



**America's Finest City Softball League ("AFCSL")**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT**  
**Effective March 26, 2006**

As voluntary participants in the AFCSL, participants agree to conduct themselves in a responsible manner consistent with good sportsmanship. This manner, reflective of the integrity and spirit of the league and its' participants is expected to be maintained at all league sponsored & affiliated meetings, league events, tournaments and play. This includes "off the field" at any league complex during league play or league tournaments. The AFCSL Board of Officers have the authority to impose penalties against players/teams/managers and other participants on all violations of the Code of Conduct.

Obviously, it is not possible to list each and every circumstance which might give rise to penalties. Participants may face warnings, disqualification, suspension, game ejections, and/or termination/expulsion from league activities as deemed proper by the Appeals Committee, Umpire in Charge, Hearing Officer (Assistant Commissioner) and/or the AFCSL Board of Officers, and which is reasonable under the circumstances. The mere existence of a variety of possible penalties does not establish any requirement of a sequence of penalties. In a particular circumstance, even a single incident could result in expulsion from league activities.

The following violations require a minimum of one (1) year disqualification or suspension of eligibility, forfeiture of monies paid or due to the player or team.

1. *Physical violence*
2. *Tournament misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct at a tournament.*
3. *Commission of fraud (such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying a roster)*
4. *Receiving professional consideration (such as money or cash prizes)*
5. *Competing with a suspended or ineligible player*

**CONDUCT CODE VIOLATIONS**

Actions related to the following violations are within the discretion of the game official(s), Hearing Official (Assistant Commissioner) , Umpire in Charge and/or the AFCSL Board of Officers. Players and/or teams are subject to warnings, game ejections, suspension or other appropriate actions up to and including expulsion from the league, depending upon the circumstances of the situation.

1. Participants may not threaten or flagrantly disrespect the umpire or umpire decisions. Team manager is responsible for maintaining control of players while on the field and spectators associated with the team.
2. Participants may not threaten or flagrantly disrespect players, coaches, managers or spectators.
3. Unnecessary physical contact with other players or rough tactics on the field is prohibited.
4. Use of profanity, flagrantly degrading or obscene language in any manner on or off the field.
5. Use of alcohol or intoxicating substances during or before a game.
6. Throwing any objects for any reason that could be dangerous.

7. Failure to comply with the Rules and Regulations for the Mira Mesa Hourglass Park, the Poway Sportsplex or designated playing area used by the AFCSL.

Any player who is ejected by an umpire, Umpire in Charge and/or AFCSL Board officer is automatically suspended from the team's next scheduled game.

The AFCSL Board of Officers and the Umpire in Charge have the authority to use discretion and act on unsportsmanlike conduct not expressly listed here depending on the circumstances.

**Code Violation Procedures:**

1. Notification: the team or individual will be notified in writing of the code violation within a reasonable time following the violation. The AFCSL Hearing Officer shall attempt to ensure that written notification occurs within five (5) working days of the violation. However, failure to notify within five (5) days shall not bar the AFCSL from taking action on the violation.
2. Hearing: Violations will be heard by either the Hearing Officer, if not available by a League Commissioner. A hearing may be either in person or by writing. A participant who has been charged with a violation may request in writing an "in person" hearing. This is to expedite the hearing of violations. For violations that involve a sanction of less than one year suspension or longer or expulsion, the decisions shall be final.
3. Review: Violation for which the penalty recommended by the Hearing Officer is expulsion from league activities or suspension of one (1) year or longer shall be reviewed by the AFCSL Board of Officers. The participant affected may submit a written appeal of the findings of the Hearing Officer. The AFCSL Board of Officers may affirm the findings of the Hearing Officer or amend. If the AFCSL Board of Officers amends the findings of the Hearing Officer, it must issue its own findings regarding the alleged violation(s). The decision of the AFCSL Board of Officers will be final whether affirming or amending the findings of a Hearing Officer.
4. After a hearing or review, a written decision will be issued in a reasonable time, if possible within five (5) working days of the hearing. However, failure to issue a decision in that time shall not bar the AFCSL Board of Officers from taking action on the violation.
5. This Code of Conduct is subject to change at the discretion of the AFCSL Board of Officers.
6. Team Managers will be notified of changes in the Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of the Team Managers to notify the players of changes.