

Dear Participant / Spectator / Leader,

The Division of Parks & Recreation strives to promote the ideals of teamwork, physical conditioning, sportsmanship, and acceptable social behavior at all sports related events. It is imperative that participants, spectators and leaders ensure an environment which will provide these ideals.

It is your responsibility as a participant, spectator, or leader to familiarize yourself the Physical & Verbal Altercation Policy, which has been adopted by the Lexington Division of Parks & Recreation. Every sport has its own rules regarding sportsmanship; the purpose of the policy is to define sportsmanship expectations of our department and to serve above and beyond the rules of the game.

If you have any questions about the Physical & Verbal Altercation Policy or would like additional free copies, please call the Division of Parks & Recreation at (859) 288-2900.

Jerry Hancock, Director
Division of Parks & Recreation

Physical & Verbal Altercation Policy

Leaders:

It is the goal of Lexington Parks & Recreation to provide an environment where our participants can grow, not only physically, but also mentally. It is the responsibility of our leaders to provide an example of self-control and integrity in the hopes that others follow their example. A leader is an individual who holds any supervisory position, including but not limited to, program coaches, assistant coaches, program officials and program supervisors.

Participants:

A participant is an individual, other than a leader or a fan/spectator, who takes an active part in the sporting activity or sporting related event that Lexington Parks & Recreation sponsors.

Fans/Spectators:

A fan/spectator is an individual who participates in a sporting activity or sporting related event by demonstrating support without taking a leadership or participant role in that particular event.

**Sporting activities and sports-related events include: T-Ball, Baseball, Basketball, Football, Softball, Inline Hockey, Tennis, Cheerleading, Volleyball and Disc Golf (i.e., If one is suspended from hockey, they are also suspended from any other sport such as football, baseball, tennis, etc.)*

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Division of Parks & Recreation strives to promote the ideals of teamwork, physical conditioning, sportsmanship and acceptable social behavior at all sporting activities and sporting related events. It is imperative that participants and spectators alike ensure an environment which will provide these ideals. Therefore, any unsportsmanlike conduct, including, but not limited to, fighting, verbal abuse or racial and gender epithets involving fans, coaches, players will not be tolerated.

1. Fighting

A hostile encounter with another party or parties, resulting in a physical struggle or contact, will be defined as a “fight.” Fighting will not be tolerated on the part of any participant or spectator associated with a Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activity or sporting related event.*

A. Leaders:

First Offense: Lifetime suspension as a leader or participant in Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sports-related events* from the date of incident. One (1) year suspension as a fan in Lexington Parks & Recreation’s sporting activities and related events* from the date of incident.

B. Participants:

First Offense (Adults 18 & Over): Lifetime suspension as a leader or participant in Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events. One (1) year suspension as a fan in Lexington Parks & Recreation’s sporting activities and sporting related events* from the date of incident.

First Offense (Youth 17 & Under): One (1) year suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan spectator from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events* from the date of incident.

Second Offense (Youth 17 & Under): Suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from all Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events* until the age of eighteen (18) or for one (1) year, which ever is greater.

C. Fans/Spectators

First Offense: One (1) year suspension as a fan/spectator and participant from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events* from the date of the incident. Lifetime prohibition from a leadership role in Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events.*

Second Offense: Lifetime suspension as a fan/spectator, participant and leader from all related Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events* from the date of incident.

2. Verbal Abuse

Lexington Parks & Recreation strives to create an environment that teaches individuals the art of good sportsmanship. Verbal abuse is defined as the intentional act of insulting another individual through oral measures with the aim of offending. If any abusive language or behavior, is directed at others, those confrontational parties will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

A. Leaders and/or Participants (Adults 18 & Over)

First Offense: One (1) year suspension as a leader, participant, fan/spectator from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events* from the date of the incident.

Second Offense: Lifetime suspension as a leader and/or participant from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events.* One (1) year suspension as a fan in Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events* from date of incident.

B. Leaders/ Participants (Youth: 17 & Under)

First Offense: Immediate suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from game and suspension from next scheduled game.

Second Offense: One (1) year suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events* from the date of incident of the second offense.

Third Offense: Three (3) year suspension as a leader and/or participant from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events.*

One (1) year suspension as a fan in Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events* from date of incident.

3. Harassing Fans/Spectators

Harassment is defined as, but not limited to, abusive language, tormenting of participants, and the baiting of individuals. The following set of actions will be implemented against harassing fans/spectators:

First Offense: Immediate ejection and two game suspension.

Second Offense: One (1) year suspension as a participant and/or fan/spectator from date of incident from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events.* Lifetime prohibition from a leadership role in Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events.*

Third Offense: Lifetime suspension as a leader, participant, and/or fan/spectator.

4. Use of Racial and/or Gender Epithets

The Lexington Parks & Recreation has zero-tolerance for any use of racial and/or gender epithets used in reference to an individual's race, color, gender, or sexual orientation. Any person(s) found to have used such epithets will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

A. Leaders

First Offense: Lifetime suspension as a leader and/or participant from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events.* One (1) year suspension as a fan/spectator in Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events* from date of incident.

B. Participants

First Offense (Adults 18 & Over): One (1) year suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from date of incident from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events.*

Second Offense (Adults 18 & Over): Lifetime suspension as a leader and/or participant from all related Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events.* One (1) year suspension as a fan in Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events from date of incident.

First Offense (Youth 17 & Under): Two (2) game suspension.

Second Offense (Youth 17 & Under): One (1) year suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from date of incident from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting related activities and events.*

Third Offense (Youth 17 & Under): Suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from Lexington Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events* until the age of eighteen (18) or for one (1) year, whichever is greater.

5. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Sportsmanship is defined as conduct becoming to a sportsman, such as fairness, courteous relations and acceptance of results. The Lexington Parks & Recreation is promoting these ideals in its sporting activities, programs and sports-related events. The items listed in the above sections constitute conduct, justifying the noted penalty and representing unsportsmanlike conduct. Should any unsportsmanlike conduct occur, not specifically addressed in the previous sections, the Division of Parks & Recreation, in its discretion, may institute penalties for such behavior consistent with this policy. In determining whether an incident or unsportsmanlike conduct has occurred, the rules of that particular sport may be considered.

6. Procedures Following Incident

When a person engages in unsportsmanlike behavior within the Lexington Parks & Recreation's sporting activities and related sports events, recreation supervisors, recreation leaders, league supervisors and/or league officials will have the individuals involved in the dispute escorted from the park or facility at which the event is occurring. During such time, the sporting event or program will be stopped until those involved have left the park or facility property. If a person(s) refused to leave the premises, the Lexington Police will be contacted and asked to enforce the ruling of the officials.

Individuals removed from the park or facility will be sent a notification letter stating their violation of the altercation policy. The individual will then have seven (7) days from the receipt date of the registered mailed letter to respond with a written statement, explaining or defending their involvement and setting out their perception of the altercation as it occurred. The response must be received by the office of the Athletic Director of the Division of Parks & Recreation (545 North Upper Street, Lexington, KY 40508) on or before the seventh day from the receipt date of the registered mailed letter. NO written statement will be considered in the investigation after the seven (7) days. After the statements are received, an investigation will be conducted and the Lexington Parks & Recreation will render judgement of the altercation within ten (10) working days from the statement deadline. A panel consisting of the division director/director's designee, program superintendent and the program supervisor of that particular program in which the altercation occurred, will conduct the investigation. During this investigation, the individual(s) accused will be suspended from all sporting activities and/or sports-related events.* Those found in violation of this policy, or who are not content with the panel's decision, may file an appeal to the office of the Director of Lexington Parks & Recreation (469 Parkway Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40504). In filing an appeal, an individual(s) will have five (5) business days to respond in writing from notification of the decision, and said appeal shall be received in the director's office, on or before, the fifth day after notification of the decision. Individuals may be asked to appear before the appeal review committee. All appeal decisions are final and are not subject to review.

If Lexington Parks & Recreation deems a physical or verbal altercation as a flagrant and deliberate act of violence, the division reserves the right to enforce a more severe punishment within this established disciplinary code.

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Parks & Recreation

Athletics Department

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