



Midwestern Unconventional Sports Association (MUSA)
Participant Code of Conduct

I. Statement of Purpose and Ethics:

A. MUSA Sports has provided quality, inclusive sports to the Twin Cities metro area for over 20 years. MUSA provides the opportunity to play sports without discrimination based on race, religion, age, gender, nation of origin, sexual orientation, or disability. MUSA players, captains, umpires, Field Monitors, and spectators must abide by the Code of Conduct in order to ensure the protection of these rights for all players at all times when present at any MUSA-sanctioned event.

1. MUSA values human dignity, individual and cultural differences, diversity of thought and opinion, and both passionate and leisurely play. The Code of Conduct is intended to protect and reflect those values.
2. MUSA encourages participation and the desire for a fun and inclusive environment. MUSA grants the privilege of participation to individuals and groups committed to the same mission. The privilege of participation may, therefore, be withdrawn or denied by MUSA at any time when determined that a participant's conduct is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and/or the best interests of the sport and those who participate, following a Code of Conduct Committee review of a breach, as determined by the umpires.

II. Zero Tolerance for Violence and Abusive Language

- A. Zero tolerance for verbal or physical abuse
- B. Captains should address their teams immediately if they feel that language is gravitating towards abuse in order to "stop it before it starts." If observed, or left unaddressed, umpires may issue warnings and/or further disciplinary action for any language of this nature.
- C. Captains are encouraged to speak with umpires when they feel that a comment has gone too far or gravitated towards abusive language.

III. Player Code of Conduct

Players are responsible for maintaining a safe and inclusive environment in order to foster a league-wide culture of mutual respect, regardless of level and intensity of play. While it is the responsibility of captains and umpires to enforce the Code of Conduct, it is the duty of each individual player to be fluent in the Code of Conduct and adhere to the expectation that they abide by all rules set forth in the Code of Conduct at all times when engaging with MUSA players, umpires, Field Monitors, and spectators (including children).

A. Safe and Inclusive Environment: Unsportsmanlike Conduct

MUSA will maintain a zero-tolerance policy for unsportsmanlike conduct. Such acts will not be tolerated, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Abusive language, including but not limited to:
 - a) Racist language
 - b) Homophobic language
 - c) Sexist language
 - d) Threats of violence of any kind
 - e) Demeaning language
2. Physical Contact / aggression, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Charging another player
 - b) Harassing of umpires
 - c) Intention to harm: swinging, punching, tripping, or kicking motions at another player regardless of whether contact occurs
 - d) Pushing or shoving another player
 - e) Intentionally "lighting up" a player above the shoulder (headshot)
3. Property: Players must be respectful of the city, league, and each other's property.

IV. Captain Code of Conduct

Captains are responsible for their teams. Additionally, the role of the captain is to act as a liaison to the umpire/Field Monitor on the field. The captain is the leader of the team who shares responsibility for setting the tone for respectful play, all in-game communications with umpires and FMs, and providing a roster prior to each game time.

A. Team Responsibility

1. The captain is responsible for communicating a request for a call clarification. The purpose of requesting an explanation for a call is to provide clarity/education only. Umpires may respond to questions on calls at their discretion. If a captain asks for a call mid-game, it must be a rule clarification only.
 - a) All other discussions surrounding calls made during game play must take place at the end of the inning to maintain game pace.
 - b) All calls made by the umpire during game play are final.
 - c) Captains may request a review of the umpire's conduct from the committee following a game if they feel necessary.

2. The captain is responsible for holding their team members accountable to the Code of Conduct

V. Spectators

The role of the spectator is to cheer on participants in a respectful manner by being positive, supportive, and encouraging effort.

- A. Spectators are any person not rostered during the current game or acting as an umpire or Field Monitor
 - a. MUSA players or teams are expected to follow the Code of Conduct during all league activities. The Code applies and may be enforced, even if violations occur outside of a scheduled game.
 - b. Players are spectators until the game they are playing in begins and become a spectator again as soon as their game ends.
- B. Spectators are not permitted to be on the field, or in the dugout.
 1. Spectators should always maintain a distance of 6 feet from the field and give players space to play.
 2. Spectators are to respect the players and umpires by trusting their judgment and integrity.
 3. Cheer in a positive manner. Refrain from use of profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures.

VI. Umpire / Field Monitor Code of Conduct

It is the role of the umpire to enforce the rules and, to keep score, to make fair and accurate calls. Specifically:

- A. As the most important voice on the field, umpires and Field Monitors are expected to maintain a sufficient level of sobriety to maintain focus, clarity, integrity, and composure when making calls.
- B. Know all playing rules, their interpretations, and their proper application.
- C. Act in a professional manner while calling games and take the role of umpire / field monitor seriously.
- D. Umpires should take time to explain the basics of the game and remind captains to abide by the Code of conduct prior to game start.
- E. Strive to maintain a safe, sportsmanlike environment.
- F. Be fair and impartial at all times.
- G. Refrain from using foul and/or abusive language when speaking with players and/or captains.
- H. Manage and help control games in cooperation with captains to provide a positive and safe environment for all players and spectators.
 1. Practice honesty and integrity when implementing and enforcing disciplinary actions
 2. Practice honesty and integrity when answering player and/or captain questions

VII. Disciplinary Actions

A. Umpires have the right to eject any player, captain, or spectator for breach of the zero-tolerance policy, which includes abusive language, violence, physical aggression, and/or harassment.

B. Individual Penalties: Overview

An individual player, rather than the team, may be penalized for violating the Code of Conduct on a case-by-case basis as determined by the umpire / field monitor. Initial violations will be met with a warning, tracked by the umpire.

1. Upon receiving multiple warnings, the Committee may decide to review the player's conduct to determine whether to impose further action.

C. Individual Penalties: Warnings

1. Players may receive one warning during an individual game for language and banter that umpires deem as abusive language. Decisions will be made based on the context and intention of said language.
2. Players may receive a warning during an individual game for aggressive behavior deemed excessive or unnecessary by the umpire during gameplay.

D. Team Penalties: Warnings (to be handed out by umpire to captain).

1. A team may receive a warning if spectators cheering for their team do not abide by the spectator Code of Conduct.
 - a) Should behavior continue, captains, players, umpires, and spectators may be subject to further disciplinary action, or a review by the committee.
2. A team may receive one warning during an individual game for language and banter that umpires deem as gravitating towards abusive language
 - a) Following an initial warning, players that continue to use may be subject to further disciplinary action at the umpire's discretion.

E. Individual Penalties: Ejections

Ejection calls made by umpires are final and are not to be disputed nor are they up for discussion. If a player is ejected, they are automatically suspended from participating in all league activities for six days.

1. An individual may be ejected from a game following an initial warning if the player has failed to remedy their behavior.
2. An individual will be immediately removed from a game for usage of abusive language (see "zero tolerance" above).
3. An individual will be immediately ejected from game play following any physical contact or aggression (see, "physical contact / aggression" above).
 - a) Following any ejection, the Commissioner will be notified, and the Committee may be asked to make a further ruling if necessary. See next section for further information on Committee reviews.

F. Committee Reviews

1. Any behavior deemed more egregious than an ejection will be subject to review by the Committee and the Commissioner to determine whether

further disciplinary action may be necessary. Further action may include but is not limited to:

- a) Game suspensions
 - b) Team forfeits
 - c) Season suspensions
2. Players and / or captains involved in behavior that is brought to the Committee for review may be required to participate in the review process in order to continue MUSA participation.
 3. All participants may take part in the review process with the Committee, or accept any decisions made as final, without participation.
 4. Forms of disciplinary action carry with them a forfeiture of any team or participant league dues owed or paid.