

Diamond City Flag Football League

Personal Conduct Policy

(updated 7/3/23)

While participating in any Diamond City Flag Football League game or tournament presented by Diamond City Sports, all participants agree to abide by the Code of Conduct as a captain, player, or spectator as defined below.

1. Follow all rules as indicated in the Diamond City Flag Football rulebook.
2. Captains are responsible for the behavior of players on their team and spectators of their team – if spectators are behaving poorly, the team itself risks being penalized.
3. Crowd support is encouraged. However, inappropriate, rude, or confrontational behavior by spectators may lead to disqualification of your team from the game and future events.
4. Respect the calls of the referees. Once any dispute or challenge has been settled and play resumes, the situation will not be revisited. If a dispute occurs on the last play of the game, this includes the official score, this must be settled prior to leaving the field.
5. Refrain from harassing, bullying or engaging in negative behavior towards other athletes, captains, spectators, and/or league officials.
6. Honor the game with sportsmanship and respect for the rules, officials, league officials, teammates, and opponents.
7. Resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. Pushing, shoving, and fighting will NOT be tolerated.
8. No possession of alcohol, drugs or weapons of any kind.
9. If there are any concerns or issues that arise, please communicate respectfully and calmly with the league officials at the game.
10. Inform officials of any injury or ailment that may affect the safety of the athlete, and refrain from allowing an injured/ill athlete to participant in the game.
11. Any player who receives two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties before, during, or after one game will be ejected and suspended for two games, as per league policy. Multiple offenders may face harsher penalties as determined by the Council.
12. The game officials and league officials reserve the right to interrupt any game which is not operating within the realm of good sportsmanship and fair play.

Failure to comply with any of the above guidelines may result in removal from the game, suspension from the league, and repercussions determined by Council.

Misconduct Toward Game Officials and League Officials

This policy applies before, during, or after a game, even at later times if it is match related such as at work or at home and deals with misconduct toward any game official or league official.

I. Definitions

A. Physical contact: An intentional act of physical violence at or upon a game official or league official and includes, but is not limited to:

1. Hitting
2. Kicking
3. Punching
4. Pushing
5. Shoving
6. Poking
7. Spitting at or on
8. Grabbing
9. Running into
10. Kicking or throwing any object that could inflict injury
11. Damage to referee equipment or personal property

B. Abuse:

1. A verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens harm to a game official, league official, or the game official's or league official's property or equipment.
2. Included, but is not limited to, the following acts: a. using foul or abusive language b. spewing any beverage on a game official or league official and/or their property or verbally threatening a game official or league official.
3. Verbal threats or remarks that carry implied or direct threats of physical harm (e. g. "I'll get you later!" or "I know where you live!")

C. Serious Injuries: Those injuries that require hospitalization or treatment by a qualified dentist or medical practitioner.

II. Penalties

A. Physical Contact

1. 1 year minimum
2. 5 years minimum with serious injury

B. Abuse: 2 game minimum

C. Serious Injuries: lifetime suspension

Note: These suspensions are to be imposed from the time of the incident and will remain in force until such times as the Council takes action. The Council may not provide a shorter period of suspension but may provide for a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant (e.g., habitual offenders).

III. All Affiliated Teams: All teams, players, captains, and team officials have an affirmative obligation to protect the game officials and league officials. Teams are responsible for the conduct and actions of its players and their supporters. If any players, coaches, team officials, or team spectators escalate, inflame or abet in physical contact on a referee OR if no apparent attempt is made by the team, when time permits, to intercede in protecting or preventing an assault upon a referee then the following MINIMUM penalties prevail:

A. The team is banned from participating in any tournament play for TWO years. Such ban will follow each team player that is rostered at the time of the incident should they try to transfer to another team. A final decision on each individual player's eligibility will be determined by the Council.

B. Any violation of the probation by a player shall result in the player being suspended forever.

IV. Referees: Referees shall report any and all ABUSE and PHYSICAL CONTACT incidents to the Council and President as soon as possible.

V. The league, as matter of policy, supports and encourages any referee who receives PHYSICAL CONTACT to file formal charges in a court of law.

*NOTE: No refunds will be given on suspensions, regardless of length.