



League Principles

2024 Season

Introduction

Rainbow Sports League was founded with the philosophy that all people are welcome to participate in a safe, social, and inclusive environment. The purpose of RSL is to engage members of the LGBTQ+ community, friends, and allies in healthy, active sports and activities by creating and managing structured games, leagues and tournaments in a safe, consistent, and organized fashion.

Rainbow Sports League follows these principals in order and in precedence. At no time shall any higher ranked principal be compromised for the sake of another by any official, team, or player.

- 1) **Safety:** All measures will be taken so that any and all activities rank safety as the league's number one priority.
- 2) **Participation / Inclusion:** All people are welcome in RSL games and activities, and participation is fundamental to all involved.
- 3) **Respect:** All people affiliated with RSL, its teams or its events shall treat each other with dignity and respect at all times, both on and off the field.
- 4) **Fun:** The purpose of RSL in its core, is to foster a fun, philanthropic, social environment.
- 5) **Honesty / Fair Play:** It is expected that all players, teams and officials shall adhere to a strict honor code at all times.
- 6) **Competition:** While RSL games and activities keep score and award champions, at no time shall any player, team, or official allow the competitive nature inherent in sports take precedence over any of the above founding principles.

Section I - Conduct

1. League Principles

1.1 Sportsmanship

Officials, players and their guests shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times, including both on and off the field. RSL expects the highest level of respect from anyone affiliated or attending our events and conduct unbecoming will not be tolerated at any time.

1.2 **Agreement:** By participating in an RSL event or activity, each competitor agrees

- a) To be governed by the rules as presented by RSL, both as written and in the spirit and intent of said rules.
- b) To accept any decisions or penalties imposed by said rules.
- c) To respect all aspects of the league's priorities.
- d) To treat all materials, equipment, and venues with great care including the environment in which we are playing. This includes, but is not limited to, garbage, foul language, smoking, illegal substance, weapons, and alcohol policies and damage to property.

1.3 **Drug & Weapons Policy:** Rainbow Sports League is a drug and weapon-free zone, and any use or distribution of any illegal substances or the possession of any weapons of any kind while attending or engaging in any RSL sponsored events is strictly prohibited.

- a) **Alcohol:** While may or may not be regulated by venue restrictions, any public intoxication will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary actions, including ejection from venue for the remainder of the day.

1.4 **Weather:** Outdoor activities may be cancelled or delayed under these guidelines.

- a) Lightning within a 30-mile radius, postpones activities for 30 minutes.
- b) Heavy rain of any kind postpones games for one hour following the conclusion of rain.
- c) If similar conditions return within the postponement periods, activities will then be cancelled for the day and re-scheduled according to the rain date calendar.
- d) Games will be cancelled following a 1-hour continual period of heavy rain.
- e) Activities may proceed if the rain is considered light and variable, and the field conditions are safe.
- f) Should any venue or facility be closed or restricted in use, RSL will advise through e-mail and social media communications as soon as possible.
- g) Canceled days will push the entire schedule back one week (including playoffs), up to a maximum of two weeks. If playoffs cannot be held within 2wks of original date, the winners will be determined by regular season records. Individual game cancellations may be made up by adding additional games to a regular season date.

1.5 **Field / Venue Rules:** All rules and policies put in place by the venue must be respected and will be strictly enforced. (Such as, no pets, no smoking, no loud music, no alcohol, etc.)

- 1.6 **Discrimination:** RSL has a strict no-discrimination policy. If anyone feels they have been discriminated against for any reason they are to report it to league management immediately. Any person affiliated with an RSL event making racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual orientation slurs or actions are subject to disciplinary proceedings up to and including dismissal from the league.
- 1.7 **Bullying & Taunting:** Teasing, shouting, arguing, cheering against, complaining, name-calling, excessive swearing, verbally or physically abusing or intimidating players or game officials in any way (even if intended as a joke, but not received in that manner) will not be tolerating under any circumstances, regardless if it occurs in person, off venue, or on-line.
- a) Umpires shall be responsible for monitoring on field and sideline behavior and can issue warnings and make recommendations to the Game Referee for any disciplinary actions.
 - b) Game Referee may issue individual warnings / cards and if deemed that it is caused by multiple players on a team, he may provide a “team warnings”, followed by a forfeit on the current or future games upon the second occurrence.
 - c) Off the field behavior, including at social events, public spaces, or even on social media that project any players, teams or league officials in an aggressive or highly negative light will be considered the same as behavior on the field, and is subject to the same disciplinary policies and procedures.
- 1.8 **Disciplinary Policies:** Apply to any infraction listed or unlisted that is deemed unsportsmanlike or is contrary to the RSL core philosophy and principals.
- a) Game Referee, staff, or league officials may issue warnings.
 - b) Only Game Referees and league officials can issue Yellow or Red Cards at any time.
 - c) Players receiving a Yellow Card must sit out the remainder of the inning (Kickball) or game in match play sports (Dodgeball, Volleyball, Darts, Cornhole etc.). A five-minute sideline penalty issued for timed “period” sports (Soccer, Hockey, Basketball, etc.)
 - d) Red Cards may be issued for more serious violations, and are not required to follow a Yellow Card.
 - e) Red Card “Levels” will be dependent on the severity of the violation as determined by the Game Referee in consultation with league officials.
 - Level 1 Violation: Removed from field of play for the day
 - Level 2 Violation: Removed from field of play for the day and suspended for the next two game days.
 - Level 3 Violation: Removed from field of play, suspended for the remainder of the season, including playoffs, and suspended from all RSL activities for 6 months.
 - Level 4 Violation: Removed from field of play and banned from all RSL activities indefinitely, including the remainder of the season and playoffs.
 - f) After a Red Card has been issued, any additional infraction within its 6-month window will constitute a charge of gross misconduct and will be subject to long-term suspension or permanent ejection from the league as determined by the GM and League Officials.
 - g) Players receiving suspensions or ejections may apply, in writing, for re-instatement following a 6-month waiting period.

1.9 Injury Policies: Safety is and will always be the number one priority for Rainbow Sports League and the following polices are in place for everyone’s well-being.

- a) Injured players may be replaced or can exit a game at any time without penalties.
- b) Any injury that incapacitates a player, even if momentarily, will stop active play immediately at the Game Referee’s discretion.
- c) Any injury to the head that causes any dizziness or unconsciousness must be reported immediately to the attending league officials who shall stop game play to assess the situation. Emergency medical officials will be called for any head related injuries.
- d) Any injured player that is actively bleeding must exit the field of play and cannot return until the bleeding has stopped or has been treated and covered.
- e) The RSL will have, on hand, at least one First Aid kit at every venue for use by its players and officials as needed.
- f) Injured players that required immediate medical attention must provide a doctor’s note verifying that they are recovered and physically capable prior to returning to active play.

