language and gestures. Don’t engage in profanity, taunting or vulgar behavior. Abstain from arguing with an official at all times, with no exceptions.
- Give your best effort, work to continuously improve, support your team and have fun!

\_\_\_\_\_ Player’s Initials

**Parents/Spectators:**

- Support your player and his/her team while showing respect through language and actions for all players, coaches, officials, spectators and other parents. Show respect for the game and all of its participants.
- Encourage your player to play by the rules. Remember that they learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams. Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat. Reinforce the positive points of the game. Respect the decisions of the officials.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. Communicate with them and support them. Should you have a question, comment or concern, request an appropriate time and place to discuss the matter.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. Know and study the rules of the game as this understanding will deepen your youth’s knowledge too.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form from any source—players, coaches, or spectators. Be part of the solution when it comes to possible violence.

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent’s Initials

I agree to uphold the WYBA Code of Conduct while playing, coaching, and/or attending practices, games and team events. In the event there is a violation of the Code of Conduct, I understand that I could be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the WYBA Bylaws and/or the Code of Conduct Resolution Policy.

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Player: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Westborough Youth Basketball Association (WYBA)

## Code of Conduct Resolution Policy

Article X of the WYBA Bylaws sets an expectation of the highest standards for all participants (players, coaches & spectators) in WYBA activities.

*The highest level of sportsmanship and personal conduct is expected of all players, coaches, and spectators. The head coach is responsible for controlling the behavior of all affiliated with the team. Coaches and players will not engage in any activity designed to upset or discredit the players, coaches and activities of the opposing team or the referees. Discipline for violations of league conduct rules violations of the WYBA By-laws will be managed by a sub-committee of the board and ensure fair hearing for all views. Actions decided by that group will be ratified by the full board and then will be binding.*

To enforce the language and the spirit of Article X, the WYBA Board of Directors has adopted this Code of Conduct Resolution Policy. Any individual who believes that a WYBA participant has failed to meet his or her obligations under this Code of Conduct can report the concern to WYBA Board of Directors for resolution.

1. If a coach, player, parent or spectator has an issue with the conduct of another coach, player, parent, or spectator, he/she should attempt to resolve the situation on an individual basis.
2. If the first attempt at resolution does not resolve the issue, then both parties must provide a written document that recaps the facts of the particular event; including, but not limited to parties involved, date/time of occurrence, and what actions transpired. This document must be typed and sent via email to the WYBA Player Advocate (PA) at [wyba.playeradvocate@gmail.com](mailto:wyba.playeradvocate@gmail.com). Text messages, phone calls and individual conversations do not suffice. The PA will communicate with both parties and if warranted, a WYBA sub-committee will be formed to resolve the issue.
3. If deemed necessary, the PA will schedule a meeting with those involved as well as the WYBA sub-committee to review documentation and discuss the situation. A decision regarding resolution will be made within 14 days of the meeting. If the PA and/or the sub-committee determine (by a majority vote) that one or both of the parties involved has violated the Code of Conduct, (to be referred to as a Conduct Foul), the "Fouled Out" Rule will apply. Please see below:
  - a. First Conduct Foul: Verbal warning
  - b. Second Conduct Foul: Written warning
  - c. Third Conduct Foul: Suspension from the next game; if player, must dress in uniform, but sit the bench; if coach or parent/spectator, must not be present at the next game; written apology provided by violator including statement of responsibility
  - d. Fourth Conduct Foul: Suspension for 1 season; written apology by violator including statement of responsibility
  - e. Fifth Conduct Foul: Lifetime suspension

Each Conduct Foul must be documented by the Board and the resolution communicated in writing to the involved individuals. Conduct Fouls are cumulative, meaning they accrue throughout a player's WYBA career. For example, a player could get his/her first Conduct Foul and second one as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and his/her third Conduct Foul as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

Should the violation of the WYBA Code of Conduct be determined egregious or flagrant, the WYBA sub-committee reserves the right to skip a Verbal Warning and move directly to a Game Suspension or Request to Not Attend. This concept of a "Flagrant Foul", is a Conduct Foul which is "deemed excessive, intentional and/or unnecessary." With a "Flagrant 2" Foul in the NBA, the player is automatically ejected from the game without warning. Similarly, the WYBA sub-committee can move the player immediately to suspension for a Flagrant Conduct Foul.

Technical Fouls called on a player, coach or spectator must be reported by the WYBA Head Coach to the WYBA Player Advocate and investigated promptly by the Player Advocate to determine if the Code of Conduct has been violated and a Conduct Foul has occurred. If a Conduct Foul has occurred than the Code of Conduct Resolution Policy is invoked. If the Technical Foul was not deemed to have violated the WYBA Code of Conduct, then the matter is documented by the Player Advocate and closed.

***The WYBA Code of Conduct and Code of Conduct Resolution Policy  
was approved by the WYBA Board of Directors on August 6, 2018.***