

**CITY OF TALLAHASSEE PARKS, RECREATION & NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT**

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT RULE

ADULT FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYERS

PLEASE BE ADVISED

There shall be no unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any players, coaches, fans or spectators. There is no greater offense in the Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department athletic programs than unsportsmanlike conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct is characterized as, but not limited to, any disrespectful or unnecessarily abusive or aggressive act - physical or verbal - committed by one person against another (whether that other person is an opponent, teammate, game official or fan).

“Sportsmanship” is not just something we talk about: “It is not optional for players!”

Every player in the adult league is required to sign a statement of sportsmanship. In it you agree to play according to the Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department standards. The standards stress sportsmanship. These standards will be enforced vigorously!

Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct that will not be tolerated are as follows:

- Antagonizing, taunting or intimidating players on another team.
- Showing disrespect to opposing players, officials and to players on their own team.
- Hassling officials with protests after calls.
- Questioning referee judgment calls and cursing such calls.

Is setting a higher standard for sportsmanship taking things too seriously?

We don't think so. Because part of the emphasis of the Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department is to enhance the physical and emotional enjoyment, health, and safety of recreation participants, setting high standards for conduct is important. High standards of behavior promote civility. High standards facilitate respectful relationships between people and send a clear message to those watching that what is important is not who wins or loses but how you play the game. **Sportsmanship is the underlying concept that participants on the other team are not truly the “enemy” but co-participants in athletic activities.**

No profanity! It is disrespectful and offensive to those around you. It is also a negative reflection of yourself, your team and the program.

There is no biological or psychological imperative to vent abusively. Regardless of the situation, and despite how frustrated you may get in a given situation, you do not have the right to swear or cause a disruptive disturbance. **If you do use profanity under any circumstances** you will be ejected from the game. **Every player in this league is considered to be an adult.** Behaving as an adult entails taking situations in stride. Whether it is a bad call, a bad game, a referee you don't agree with, or an unsportsmanlike player on another team, you do not have a right to behave in an unsportsmanlike manner yourself. Violations of rules or policies will not be tolerated. And remember, you will not receive a refund if you are ejected from the league!