

**Bardstown / Nelson County
Parks & Recreation
Physical & Verbal
Altercation Policy**

Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation Department strives to promote the ideals of teamwork, physical conditioning, sportsmanship and acceptable social behavior at all sporting activities and sporting related events overseen by the department. 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activity or sporting related event.

A. Leaders

It is the goal of Bardstown / Nelson County 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. Any “leader” involved in a fight will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

First Offense

Lifetime suspension as a leader or participant in Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sports-related events from the date of incident. One (1) year suspension as a fan in Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation’s sporting activities and sporting related events from the date of incident.

NOTE: Sporting activities and sports-related events sponsored by the Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation include: T-Ball, Baseball, Basketball, Football, Softball, Inline Hockey, Soccer, Tennis, Cheerleading and 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.).

B. 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sponsors. Any participant involved in a fight will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

First Offense – (Adults: 18 & Over)

Lifetime suspension as a leader or participant in Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events. One (1) year suspension as a fan in Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related event from the date of incident.

Second Offense - (Youth: 17 & Under)

Suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from all Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events until the age of eighteen (18) or for one (1) year, whichever is greater.

C. 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. Any spectator who is involved in a fight will be subject to the following measures:

First Offense

One (1) year suspension as a fan/spectator and participant from Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related

events from the date of the incident. Lifetime prohibition from a leadership role in Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events.

Second Offense

Lifetime suspension as a fan/sponsor, participant and leader from all related Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related events from the date of incident.

2. Verbal Abuse

The Bardstown / Nelson County 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 or fan/spectator from Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events. One (1) year suspension as a fan in Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events from date of incident.

B. Leaders and/or 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 Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events. One (1) year suspension as a fan in Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events. Lifetime prohibition from a leadership role in Bardstown /

Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events. One (1) year suspension as a fan/spectator in Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and related sporting events.

Second Offense - (Adults: 18 & Over)

Lifetime suspension as a leader and/or Participant from all related Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting activities and sporting related

events. One (1) year suspension as a fan in Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation sporting related activities and events.

Third Offense - (Youth: 17 & Under)

Suspension as a leader, participant and/or fan/spectator from Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Bardstown / Nelson County 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 Department of Parks and 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 Bardstown / Nelson County 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 local law enforcement department 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 Director of the Parks and Recreation Department (116 N. 5th Street, Bardstown, KY. 40004) 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation will render judgment of the altercation within

ten (10) working days from the statement deadline. A panel consisting of the department 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 Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation, as noted above. 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 the Bardstown / Nelson County Parks & Recreation deems a physical or verbal altercation as a flagrant and deliberate act of violence, the department reserves the right to enforce a more severe punishment within this established disciplinary code.