



Adult Sports Handbook:
Manager and Player
Guidelines and Code of Conduct

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WELCOME

Welcome to the City of Lodi Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Adult Sports Leagues!

Please take the time to review the “Team and Manager Guidebook and Player Code of Conduct,” which contains our league guidelines and code of conduct. It is important that both you and your team become familiar with this information.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact our office at (209) 333-6742, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and every other Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location & Mailing Address Hours

[City of Lodi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services](#)

230 W. Elm Street

Lodi, CA 95240

Important Phone Numbers

Office Phone: (209) 333-6742

Fax: (209) 333-0162

Field Conditions Hotline: (209) 333-6744, #1 or [online here](#)

Website

City: www.lodi.gov/PRCS

Great Sacramento Softball Association: usasoftballsacramento.org

Important Documents

- [League Schedules](#)
- [League Standings](#)
- [Team Roster and Waiver](#)
- [Registration Form](#)
- [Dispute Form](#)

City of Lodi reserves the right to make changes at any time if we feel it is necessary for the betterment of the program.

Content subject to change. Last updated September 28, 2022.

GENERAL INFORMATION

It is the manager's responsibility to make sure that their players/fans are informed and comply with all administrative and league rules.

Objective

A primary objective of the Lodi Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services is to provide recreational team sports opportunities for all residents who want to participate. The City of Lodi Adult Sports Leagues promotes and conducts a positive leisure time activity that encourages fitness, healthy competition and an atmosphere conducive for fun and fellowship, and to provide guidelines for players and PRCS personnel.

The Adult Sports Handbook emphasizes rules, regulations, procedures and policies governing the activities of the City of Lodi Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services.

Fairness Ruling

All rules within this handbook are to be taken as a whole. City staff shall decide any conflicting statements. City reserves the right to make rulings in the best interest of the program that may not be specifically stated.

Parking

Park at your own risk. Beware of fly balls striking you or your vehicle in the City's parking lots.

Return to Play Safety Protocols

As of June 15, 2021, all *Return to Play Safety Protocols* were suspended. However, we encourage all teams and players to adhere to safety practices on and off the playing field.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Team Registration

[Team registration forms](#) can be found [online](#) or by going online to www.lodi.gov, clicking Parks & Recreation tab, and going to Sports & Fitness. All forms must be completely filled out. Registration forms can be mailed to:

City of Lodi
[Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service \(PRCS\)](#)
Attn: Adult Softball League
230 W. Elm Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Resident Teams

In order to qualify as a "Resident Team", the team managers MUST be a resident within the city limits of Lodi and more than 50% of the team's players must be Lodi residents. Addresses must be verified on the Team Roster.

Non-Resident Teams

Teams whose manager does not reside within the City limits of Lodi and/or whose players are less than 50% Lodi residents, are considered a “Non-Resident Team.” Non-resident teams may register 2 weeks after the start date of registration.

League Information

City staff will make all league placement and schedules. Staff reserves the right to adjust league schedules. All possible notifications will be given to teams should it become necessary to change schedules. Schedule requests must be made in writing at the time of registration on a first-come, first-serve basis, but requests are not guaranteed. Updated schedules may also be found [online](#). **It is the manager’s responsibility to contact their team players in the event of a game cancellation or time change.**

Note: Each team must submit a valid email address that is checked regularly to allow Lodi staff to communicate league updates, schedule changes, etc. If an email is not provided, it is the responsibility of the manager to be informed of all changes and inform his/her team. Games will not be rescheduled for this purpose.

Selection Process

Open Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Teams can request certain days to play during registration. The City of Lodi will try to accommodate these requests. Not all requests can be accommodated and the schedule is final once published.

League Fees

ALL league fees must be paid by **Team Manager** to hold team’s spot in the league at the time of registration. Payments must be submitted as a team and no individual player payments will be accepted. Refund Policy

Teams withdrawing after the end of registration period (dates posted on city website) will not receive a refund for league fees paid. No refunds will be granted for no-shows or team forfeits during the season.

ROSTERS

Team Rosters/Players

Managers must list a minimum (see specific sport rules) of 7 names on their [team roster](#) to register and all information, including signatures, must be legible and completed two days after late registration ends. All information provided on the roster must be valid or Lodi staff will automatically deem the player ineligible to participate until valid information is provided. Teams found in violation of this rule will forfeit games until a completed, signed roster with sport specific minimum requirements has been turned in to a Lodi PRCS office. Players may complete and sign the roster the first week of the league

It is the manager’s responsibility to check this sheet to make sure all players are on their current roster.

Note: Officials/City staff reserves the right to ask any player at any point in the game to show proper photo identification to continue play. If a player is determined to be ineligible or unable to provide proper photo identification, game can continue with restrictions (see sport specific rules for details) or can

be forfeited (at the Officials/City staff discretion). No ID, not on the roster, no play. Absolutely no exceptions.

Add/Drop Forms

\$5 for each added player after the registration period. Players may be added up through the last week of play (holidays or rain outs do not count in the 8 weeks). Add/drop forms must be submitted to a Lodi PRCS office by 12pm **one business** day prior to the team's game. Add/drop forms are **ONLY** valid after a confirmation email has been received by the manager. *City of Lodi, Site Supervisors cannot accept roster additions and/or drops.* Team Managers are responsible for updating the rosters and a player MUST be approved and, on the roster, to be able to play. **No Exceptions.**

An add form will only be accepted as official if, 1. The player has signed and has filled out the form with their complete valid address and valid phone number, 2. The manager signs the bottom, 3. Check the add box.

A drop form will be accepted as official if, 1. The player's full name, address, and phone number is filled out on the form, 2. The manager signs the bottom, 3. Check the drop box.

Each team will be allowed to add up to 5 players and drop 5 players. If the team wishes to add or drop more than 5 players, a completely new roster must be submitted.

Line Ups

At least five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled game time, managers must submit a lineup card with the full names (first and last name) and numbers (if applicable) or positions (if applicable) of each player who plans on participating in the game in batting order. The manager must sign their lineup card. There will be **NO** nicknames allowed and names must match the full names on the roster. *All players who are scheduled to play must be on the lineup card, even if they are not starting.* Games will not start until line up cards are verified and approved by officials. If a line up is turned in within the five (5) minute period before scheduled game time, the game clock will start at the scheduled game time and time will run down until the officials can verify and approve the lineup. *(See sport specific rules for more details)*

Note: *During playoffs, line ups must be turned in ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled game time. All other details still apply.*

Teams must have a manager, assistant manager, or team representative at all games and must circle which player that will be at each game on the lineup card provided to the field/gym supervisor.

Note: *Managers are required to provide either a list of which number players are wearing (Basketball, Flag Football, Soccer) or the starting position the player will be playing (Softball, Volleyball).*

Players

Players must be at least 18 years of age to play in any City of Lodi Adult Sports Leagues.

Minimum/Maximum number of players allowed on the Team Roster: Determined by sport being played.

Playoffs (Rosters/Players)

All players must be on the team roster and have proper photo identification present on **ALL** playoff game days. **No Exceptions.**

Uniforms & Team Names

If the league requires numbers (#'s) on the uniform, only numeric numbers placed horizontally and not exceeding two (2) digits are permitted.

If a team is wearing uniforms that are considered inappropriate by City staff, the team will be asked to remove the jerseys. If the team wears the jerseys again, the team will forfeit their game. Any further incidents may result in the team being removed from the league.

If a team registers with a team name that is considered inappropriate by City staff, the team will be asked to change their team name. If the team refuses to change their team name, they will be put on the game schedule as "TBD – To Be Determined". Any further incidents may result in the team being removed from the league.

RULES – SOFTBALL

Our softball league is recreational and follows USA Softball standard rules of play, unless noted below.

Length of Games

The time limit is 55 minutes or 7 innings whichever one comes first. No new inning will start after the time limit has been reached. This is measured from the time of the third out that ends the inning. If the home team is at bat and ahead when time expires, the game will be called. Each team will have 4 home games and 4 away games.

Equipment

BATS: All metal bats must be marked with the official USA Softball or ASA certification mark. All wooden bats must be marked "Official Softball" or "Softball". Bats that have been altered are not allowed. Please go to: www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp to see approved bats.

GAME BALLS: Game Balls are provided by Umpires/Lodi PRCS. Men's, 12" Softball. COED, 11" softball for women, 12" Incrediball softball for men. All Balls are ASA approved.

FOOTGEAR: Metal spikes or cleats are not allowed.

Strike Zone/Ball Count

Slow pitch arc will be 6 to 12 feet which is measured from the ground. A pitching mat will be used. Anything that touches the plate or mat will be a strike. All violations will be called if the ball is not put into play. All batters will start with "one ball and one strike". Batters are allowed one foul ball after reaching two strikes, after another foul ball the batter is out.

Batting

Batting through the bench is available at all levels of play: fast and slow, recreation and competitive. A team may choose to use this rule or not; it is not required that both teams in a game use it. A manager must declare this rule prior to the game start. And must mark it on the lineup card. If a manager chooses

to bat through the bench, late arrivals are added to the bottom of the lineup. Batting out of turn will result in an out.

If a player leaves due to injury, their spot will be skipped and will NOT result in an out. If a player is EJECTED, their spot will be charged an out each time their spot comes up in the order.

COED: COED, batting order must alternate male and female. If two men bat in a row, they must take an out. Two women may bat in a row without taking an out.

Base Running/Runners

Runners cannot run into or over fielder. If, in the umpire's opinion, a runner crashes into a fielder, the runner will be out. If it happens a second time, the runner may be ejected. Retouch is Allowed. The runner on 1st and 3rd base is allowed to step off while the batter is hitting, but must retouch the base before proceeding to the next base. Courtesy Runners are allowed. Sliding is allowed.

MEN'S: One inning, with the runner being the player who made the last out.

COED: Two per inning, (one for male and one for female) with the runner being the player who made the last out. Runners must be male for male and female for female.

Scoring/Homeruns

COED

A COED team cannot score more than 6 runs an inning unless the team is behind. If the team is behind they can match the amount of runs they are behind and then go ahead by 6 runs. If teams are tied or ahead they may only score 6 runs an inning.

Extra Innings

The offensive team will start with a runner on second base; the runner will be the last player to bat in the previous inning.

Homeruns

Each inning, a homerun can be hit by both a male and a female. 1st Homerun for a male and a female is **Good**. 2nd Homerun for either male and a female is an **Out**. 3rd Homerun for either the inning is **Over**.

Mercy Rule

If a team is ahead by twenty (20) runs after four innings or fifteen (15) runs after five or more innings, the game will be called and that team will be declared the winner, *unless both teams agree to continue*. If the home team is at bat and ahead when time expires, the game will be called.

Men's

Each inning one homerun can be hit. 1st Homerun is **Good**. 2nd is an **Out**. 3rd the inning is **Over**.

Ties

If a game is tied at the end of an inning and the time limit has been reached, the score will be recorded as a tie and is final.

Time Limit

If the time limit has not been reached, extra innings will be allowed until the time limit has been reached. Must have enough time for BOTH teams to bat if going into extra innings.

Defense

Teams play with a maximum of ten players on the field. A team may let one player play defense and not hit.

COED

COED with ten on the field, at least 5 must be women. At no point can the men outnumber the women on the playing field. (i.e. 4 women & 3 men for only 7 players). A minimum of 3 women must play in the infield. (may play any of the 6 infield positions). The remaining women may play in the infield or outfield. If there are **two outs** and a male batter is intentionally walked or is not thrown one called strike, he will be awarded second base. The female batter that is up next will be able to choose to take first base or bat. If he swings at a pitch, or takes a pitch that is called a strike, and subsequently walks, he advances to first base only. **This rule only applies if there are two outs.** In COED, all plays at HOME are force plays after crossing the commitment line.

Men's

Tag-plays can happen at home unless it is a force play.

PLAYOFFS - SOFTBALL

Playoffs are scheduled for the top 4 teams in each division. Championships will be played by the winners of the 6:30 and 7:30 games

The 6:30 game will be played between the 1st place team and the 4th place team. The 7:30 game will be played between the 2nd place team and the 3rd place team. In the event of a tie in deciding these playoff positions the determining factors for the tied teams we will adhere to the following order on who is the higher seed:

Score Differential

The higher seed going into the playoff will be the **HOME** team in both playoff and championship games. **NO** game will remain in a tie for any of the playoff or championship games. Games are 65 minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first, then the last batter from the previous inning will be placed on 2nd base and play will continue for the additional innings until a winner is determined.

In the event of a tie after the 1 hour and 5-minute time limit has expired or 7 innings have been completed, whichever comes first, then the last batter from the previous inning will be placed on 2nd base and play will continue for the additional innings until a winner is determined.

RULES VOLLEYBALL

Our volleyball league is recreational and follows USA Volleyball standard rules of play, unless noted below.

Length of Games

The time limit is 55 minutes or when the first team wins 3 of 5 sets. No new set will start after the time limit has been reached. This is measured from the time of the two-point advantage of the set. If the home team is ahead when time expires, the game will be called.

Teams

1. Teams will field a maximum of six (6) players. However, a team can begin a game by submitting a roster with a minimum of three (3) players. If a team has less than three (3) players, it will be considered a forfeit. The game clock will begin at the official scheduled start time (official start

time will be the time noted on the game schedule). A ten (10) minute grace period from the official scheduled start time of the **first** game will be granted.

2. All players must report to facility supervisor with first and last names prior to game time.
3. Matches consist of 5 sets. First team to win 3 sets wins the match.
4. The designated home team will begin the game by serving the first set.
5. Each team will have two 1-minute time-outs per set, and can only be called during dead balls. Each team will have the option of advancing the ball to the front court one time per half when calling a timeout. Each team will have one timeout in the event of an overtime period.

COED Specific Rules

1. 50 percent or more of the players on the court must be female at all times.
2. If a team contacts the ball more than one time during an offensive action, one of the contacts must be made by a female player. A block is not considered a contact.
3. Men may legally pass (forearm pass, overhead pass, set, dig), legally attack (tip, dump, and overhead pass), and legally block (block attempt, completed block, or collective block). Men may spike the ball at any time as a legal attacking maneuver as long as they are behind the Attack Line (aka: ten-foot line or 3-meter line) or the Attack Line's extensions outside of the court.

Scoring

The league will utilize the rally scoring format.

Sets 1 through 3 and 4 (if necessary) will be played to 25 points. Set 5 (if necessary) will be played to 15. A coin flip will occur prior to Set 5 to determine serve or side. The coin flip will be called by the designated "visiting" team. During set 5, the teams will change sides of the court when the first team reaches 8 points.

In all sets, the winning team must have a two-point advantage. If the leading team does not have a two-point lead at the end of the set, play will continue.

Substitutions

The substitute must stand and immediately signal to the referee that a substitution is desired. The official recognizes the request by whistle and hand signal.

Each team will select one of the substitution procedures listed below and follow said procedure for the duration of the set.

Substitution Procedure 1: Substitutes must enter into the team rotation at the same position on the court and remain in the set, playing in all six positions before being substituted for by another player.

For example, if the team chooses to substitute players into the right back position (position #1 or "serving position"), then every person must enter into the set at the right back or position #1 and remain in the set until they have completed their opportunity to play right front position or position #2

Substitution Procedure 2: Substitutions may enter in any of the six positions and be substituted for at any time by another player as long as the reentering player does not change the serving order that was established at the beginning of the set.

For example, Player A is substituted for with Player B in the front left position, If Player A is to reenter the set, Player A must be substituted for Player B only and in the position Player B occupies at the time of the reentry by Player A. Another case may be that Player A is substituted for by Player B and, subsequently, Player B is substituted for by Player C. In this case, Players A or B must be substituted into the lineup into Player C position and Players A, B, and C may only substitute for each other and no other player in the rotation.

League Standings and Playoffs

The number of teams making the playoffs will be determined by size of each division and length of the league. Head to Head record will decide all two-way ties.

If three or more teams are tied, the following criteria will be used:

1. Head to head record
2. Lowest number of forfeits
3. Greatest point differential between the teams involved
4. Total points scored against the teams involved
5. Total points scored all season

In the championship round (final 4 teams) the top seeded team has the choice of choosing their game time.

PLAYOFFS – VOLLEYBAL

Playoffs are scheduled for the top 4 teams in each division. Championships will be played by the winners of the first and second games

Players must participate in a minimum of two regular season games to be eligible for the playoff roster. The scorekeeper will be issued a playoff roster and this can be used by either manager to determine player eligibility.

Only players on playoff eligible rosters are allowed to play in playoff and championship games. Eligible players that show up after the game has begun must check in with the scorekeeper.

Players may only play on one team per division per night in the playoffs. If a player is eligible for more than 1 team in the same division the player must pick which team to play on. If a player plays on 2 teams in the same division in the playoffs, both teams will forfeit their games.

GUIDELINES

Schedules

Schedules will be sent to the team manager one (1) week prior to the first game via the email provided on the registration form. Schedules will also be posted online. It is the responsibility of the team manager to get their team's schedule and notify their players.

Standing Sheets

Each week, standings are available at the ball field and [online](#). The standings sheet indicates the previous week's results and current standings. ***It is the manager's responsibility to check this sheet to make sure***

all games were recorded correctly. Failure to notify City staff in a timely fashion that a game was scored incorrectly may result in the game being recorded as originally reported. (This policy will be in effect for teams who enter the playoffs and didn't report a recording error before their last game).

Postponed or Suspended Games

Games postponed by City of Lodi for any reason will be rescheduled if possible. City of Lodi reserves the right to schedule make-up games on a different night than that of the league, multiple games on a single night, a different location and to postpone or cancel games, if necessary.

Games interrupted by injury or other unsafe playing conditions shall be restarted as soon as possible, unless it's a postponement by City staff. If a game is postponed and the game is more than 50% complete, City staff reserves the right to credit the team who was ahead with a victory. City staff reserves the right to reschedule any game because of emergencies.

Note: Teams should not ***"assume"*** where and when a makeup has been scheduled. If a team manager has not received a makeup schedule, the manager is to check the [website](#) for game information.

Forfeits

See your respective sport's rules for details and number of players needed to start a game.

Any team that forfeits two games during any given league will be ineligible for any post season play including post-season play that would make up the seven-game minimum per team. Any additional forfeits and the team will be dropped from the league.

Rainout/Cancellation Procedures

All rainouts or games cancellations will be announced via the schedule and standings [website](#) or call (209)333-6744, #1. The website will be updated by 1:00pm on weekdays. If rain occurs late in the day, we will update the website if necessary. **Please do not call or email the sports staff for rainout information.** There are times when sports staff are not in the office and you may not get a response. Please give this website to all players to reference. The City of Lodi is committed to trying to play games, but will only do so if the conditions are safe.

Umpires and Officials

The umpires/officials of the game have the authority to order a player, coach, manager or spectator to refrain from doing anything that affects or interferes with league rules and policies.

Umpires/officials have the authority to banish players, managers or spectators from the game, the player's bench and the facility (i.e., park or field) for misconduct, delay of game, or for the good of the game.

Umpires/officials' decisions shall be final.

Field/Gym Supervisors

The field supervisor or gym supervisors will file incident and accident reports within 24 hours of any occurrence. A City staff member will call to follow up on an accident report. Incident reports will be discussed with managers when necessary.

Field and gym supervisors have the authority to banish players, managers, or spectators from the game, the player's bench and the facility (i.e., park or field) for misconduct, delay of game, or for the good of the game.

Any player who directs unsportsmanlike remarks towards the field or gym supervisor shall be banished from the game. If the remarks continue after the player has been banished, the player shall be suspended from further play in the league. This includes players, coaches, managers, or spectators who abuse a game or league umpire/official after a game is complete.

Team Bench/Dugout

Only participants on the current roster are allowed on the player's bench/dugout. All other non-team members (i.e. fans, children, etc.) must sit in the stands. **Children 14 and under must be supervised by a non-playing adult during games.** Another team member on the bench is **not** considered a non-playing adult. Managers are responsible for the conduct on the bench. Players must remain seated and within the confines of the bench area, except when substituting. No teams may share a dugout/bench area at any time. Alcohol is not prohibited in the dugout or on the field at any time. Any team found to have alcohol in their dugout will be given a warning. All subsequent warnings may result in forfeit and removal from the league.

Note: *Playing music of any type is prohibited at all league events. If a team, any team member, or fan affiliated with the team is caught doing so on any City of Lodi premises, the team will forfeit. Any further incidents and the team will be subject to the Code of Conduct.*

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substances

ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TABACCO, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ARE BANNED from league events. Umpires/officials and City staff will enforce this rule. This includes on the field/court of play (including warm-ups), in the dugout/bench area, the parking lot or in the general park/facility vicinity. No player may play in an intoxicated condition. Team managers are responsible for the conduct of their players.

Note: *If the field/gym supervisor or umpire/official suspects alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substance use, umpires and staff has the authority to banish the player and/or the team from further play. If a team or any team member is caught with any of these on any City of Lodi premises, the team manager and player(s) will be immediately ejected without warning from the current game and both player(s) and team manager will receive a minimum of a one-game suspension for their next scheduled game. If caught again, the team will be removed from the current league without refunding team's registration fees and may be suspended for the next season. Facilities are patrolled and violators may be cited.*

Litter

Team managers are responsible for picking up any litter his/her team may have left in the gym, dugouts or parking lots. Managers are responsible for having their team clean up their area. Not complying may mean forfeiture or suspension of the game or team's next scheduled game.

Lost & Found

All lost and found items submitted will be kept at the City of Lodi office. City of Lodi is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Insurance

No insurance of any kind is provided by City of Lodi. Players participate with an "Assumption of Risk". Assumption of Risk states that players know that injuries can occur during the course of a normal game with no fault to any party. Teams are encouraged to purchase private insurance if all individuals are not already covered. Softball teams may purchase insurance through ASA.

Jewelry, Casts, Etc.

Participants are not allowed to wear jewelry (with the exception of medical bracelets, wedding rings, and stud earrings that must be fully covered), casts or any other items deemed as dangerous by the umpire/official(s). Any medical protective devices (i.e., knee braces) made of plastic or including metal parts (hinges, etc.) must be completely covered by at least ½ inch neoprene sleeves.

Awards

Maximum number of awards issued is not to exceed eligible numbers of players on the roster. Managers must be listed as an eligible player in order to receive an award. Managers are responsible for completing a championship t-shirt order form. This form will be compared to the team's roster. Shirts are ordered in groups so the team's shirts may not be ordered immediately following completion of the league. City staff will contact team managers when shirts are available for pick up.

PLAYER/TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct is established by the Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA) to serve as a guideline for member agencies on matters pertaining to the conduct of players, managers, and coaches. The Code outlines unacceptable behavior and suggests the minimum and maximum penalties for violations. Any and all ejections from City of Lodi games will result in a minimum one game suspension for the game immediately following the game ejected from. This policy is automatic and does not require written confirmation from City of Lodi to be effective.

Players, coaches, and managers shall abide by the Code of Conduct. Violation of the code, as outlined below, will result in disciplinary action.

Program Feedback/Concerns

City of Lodi is proud of the programs that it offers and encourages positive feedback at any time as well as ways to improve each program. If you have a legitimate concern, please discuss it with the appropriate sports staff in charge of that specific league. It is understandable that errors may occur in any sport. City of Lodi is committed to minimizing any possible issues. If you have a complaint regarding an

official, only those accusations concerning misconduct or a complete inability to officiate will be given serious consideration.

Disputes

A dispute based on the accuracy of an umpire/official's judgment/call may not be filed. A dispute will be considered valid only if a participating manager, assistant manager, or team representative initiates the protest and all umpire/official(s), field/gym supervisor and the opposing manager are notified at the time of the dispute and the game is officially recognized as being played under protest. All disputes must be submitted in writing to City staff before close of business the following workday of the disputed game. [Dispute fillable forms](http://www.lodi.gov/852/adult-sports) can be found online at www.lodi.gov/852/adult-sports.

Ineligible player: The dispute will be held valid if the player is not on the office copy of the team roster or unable to provide proper photo identification. When a dispute for ineligibility is allowed, the game shall be forfeited and be awarded to the disputing team. Only one player's eligibility can be disputed at a time.

Note: *Umpires/officials and City Staff reserve the right to decline to ID an individual, if in their opinion, the dispute was made beyond a reasonable period of time. If a player is disputed and no ID is available, the umpire/official reserves the decision to forfeit the game. If, in the opinion of City staff, the protest was not made within a reasonable amount of time, the dispute will not be recognized and the failure to produce an ID will not be subject to penalty.*

Any disputes submitted for disputing of minor points or disputes made when the game has been clearly decided will be denied. All games are expected to be played fairly and honestly. Any decision resulting from a dispute by City staff is final and not subject to appeal.

Disputing Procedure

The following procedures must be adhered to when filing a dispute:

1. A participating manager, assistant manager, or team representative initiates the dispute.
2. The umpire/official(s), field/gym supervisor and opposing manager, assistant manager, or team representative are to be notified at the time of the point in question.
3. The disputing manager, assistant manager, or team representative will submit a detailed written protest using the [Dispute Form](#) on the city website to City staff before closing on the following workday.
4. If the dispute involves the last play of the game, the field/gym supervisor, umpire/official and the opposing manager, assistant manager, or team representative must be informed before leaving the playing area.
5. If the dispute involves the question of player eligibility, the dispute must be made immediately following the first appearance of the individual in question.

It is the manager's responsibility to dispute in accordance with the above and as stated in the league rules for the respective sport. Failure to follow the correct procedures will jeopardize the dispute. Please note that the field/gym supervisor and/or umpire/official are there to accept the dispute; not inform you of how or when to file a dispute.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

It is the team manager's responsibility to set an example of sportsmanship and fair play. The team manager is responsible for controlling the conduct of the team's players – before, during and after the game. Both the manager and the entire team can be held responsible for the conduct of any single individual on the team and/or spectators. If any individual player violates Player Code of Conduct (description follows) the manager or team can also receive the same penalty. Managers are responsible for the following:

- To ensure all players are aware and will abide by the team and manager guidebook as well as sport specific rules at all times. The guidebook is available online at www.lodi.gov/852/adult-sports.
- The accuracy of their team roster at all times including providing a minimum number of names at registration.
- The conduct of their bench, fans and players.
- To supply the field/gym supervisors, league officials, and/or City staff with correct names of any participant requested.
- To ensure only players that are on the team roster will be allowed to play in league games. All managers utilizing non-roster players will be suspended for a minimum of two games.
- To ensure all players have a proper photo identification with them at all times and presents it upon request of the field/gym supervisors, league officials, and/or City staff. Refusal to produce proper photo identification will consider the player a non-roster player.
- To ensure that all team equipment is legal and within the guidelines of each specific sport and the City of Lodi.
- Will be the only one allowed to approach the field/gym supervisor score table and officials on questions concerning the game.
- Contacting team players in the event of a game cancellation or rescheduling.
- To inform all of their team members that each participant is participating at their own risk. Injuries can occur, but are not the responsibility of the City of Lodi. If teams are concerned with personal injury, it is recommended that the team purchase team insurance.

Violations

All violations of the Code of Conduct, including all incidents resulting in player ejection, will be filed as incident reports by the umpire/official or field/gym supervisor with City staff within 24 hours of the incident. For action taken other than ejection only, the player and manager will be advised in writing of the penalty imposed.

Any ejected player/coach/manager/spectator must leave the bench/dugout area immediately. Failure to do so may result in a higher penalty for the violation. Any further action or disruption may result in the umpire/official ejecting the player or manager from the park or facility.

A player/coach/manager/spectator that is on probation for a Code of Conduct violation, and is reported for another violation of the Code of Conduct, will face double the normal penalty for the new violation. Any probation or suspension included in the penalty for the new violation will run consecutively with the former penalty.

Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to eliminate violence, hostility and overly aggressive behavior, the Lodi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service Department has instituted a “zero tolerance” policy for all Adult Sports Leagues.

As a result of this “zero tolerance” policy, the following penalties will be strictly enforced:

Team Expulsion (lifetime):

A team will receive a lifetime expulsion from any and all Lodi Adult Sports Leagues when any combination of two or more players/coaches/spectators from the same team demonstrate a propensity for violence, hostility, intimidation and/or overly aggressive behavior (includes verbal and physical threats to anyone), as determined by game officials and scorekeepers, league coordinators and recreation staff before, during or after any game. There will be no refund of league entry fees or forfeit bonds.

All players (as determined by game officials/scorekeepers, league coordinators and recreation staff) involved in the action that brought about the team expulsion, will be placed on the Lifetime Player Expulsion List and will no longer participate in any Lodi Adult Sports League. All players (as determined by game officials and scorekeepers, league coordinators and recreation staff) listed on the team roster that were not involved directly in the action that brought about the team expulsion, will serve a minimum of a one-season suspension before being eligible to participate in any Lodi Adult Sports League. Upon return, only a maximum of three players (basketball) and seven players (softball and baseball) from the original team roster can participate on the same team in any future seasons.

Team Suspension (1 game):

A team will receive a one game suspension if one player/coach/spectator demonstrates a propensity for violence, hostility, intimidation and/or overly aggressive behavior (includes verbal and physical threats to anyone), as determined by game officials/scorekeepers, league coordinators and recreation staff before, during or after any game. The forfeit bond will be garnished and the team will not be permitted to resume play until the forfeit bond has been replaced. In any case where the inappropriate behavior/action is in the last game of league and/or play-offs during any one season, the team will be suspended for one year and must then apply for reinstatement. Re-application will be by correspondence directed to the Adult Sports Manager, requesting re-entry to the league and citing the incident for which the team was suspended. There will be no pro-rated refund of league entry fees.

A team will receive a one game suspension if an ejected player(s), coach and/or spectator(s) from said team refuse to leave the premises (game site), or returns during or after any game on the day/date of the incident. The forfeit bond will be garnished and the team will not be permitted to resume play until the forfeit bond has been replaced. In any case where the inappropriate behavior/action is in the last game of league and/or playoffs, the team will be suspended for one year and must then apply for reinstatement. Re-application will be by correspondence directed to the Adult Sports Supervisor, requesting re-entry to the league and citing the incident for which the team was suspended. There will be no pro-rated refund of league entry fees.

Player Expulsion (lifetime):

No refund or pro-rated refund will be given to any player that receives a lifetime expulsion.

A player will receive a lifetime expulsion from any and all Lodi Adult Sports Leagues when they demonstrate a propensity for violence, hostility, intimidation and/or overly aggressive behavior (includes verbal and physical threats to anyone), as determined by game officials and scorekeepers, league coordinators and recreation staff before, during or after any game.

A player will receive a lifetime expulsion from any and all Lodi Adult Sports Leagues if said player is suspended twice, for any reason, during any seasonal league and play-off season.

A player will receive a lifetime expulsion from any and all Lodi Adult Sports Leagues if said player refuses to leave the premises (game site) following an ejection, or returns during or after any game on the day/date of the incident.

A player will receive a lifetime expulsion from any and all Lodi Adult Sports Leagues if said player uses or threatens to use any object that can be deemed dangerous against the body and person of any official, scorekeeper, player, spectator, or other City representative.

Basketball Only: A player will receive a lifetime expulsion from any and all Lodi Adult Sports Leagues if said player receives two flagrant fouls during any seasonal league or play-off game.

Player Suspension (1 game minimum):

No refund or pro-rated refund will be given to any player that receives any type of suspension.

In any case where a suspension occurs in the last game and/or playoffs, said player will be suspended the following season.

A player will receive a one to six game suspension if said player violates, as determined by a rules committee made up of game officials/scorekeepers and/or league coordinators, any provision in the Players Code of Conduct.

Basketball Only: A player will receive a one game suspension if said player receives two technical fouls in any game. If said player receives three technical fouls in any one season, that player will be suspended for one game. If said player receives a fourth technical foul in any one season, that player will be suspended for a minimum of one calendar year. Said player must then apply for reinstatement. Re-application will be by correspondence directed to the Adult Sports Manager, requesting re-entry to the league and citing the incident for which he was suspended.

Prohibited

- Use profanity and/or racial, sexual, religious or disability-based slurs, threats or intimidation before, during or after a game. Requesting or instructing another to intentionally cause injury or possible injury to another person. If, during a game, the responsible party will first be warned and if continues will be ejected from the game.
- Be verbally abusive toward any player (teammate or opponent), umpire/official, field/gym supervisor, league director, tournament director, agency representative or spectator. This includes, but is not limited to, use of profanity and/or racial slurs, harassment, threats, or intimidation before, during or after a game. If during a game the player will be immediately ejected.
- Refuse to abide by an umpire, official, field supervisor, gym supervisor and/or City Staff's decision.

- No player shall demonstrate unnecessarily rough tactics toward any player, umpire/official, field/gym supervisor, league director, tournament director, agency representative or spectator.
- No player shall demonstrate any harassment toward the field/gym supervisor, umpire/official, or attempt to intimidate any league representative.
- Appear on the field of play under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, and/or a controlled substance.
- Demonstrate dissension at an umpire, official, field supervisor, gym supervisor and/or City staff's decision.
- Unless the player is the manager or team representative, discuss with an umpire/official any decision reached by that official.
- No player shall demonstrate "trash talking" at any time.
- Play under another individual's name or falsify information on official roster form.
- Play on more than one team per league or more than allowed by league rules.
- Participate in any City program with an outstanding financial debt to the
- Any player using any illegal, altered, or suspected to be altered equipment will be ejected from the game.
- Any player ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of one week and the team's next game. Suspension is from all City leagues.

City of Lodi reserves the right to make changes at any time if we feel it is necessary for the betterment of the program.