



**Subject:**

**Behavior Policy**

**Section: 2.00**

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## **PURPOSE**

Appropriate behavior is expected from all participants, members, and observers in programs and in facilities to protect the enjoyment and safety of all patrons. Therefore, The City of Pearland Parks and Recreation Department has developed the Behavior Policy.

## **DISCUSSION**

Behaviors that will not be accepted include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Endangering the health and safety of members, participants, patrons, or staff.
- Disrupting a program or creating a disturbance at a facility.
- Continuous refusal to follow program and/or facility rules and guidelines.
- Use of verbal harassment, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or racial slurs.
- Blatant disrespect of staff and program or facility rules and guidelines.
- Inappropriate or unwanted touching and/or attention directed at members, participants, patrons, or staff.
- Damage, vandalism, or theft of private or City facilities, equipment, or supplies.
- Possession or use of illegal substances or medication, including the use of alcohol or smoking, including vaping, where prohibited.
- Inappropriate or offensive dress, including, but not limited to, clothing which is too revealing or displays obscene or offensive words or pictures.
- Illegal possession or threat of a weapon.
- Gang activity including, but not limited to, the display or possession of signs, symbols, or hand signals, membership solicitation, intimidating or threatening an individual, wearing or displaying colors or items of dress, etc.
- Inappropriate display of affection including, but not limited to, prolonged kissing and touching of any private area of the body.

The following outlines steps that may be used with patrons who are not behaving appropriately. Program and/or membership fees will not be refunded for any person removed from a program, league, or facility due to violation of this behavior policy. Some programs and/or leagues may have stricter or more detailed behavior policies.

### **Program Participants**

All program/league participants are expected to behave appropriately and follow the rules of the program and facility. A participant will receive written notice for inappropriate behavior, and in the case of a minor, a copy of the notice will be provided to such minor's parent/guardian. If a participant receives three notices of inappropriate behavior, or if the participant is involved in one severe incident as determined by Department staff, the participant may no longer participate in the program/league or return to facility until a meeting is scheduled and held. The participant, a parent/guardian if the participant is a minor, the program instructor, the program supervisor, and any other persons whom the Department considers necessary for a resolution of the inappropriate behavior, shall be present at such meeting. At the meeting, the question of continued participation



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in the program/league will be considered and, primarily for minor participants, a Behavior Contract may be prepared as a condition of continued participation. Such a Behavior Contract will be personalized to the circumstances, the participant and will include specific expectations and consequences for failure to meet such expectations, including possible transfer, suspension and/or termination from program participation. Inappropriate behavior by adults may result in more rapid progress toward suspension or termination from program participation. **Program/league and/or membership fees will not be refunded for any person removed from a program due to violation of the Behavior Policy.**

### **Facilities**

All facility participants and members are expected to follow the rules of the facilities. Disregard or abuse of facility rules may result in removal by staff or police from the facility for a designated length of time or permanently. Any incidents involving facility participants and their failure to adhere to this policy will be documented by Parks & Recreation staff. The occurrence and a brief description will be added to the individual(s) membership/registration account for tracking purposes. In the case of a minor, notice will be provided to such minor's parent/guardian. In the event of multiple incidents by one individual, the participant may no longer access the facility until meeting is scheduled and held. At which time, the same process for evaluating and determine future access for program participants will be followed. **Facility usage, membership, and/or day pass fees will not be refunded for any person removed due to violation to the Behavior Policy.**

### **Observers**

Observers of programs and guests of facilities are also expected to behave appropriately. Parents, friends, and any other observers are held to the same standards of behavior as program participants and members. If inappropriate behavior of a program observer or guest is reported to, or witnessed, by a staff person, the observer will be asked to leave by the staff or police, if necessary.

If any behavior reaches the level of possible illegal activity, then police will be notified for possible further action.

### **Appeals**

Any participant who is suspended or terminated from program participation and/or membership shall have the right to appeal to the Recreation Superintendent within fourteen (14) days of any notice of suspension or termination. The Recreation Superintendent shall there upon schedule a meeting concerning such appeal. Within five (5) days after such meeting, the Recreation Superintendent shall notify the appellant in writing that the suspension or termination has been affirmed, modified, or reversed. The Recreation Superintendent shall notify the original meeting participants of the meeting and the decision.



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**REFERENCE**

None

**REVIEW & REVISION HISTORY**

- Reviewed October 2009
- Updated July 2010
- Updated February 2012
- Approved by Parks Board February 2012
- Reviewed and Approved by Parks Board January 2022