

Competitive Philosophy of the North Harford Recreation Council

Section 1 - Intro

The Council recognizes that “winning is the object of the game”, however, programs of the North Harford Recreation Council give sportsmanship, equal participation, safety, and the well-being of each individual participant higher priority than winning.

Section 2 - Safety

At all times, the safety of the program participants must be the primary concern.

- a) All practices, games and other team functions will take place on or at designated facilities.
- b) If the Chair feels that weather conditions in the local area warrant, they are encouraged to cancel program activities following the routines of the individual programs.
- c) Be aware of the Department’s ‘Inclement Weather policies’ which describe when programs must be cancelled.
- d) If field conditions are such that the players’ safety is in question, follow league procedures to cancel games. When playing in another area, the host leaders and/or officials do not ‘call’ the game, and you feel that the field has become unsafe, suggest that the game be discontinued. If your suggestion is not heeded, pull your players from the field and forfeit the game rather than have someone injured.
- e) Under no circumstances are team/program members to be transported in an unsafe manner. The Council advises against the practice of teams traveling in open pick-up trucks.

Section 3 - Participation

Sometimes, coaches get caught up in a “win at all cost” mentality, and equal participation suffers. These actions will not be tolerated by the Council. Our goal is to teach the basics of each program, affording each participant equal opportunity to exercise their ability to perform. Throughout the course of the program, team work needs to be emphasized. Coaches shall not encourage teams to ‘rely on an individual to carry the team’ mentality. It is more important that all participants have an enjoyable experience, where they would like to continue playing the activity.

Should there be enough interest in the community to raise the level of play and competition of those participants interested in doing so, they should either establish a travel/club team, or join one from another area. This should be done if individuals desire to be better prepared for high school sporting events. In establishing a travel team within the Council, it must be known up front to all participants that they will be selected based on skills, and that play time will also be affected by their skill capability. The needs of a travel team will only be met after the needs of recreational teams have been provided.

Section 4 - Complaints or Violation

Should a participant or parent of a participant have a concern regarding the safety, participation or well being of the participant, they shall raise the issue verbally with the Age Group Director/Coach. The Coach shall notify the Program Chair of the issue and how it will be resolved. The Coach shall then verbally advise the complainant of the proposed resolution. If the participant is not satisfied with the proposed resolution, they shall appeal directly to the Program Chair. If a resolution can not be reached at the Program level, then the complainant has the right to file a formal written complaint with the Council President. The President shall follow a process similar to the process in the Article XI, violations of the Code of Conduct, Section 6, step 1. The decision of the Executive Board will be final.