

GORHAM PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Philosophy for Athletes & Parents

The Gorham Park & Recreation Department and the Town of Gorham believes its athletes should be model sportsperson on the field / court of play and model town / community citizens wherever and whenever they represent the Town of Gorham.

The Gorham Parks & Recreation Department support sports activities as a means of recognizing talent, style and maturity. The Parks & Recreation Department wants their athletes to use interscholastic sports competition as a means of becoming better people by learning the equally difficult lessons of dignity in defeat and grace in victory.

Rules for In-House & Travel Teams Seasons

In-House Season General Rules

- a) Children must be registered and all fees paid before they are allowed to participate.
- b) Children not registered, paid and participating during our “in-house season” are not allowed to participate on our “travel teams”.
- c) Children must play in the appropriate league set by the Parks & Recreation Department (i.e. children in 2nd grade may not participate in the 3rd / 4th grade league).
- d) Children of parents who have not returned uniforms or fees associated with not returning a uniform will not be allowed to participate in any program the Parks & Recreation Department offers until the uniform is returned or fees have been paid.
- e) In-House season teams will be divided as evenly as possible to ensure “competitive” teams.
- f) Playing time while participating on a in-house season team, will be as “even” as possible.

Travel Team Season General Rules

- a) Children will be assessed during the in-house season by the coaches, referees and the Parks & Recreation Director using the following criteria: attitude, effort, coachability, respect toward coaches / referees / adults / fellow players, overall sportsmanship, game knowledge, athletic ability, attendance at games and practices.
- b) The Parks & Recreation Director considers all factors when creating a travel team roster.
- c) Being chosen for a travel team is a privilege, not a right.
- d) Choosing a travel team will be based on the following procedures;
 - 1) All 6th graders are eligible to participate and will be contacted first.
 - 2) Only after all 6th graders have been contacted, 5th graders will be asked.
 - 3) When filling out a roster with 5th graders, those children who display exceptional skill in the sport will be contacted.
 - 4) This also applies for travel teams at the 3rd and 4th grade level.
- f) Transportation for away games / tournaments is the responsibility of the parents / guardians not the Parks & Recreation Department or coach(es). At times transportation (bus) may be available for use by the teams (drivers must have their information on file at the Rec. Dept.)
- g) Playing time is not guaranteed and it is at the coaches’ discretion.
- h) Practices are mandatory and playing time may be affected if unexcused absences occur.
 - Unexcused – hair appointments, shopping, concerts, relative in town, etc.
 - Excused – emergencies, doctors’ appt, illness, injuries, academic commitments, etc.

An Athlete and / or their parent / guardian should not confront a coach before, after or during a practice or a game. These can be emotional times for both parties and this situation does not promote resolution or objective analysis. If the conflict resolution model (listed below) is not followed the athlete may not be allowed to participate in the program until the proper procedure is followed.

Parks & Recreation Department Chain of Command (procedure / conflict resolution model)

1. Athlete / Coach

a) The Park & Recreation Department realizes that sometimes an athlete may feel uncomfortable speaking to his / her coach. We encourage our athletes to speak with or ask questions to their coach(es) in a mature manner. We also expect our coaches to answer the athletes concerns or questions and make their players feel comfortable in doing so.

2. Athlete / Coach / Parent

- a) Please call to set up a time to meet with the coach. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Parks & Recreation Director.
- b) Athlete must be present at the meeting.
- c) Concerns must be in writing and submitted (2) two days prior to the meeting to the Parks & Recreation Director.

3. Athlete / Coach / Parent / Parks & Recreation Director

- a) Please call to set up a time to meet with the Parks & Recreation Director.
- b) Athlete must be present at the meeting.
- c) The meeting will take place at the Parks & Recreation Department.
- d) Concerns must be in writing and submitted (2) two days prior to the meeting to the Parks & Recreation Director if they are different than those in item 2.

4. Athlete / Coach / Parent / Parks & Recreation Director / Town Manager

- a) Please call to set up a time to meet with the Town Manager.
- b) Athlete must be present at the meeting.
- c) The meeting will take place at the Parks & Recreation Department or the Town Hall.
- d) Concerns must be in writing and submitted (2) two days prior to the meeting to the Town Manager if they are different than those in item 2 or 3.