



## Inland Northwest Pop Warner League Rules of Conduct and Discipline

### I. CODE OF CONDUCT

#### 1. Coaches, managers, players and spectators SHALL NOT:

**R-1** A. Use foul, abusive, derogatory, or offensive language.

\*No exact standard exists nor will the association attempt to list every word or phrase that would be considered a violation of this provision. The INWPW Board Members and Disciplinary Committee reserve complete discretion in determining a violation of this provision as the elective members of the Board. The Board Members and Disciplinary Committee will consider the context and circumstances in the violating words or phrases that are used relative to any disciplinary action, if any.

**R-2** B. Taunt, verbally harasses, threaten, or degrade any other player, coach, manager, spectator, or any official, umpire or referee.

\*The INWPW Board Members and Disciplinary Committee reserve complete discretion in determining a violation of this provision.

**R-3** C. Hit, strike, kick, assault, or offensively touch any other player, coach, manager, spectator, official, umpire or referee regardless of the intent to injure. Players would be considered in Violation of this provision if the contact were considered outside the normal contact of the game.

\*Due to unforeseen circumstances and the context of the contact, the INWPW Board and Disciplinary Committee reserve complete discretion in determining if the contact is in Violation of this provision.

**R-4** D. Engage in any conduct that would be considered unbecoming, unsportsmanship-like, or offensive including, but not limited to, spitting, throwing equipment or other objects, offensive and/or threatening gestures, kicking dirt, and "getting into the face" of another person.

\* The INWPW Board and Disciplinary Committee cannot contemplate every scenario or act that would be considered in Violation of this provision. Therefore, the Board and Committee reserve complete discretion in determining any violations.

**R-5** E. The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, weapons, (guns, or any other designed device that could cause bodily harm) or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at any INWPW event or function by any member or person is strictly prohibited by the Board and Pop Warner. The INWPW Association has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy toward any member or person who violates this provision which will result in an automatic suspension from the association.

2. The game umpire/official/ referee is given complete control of the game and the field or area of the game from the time the players and coaches enter the area of the game and until the players and coaches leave the area of the game following the end of the event. It is suggested that an umpire/official/referee give one warning prior to ejection when necessary, but must adhere to the best interest of the INWPW League.



INWPW President & game day appointed Board Members shall have complete control in resolving conflicts (same as umpire/official/referee) that may need immediate attention or assistance.

A. The umpire/official/referee has complete control to eject any player, coach, manager or spectator from the area of the game and surrounding area in his/her discretion if the player, coach, manager, or spectator is in violation of 1 A, B, C, D or E (**R-1-5**) of this Code with or without any prior warning.

B. If any coach, manager, player, or spectator of any given team refuses to leave the facilities after being ejected and told to leave the area of the game and surrounding area, then his/her team will forfeit the game and the official/umpire/referee will immediately leave the area of the game without further discussion.

C. The game umpire/official/referee shall upon completion of the game submit a written Code of Conduct Violation report to the respective representatives of the Board of any violation of 1 A, B, C, D or E (**R-1-5**) of the Code by any player, coach, manager, or spectator for further action, if any, by the INWPW Disciplinary Committee.

3. Any violation of this Code can be reported by anyone with information of any violation of this Code verbally instead of in writing to any INWPW Board Member. The respective Disciplinary Committee shall diligently investigate any complaints and determine if any action should be taken, if any, against the respective player, coach, manager, spectator or umpire/official/referee.

4. The INWPW Disciplinary Committee will be responsible for written notification of a Code of Conduct Violation report submitted by any umpire, official, referee or member regarding the violation of the Code of Conduct. This report includes information describing the incident, any witnesses to the violation, any action taken, the date and time of the incident, and the nature of the violation. The Disciplinary Committee shall forward this Report to the INWPW Board Secretary upon completion.

5. Any alleged violation of the Code of Conduct should be reported to an INWPW Board Member along with any incident report for evaluation and further action, if necessary by the President and Disciplinary Committee

## **II. PROCESS FOR CONSIDERING DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. The Disciplinary Committee shall consider all reports of any member's violation of the code of Conduct. A quorum of the Disciplinary Committee shall meet as soon as reasonably possible to consider any reports and determine by a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee whether disciplinary action may be warranted. All INWPW Disciplinary Committee members shall be noticed for any meeting to consider any alleged violation.

2. If a majority vote of a quorum of the Disciplinary Committee votes that disciplinary action may be warranted, then the member shall be contacted immediately by certified letter of the alleged violation which should include, but not be limited to, the specific alleged violation of the Code the member is accused of



violating and informing the member of his election to request a fact finding hearing before the Disciplinary Committee to dispute the allegations.. This shall include an e-mail to the member, coach and manager as well.

3. Any member who receives a letter describing a violation of the Code of Conduct shall have 72 hours to request a hearing upon receipt of the letter. The member's failure to respond will be deemed as an admission to the allegations and the Disciplinary Committee shall then consider the appropriate disciplinary action under Section III of the guidelines.

4. A requested hearing by any member after receiving a violation letter shall be conducted by a quorum of the Disciplinary Committee no later than 10 days after a requested hearing by a member. The hearing date and time shall be set with the coordination of the accused member. The hearing will be conducted by the President of the INWPW Board who will set time limits for witness testimony, the number of witnesses to be called, and any statement to be made by the member or his/her representative.

5. A quorum of the Disciplinary Committee shall vote at the conclusion of the hearing to determine if disciplinary action warranted against the member pursuant to Section III. A majority vote of a quorum of the Committee shall decide the outcome of any action, if any.

6. The member shall be given written notice (by certified mail) of the outcome of the hearing within 72 hours after the hearing. Minutes of the Division hearing shall be forwarded to the INWPW Secretary at this time.

7. No disciplinary action shall be taken against any member until the member is afforded the opportunity of a hearing. However, the INWPW President shall have discretion to temporarily suspend any member pending a hearing depending on the nature of the violation, safety of other members and whether the member has violated the Code of Conduct in the past.

8. The INWPW Board may, by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board, elect to have the Disciplinary Committee conduct a hearing pursuant to these provisions for any reason including, but not limited to, conflicts of interest.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

- A. Letter(s) are received by President. Petitions are not acceptable. Each individual must submit a letter.
- B. Letter(s) submitted to Disciplinary Committee for review.
- C. If Committee feels warranted a date is set for meeting.
- D. Witnesses informed of date and time of meeting.
- E. Meeting is held.
- F. Certified letter sent to member as to outcome of meeting.



### III. DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

1. The INWPW Board and Disciplinary Committee Members have the sole discretion with these as minimum guidelines to discipline any member for a violation of the Code of Conduct as follows:

**R-1** A. Use of foul, abusive, derogatory or offensive language.

Warning, or ejection from game/location

\*Repeat violators are subject to a following single or multiple game suspension at the discretion of the Committee.

**R-2** B. Taunt, verbally harasses, threaten or degrade any player, coach, manager, umpire, referee, official or member.

Warning, ejection from game/location or one (1) game suspension.

\*Repeat violators are subject to multiple game suspensions at the discretion of the Committee.

\*Three (3) violations shall be an automatic suspension for remainder of the season.

**R-3** C. Hit, strike, kick, assault, or offensively touch any player, coach, manager, spectator, umpire, referee, official or member.

One (1) game suspension up to season suspension. Depending on severity of incident, the Board may consider expulsion from association.

**R-4** D. Unbecoming behavior, unsportsmanship-like, or offensive conduct.

Warning, ejection from game/location or one (1) game suspension.

\*Repeat violators subject to season suspension or expulsion.

**R-5** E. Under the influence of/possession of alcohol, drugs, or weapons.

Automatic suspension from the association for one (1) year or expulsion from the association.

\*Definition of Parents shall include all friends and family of participating Pop Warner Participant

The Disciplinary Committee and INWPW Board may determine that a violation of the Code of Conduct may warrant additional or harsher penalties.



**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Letter(s) are received by President. Petitions are not acceptable. Each individual must submit a letter.
- B. Letter(s) submitted to Disciplinary Committee for review.
- C. If Committee feels warranted a date is set for meeting.
- D. Witnesses informed of date and time of meeting.
- E. Meeting is held.
- F. Certified letter sent to member as to outcome of meeting.

**Signature of the Inland Northwest Pop Warner Rules of Conduct and Discipline is an agreement between participant, parent, coach/s, referee/official, and the INWPW League that this has been fully read, understood, and agreed to between all parties. The coaches, managers, and parents will be responsible for translating this to any spectator that may be present in support of their respected team. R-6 Addendum applies to this as well.**

**This applies to any Pop Warner Event, Practice, or Competition!**

**The INWPW Board and Disciplinary Committee shall decide and enforce Rule Book Violations as they occur and are reported. The decisions will always be in The best interest of the Inland Northwest Pop Warner League and will follow The same procedures and guidelines as listed in pages 1-6 of this document.**

**Print Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_