



GENEVA PARKS & RECREATION

YOUTH SPORTS HANDBOOK, SAFETY POLICIES, AND CODE OF CONDUCT

OUR MISSION

At Geneva Parks & Recreation, our mission is to create a positive, safe, and fun environment where every child can learn, grow, and develop through sports and recreation.

Our goal goes far beyond wins and losses—we aim to teach life lessons, build confidence, and help young athletes discover the joy of teamwork, effort, and sportsmanship.

CORE VALUES

Character Over Winning

True success is not measured by the scoreboard but by how players grow in respect, teamwork, confidence, and integrity.

Every Child Matters

Every child deserves encouragement, playing time, and respect regardless of skill level. Our programs are designed to ensure every participant feels valued and supported.

Positive Coaching & Parenting

Coaches and parents serve as role models. We teach through encouragement rather than criticism and strive to help every player develop a love for the game and confidence in themselves.

Team Over Spotlight

Youth sports are not about showcasing one athlete. They are about every child learning, playing, improving, and contributing together.

No scholarships will be handed out at the end of the season—but a lifetime of lessons, friendships, and memories will be.

PARENT, COACH & PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Respectful Conduct

All coaches, parents, players, and spectators are expected to treat referees, opponents, teammates, recreation staff, and volunteers with respect.

Poor sportsmanship, disrespectful behavior, or inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated.

Concerns should be addressed calmly, respectfully, and through appropriate channels.

Positive Sidelines

Parents and spectators are encouraged to cheer positively for all participants—not just their own child.

Positive encouragement builds confidence, supports player development, and creates a healthier environment for everyone involved.

Team Environment

Coaches are expected to create a team culture where every child feels included, respected, and valued.

Our goal is simple:

We want recreation sports to be the best part of a child's day.

SAFETY FIRST

Top Priority

The health, safety, and well-being of participants always come before the outcome of any game, practice, or competition.

First Aid Awareness

Coaches should be familiar with basic first aid procedures and emergency response protocols.

Coaches should know how to respond appropriately to injuries and emergency situations until additional assistance arrives.

Preparedness

A first aid kit and emergency contact information must be available during all practices, games, and events.

VOLUNTEER COACH & YOUTH PROGRAM SAFETY POLICY

The safety of children participating in Geneva Parks & Recreation programs is a top priority.

All volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, team helpers, and adults with direct or repeated contact with youth participants are subject to City screening and approval before serving.

Background Check Requirement

All coaches, assistant coaches, and approved volunteers must successfully complete and pass a criminal background check before participating in any practice, game, activity, or event.

Approval to coach or volunteer is not automatic.

The City reserves the right to deny, suspend, or remove any individual it determines is not fit to work with children or represent the program.

The City may consider:

- Criminal history
- Pending criminal charges where permitted by law
- Offender registry status
- Conduct and character
- Honesty during screening
- Safety concerns
- Any other information deemed relevant

The City's decision shall be final to the extent permitted by law.

Disqualifying Offenses

A person may be disqualified from coaching or volunteering if they have been convicted of, pleaded guilty to, pleaded no contest to, are currently charged with, or are required to register for offenses including but not limited to:

- Crimes against children
- Child abuse or neglect
- Violent crimes
- Assault or battery
- Domestic violence
- Homicide
- Kidnapping
- Sexual offenses
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Indecent exposure
- Solicitation of a minor
- Any offense requiring sex offender registration
- Drug trafficking, distribution, or manufacture

- Serious felony drug offenses
 - Human trafficking
 - Weapons-related felonies
 - Armed robbery
 - Stalking
 - Harassment of a minor
 - Terroristic threats
 - Any offense or conduct deemed by the City to make an individual unfit to work with children
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City Discretion

The City may deny, suspend, or remove any coach or volunteer whose conduct, behavior, criminal history, pending criminal matter, or background indicates they may pose a risk to children, families, staff, volunteers, or the integrity of the program.

Duty to Report

Any approved coach or volunteer must immediately notify the department if they are arrested, charged, or convicted of a criminal offense while serving.

Failure to report such information may result in immediate removal from the program.

FACILITY RULES & CODE OF CONDUCT

The City of Geneva Parks & Recreation Department is committed to providing a safe, family-friendly, and positive environment for all participants, spectators, coaches, officials, volunteers, and visitors.

By entering any Geneva Parks & Recreation facility or attending any recreation activity, program, game, practice, or event, you agree to follow the rules outlined below.

General Facility Rules

1. No tobacco, vaping, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, or gambling are permitted on recreation property.
 2. Shirts and athletic shoes must be worn at all times inside gym facilities.
 3. No cleats, heels, or hard-soled shoes are permitted on gym floors.
 4. No glass containers are allowed inside recreation facilities.
 5. No jewelry or unsafe clothing that may create a safety hazard.
 6. No hanging, pulling, or dunking on basketball rims or nets.
 7. Spectators must remain off playing surfaces at all times.
 8. Participants must remain in designated bench or team areas during games.
 9. Follow all instructions from recreation staff and officials.
 10. Dispose of trash properly.
 11. The City of Geneva is not responsible for lost or stolen property.
 12. Individuals causing damage to facilities or equipment may be held financially responsible.
 13. Participation is at your own risk.
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SUPERVISION

- Children must be supervised by a parent or responsible adult at all times.
 - Siblings not participating in activities must remain with parents or guardians.
 - Running, climbing, horseplay, or unsafe behavior in hallways, bleachers, restrooms, or common areas is prohibited.
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SPECTATOR & PARENT CONDUCT

Geneva Parks & Recreation promotes positive youth development and good sportsmanship.

The following behaviors are prohibited:

- Arguing with officials
- Coaching from the stands
- Yelling at players, including your own child
- Taunting or intimidating players, coaches, officials, or spectators
- Use of profanity or abusive language
- Entering the playing area during games

- Negative comments directed toward officials or opposing teams

Officials' decisions are final.

If concerns arise, parents should speak with recreation staff after the game—not during play.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Geneva Parks & Recreation maintains a zero-tolerance standard for behavior that threatens safety, disrupts activities, or negatively impacts participants and families.

The following actions may result in immediate removal and/or suspension:

- Fighting or physical violence
- Threats or intimidation
- Harassment or bullying
- Disorderly conduct
- Property damage or vandalism
- Stealing or theft
- Trespassing
- Possession of weapons
- Alcohol possession or use
- Illegal drug possession or use
- Abusive, vulgar, or inappropriate language
- Verbal abuse toward staff, officials, coaches, players, or spectators
- Any behavior that creates an unsafe or hostile environment

Recreation staff, supervisors, officials, and authorized representatives have full authority to remove any individual whose behavior violates these standards.

Law enforcement may be contacted when necessary.

AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT

The City of Geneva Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to:

- Refuse entry
- Remove any individual from facilities or events

- Suspend participants, coaches, volunteers, parents, or spectators
- Revoke coaching or volunteer privileges
- Update or modify policies as needed

These policies exist to protect children, families, staff, volunteers, officials, and the community while ensuring a positive recreational experience for all.

OUR COMMITMENT

Youth sports are about much more than athletics.

They are about character, friendships, teamwork, confidence, respect, and lifelong memories.

When parents, coaches, players, officials, and recreation staff work together, every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and experience the true joy of recreation.

If you and your family share these values, we welcome you to become part of the Geneva Parks & Recreation family.