1/15/2020

GCCYS Code of Conduct Update – Changes Effective Immediately

Hello St. Veronica Sports Families!

We have an important rule update for you regarding our athletic league, the GCCYS:

During the last half of 2019, the GCCYS has been working on making their Code of Conduct more stringent in response to parent and coach behavior becoming worse over the last few years....and changes were made this week. We're happy to say this hasn't really been much of an issue at St. Veronica, but nonetheless we will have to abide by the changes the league has made to their Code of Conduct, and they are **effective immediately. Please read the communication provided below, which is directly from the GCCYS league.**

GCYS Communication:

"Due to the frequency of poor behavior demonstrated by parents, spectators, coaches, and players, we have had to strengthen and streamline how the League manages these situations. We are a volunteer organization and do not have the resources to investigate every incident (which, frankly, has been exhausting this year), and thus, would like to **add a Disciplinary Action Plan to the Zero Tolerance policy of the Code of Conduct.**   The addition of penalties for the associated youth player seems harsh at first, but will hopefully deter, if not eliminate, some of the behavioral issues across the League. This policy has also been adopted by other leagues in the Greater Cincinnati Area in the last year as well.

The GCCYS Code of Conduct adopts most of the language in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Charter on Youth Athletics Code of Conduct and includes additional language to emphasize the Zero Tolerance policy for any behavior issues. Notable features include:

·   **Ejection from a Game:** A parent, coach or fan may be ejected from a GCCYS sponsored event *without a warning*. There is to be no discussion or argument with referees or parish supervisors. The ejected individual must leave the premises (including the parking lot) immediately. The youth player associated with the ejected individual shall be ejected from the game as well and shall leave the premises also. This does not apply to players who "foul out" during the normal course of a basketball game.

·   **Suspension:** The ejected individual *and* the associated youth player are *automatically suspended* from the next GCCYS sponsored game. If an ejected individual is suspended for more than one game for some reason, the associated youth player shall be suspended the same length of games

·   **Appeal:** There is no appeal to an ejection or suspension. There are thousands of participants in this league, and not nearly enough volunteers to handle any volume of appeals.

Parents and fans are expected to model Catholic Christian values and like behavior in front of our children. The safety and well-being of our children is our priority. GCCYS hopes that having a clear policy in place will benefit everyone."***

Below is also a link to the full Code of Conduct on the league website.

So, obviously the rule linking the offender to the associated child athlete is controversial, but as mentioned is used by some local public school leagues with success. All member schools voted on this and it passed easily.   These problems have become increasingly severe at some parishes and although seemingly harsh, the new penalties should help curb unsportsmanlike behavior and actions leaguewide.

As mentioned, St. Veronica is well known for handling ourselves well both as fans and teams. We fully expect that this will not impact us at all. That said, please just be aware these rules exist and cheer for your team in a positive manner…. Without directing anything towards referees or the opposing team.

If you have any questions regarding this league policy, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the St. Veronica Booster Board or your child's coach. All have been made aware of the league policy and its implications.

Thanks and Go Vikings!

Andy Eiser

St. Veronica Athletic Booster Board President

https://www.gccys.com/sites/default/files/GCCYS%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf