

<b>LMYA</b>	<b>Section:</b> Administrative	<b>Number:</b> 505 Revision 2 <b>Issued:</b> 10/10
<b>Policies and Procedures</b>	<b>Subject:</b> Code of Conduct	<b>Effective:</b> <b>Supersedes:</b> Revision 1, 9/04

### **1.0 Purpose:**

To assure that all Lower Macungie Youth Association (“Association”) members, whether a coach, player, parent, or spectator, conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all Association-related sporting and non-sporting events, as well as in public when wearing apparel identifying the Association or its sport programs, and to establish consistent reporting and disciplinary procedures.

### **2.0 Scope:**

This policy sets forth the Association’s guidelines for appropriate conduct of all players, coaches, parents and spectators, both on the field of play or in the vicinity. Players, Coaches, Parents and Spectators are bound by this policy any time they are representing the organization or any of it’s’ sports programs. Additionally, players, coaches, and parents are bound by this policy any time they are representing the organization or any of its sports programs or even wearing apparel associated with the Association or its sport programs.

### **3.0 Responsibility:**

The following establishes the responsibility of the various groups of participants:

#### **LMYA Board of Directors:**

- The communication and enforcement of this policy to all LMYA Members.
- Review of all of violations of the Code of Conduct including, but not limited to events where action is taken.

#### **Sport Coordinators:**

- Review any report of violation of the Code of Conduct by any Player, Parent or Coach within their specific sport.
- Determine the proper discipline for the violation.
- Make a report to the President of LMYA for notification of the Board of Directors

#### **Coaches:**

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the child ahead of the desire to win.
- I will support a drug, alcohol and sports environment and refrain from their use in the immediate area of play at all youth sports events.
- I will provide a safe playing environment for all players.

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- I will lead, by example, in demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship.
- I will learn the rules of the sport coached and insure that players are familiar with them as well.
- I will remember that I am a youth coach and that the game is for children, not for adults.
- I will organize practices that are fun as well as instructive and challenging for all players.
- I will treat each player with respect and as an individual, remembering the large spread of emotional and physical development in the age group being coached.
- I will respect and support the referees or officials. I am responsible for the conduct of my players and spectators and the public criticism of officials by any of these individuals will not be tolerated.
- I will attempt to give each child as much playing time as possible and refrain from favoritism.
- I will be courteous to parents and give them as much information as practicable about schedules, etc.
- I will refrain from use of abusive or offensive language or behavior.
- Inappropriate physical contact is absolutely forbidden
- I will follow these behaviors whether on the field of play or in its vicinity, while representing the Association or its sport programs, and in public while wearing apparel associated with the Association or its sport programs.

**Players:**

- I will attend practices and games. If you cannot attend, notify the coach in advance.
- I will pay attention to coaches and be courteous of other players at practices and games.
- I will respect Officials and do not publicly criticize them.
- I will respect opponents and conduct myself in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- I will respect the uniforms and equipment provided by the Association and the personal property of others.
- I will respect the facilities provided and obey all rules governing their use.
- I will refrain from use of abusive or offensive language or behavior.
- I will play fairly and obey the rules of the sport at all times.
- I will follow these behaviors whether on the field of play or in its vicinity, while representing the Association or its sport programs, and in public while wearing apparel associated with the Association or its sport programs.

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**Parents/Spectators (may include, but not limited to, family members, friends or anyone else in attendance):**

- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
- I will not force my child to participate in sports
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I (and my guests) will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sport event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
- I will follow these behaviors whether on the field of play or in its vicinity, while representing the Association or its sport programs, and in public while wearing apparel associated with the Association or its sport programs.

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#### **4.0 Definitions:**

- Abuses of Conduct are defined as, but not limited to, the following:
  - Excessive unsportsmanlike conduct by a Participant, Coach, or Spectator.
  - Damaging property or possessions of another participant, youth association, Community or spectator.
  - Verbal abuse, harassment and/or physical assault of another team member, opponent, Official/Referee/Umpire, coach, parent or spectator by an Association team member, coach, parent or spectator.
  - Attempting to harm or slander another LMYA member through incorrect accusations, malicious rumors or other irresponsible actions by any Association coach, player or parent.
  - Inappropriate Physical or Verbal behavior toward another person both on the field and in it's vicinity.

#### **5.0 Procedure:**

- All coaches, players and parents are required to electronically sign the code of conduct at the time of registration prior to start of any sport season that they are participating in.
- Whenever an abuse of the LMYA Code of Conduct has been observed or experienced, the following procedure should be implemented:
  - Immediate Suspension of the accused from all activities pending an investigation of the accusation.
  - A timely written report identifying the date, time, location, event, activity, abuses and names of the abusing parties, unless minors, belonging to the Association should be prepared and submitted to the Sport Coordinator of the particular sport or the President or Vice-President of the Association.
  - This report should be made by the supervising or highest ranking members on site, but can be made by anyone who witnessed or was involved in the incident. The report should also include the names of as many witnesses as possible.
- The Sport Coordinator or President of the Association will do the following:
  - Review the written report.
  - Interview any or all of the witnesses as desired or deemed necessary.
  - Interview the accused abuser and/or the accused abusers parents, as desired or deemed necessary.
- The Sport Coordinator or President will issue a decision, including the relevant highlights of the interviews of witnesses and the accused to:
  - The parties involved

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- The disciplinary committee of the sport in question, or if none exists
- The Executive Board of LMYA.
- The Sport Coordinator, disciplinary committee or Executive Board’s ruling should be considered final unless a higher authority within the organization deems that the punishment is too severe, or not severe enough.
- Possible disciplinary action may include but is not limited to the following:
  - A formal letter expressing the Association’s dissatisfaction with the abuse will be sent to the abuser, placing him/her on probation.
  - Suspension or termination from future participation, coaching or assistant coaching or spectating in the particular sport during which the abuse occurred. The length of suspension can vary from one day to longer periods, depending upon the severity of the offense.
  - Expulsion from present and future LMYA membership and participation in any sport.
  - Formal legal action may be sought if advisable.
- Levels of discipline may be skipped or combined if actions warrant such discretion.

## **6.0 Related Policies/Procedures (Listing only)**

Individual Sports Policies (If applicable)

First Aid

Insurance

Coach's Selection Policy

## **7.0 Exhibits (Forms, flowcharts, organization charts, etc.)**

Coaches Code of Conduct

Player Code of Conduct

Sport Parent Code Of Conduct