ORDINANCE NUMBER 34 - 2013

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY

ORDINANCE AMENDING A CHAPTER OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, SECTION 281, YOUTH SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT

WHEREAS, the Township Code Chapter 281 is entitled Youth Sports Code of Conduct and contains certain definitions and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council wishes to amend Chapter 281, Youth Sports Code of Conduct, to further clarify its Code of Conduct.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, in the County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, that the following changes to Chapter 281 of the Washington Township Code are hereby adopted:

CHAPTER 281. YOUTH SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT

Article I. Code of Conduct

§ 281-1. Definitions.
As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CODE OF CONDUCT
A written specification of the behavior of parents, guardians, coaches and officials prepared by each Sports Advisory Board which must at a minimum incorporate the terms of the within article in their bylaws.

SPORT ADVISORY BOARD
Any sports organization pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter which is affiliated with or received monetary or other support or services from the Township of Washington or regularly utilizes any facilities owned, operated or maintained by the Township, which sports organization participates in sporting competitions involving minors.

YOUTH SPORTS EVENT
Any competition, practice or instructional event involving one or more youth sports teams.

PROHIBITED INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS
Using the internet, cell phone or other device to post or send text, video or an image with the intent or knowledge, or reckless disregard, that the text, video or image will harm or grossly embarrass, or threatens, a participant, parent or legal guardian of a participant, coach or official.

§ 281-2. Following Code of Conduct.
Every sports team shall be required to follow the Code of Conduct as set forth in this article.

§ 281-3. Availability of Code of Conduct.
The Code of Conduct will be made available to all parents and guardians of each child participating in a sports team.

§ 281-4. Fights, scuffles, etc.
Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event who initiates a fight, scuffle or any type of physical abuse or threats of abuse towards any player, coach, official, parent or spectator shall be banned from attendance at all youth sports events within the Township of Washington for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of the incident.

§ 281-5. Entering field of play.
Any parent, guest, coach, or official at any youth sporting event who enters the field of play, court or rink during any youth sporting event for the purpose of physically or verbally abusing or confronting coaches, players or officials shall be banned from attendance at all youth sports

events within the Township of Washington for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of the incident.

§ 281-6. Obscene or profane language, etc.
Any parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event who verbally abuses officials, players or spectators, including the use of obscene or profane language or gestures or racial, ethnic or sexual slurs, may be banned from all youth sports events for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of the incident and shall be subject to such discipline as provided for by the applicable team's Code of Conduct.

§ 281-6.1. Internet or electronic devise communications.
No participant, parent or legal guardian of a participant, coach or official may engage in prohibited internet and electronic communications, if the prohibited internet and electronic communications are directly related to or connected with a Youth Sports Event. Any participant, parent or legal guardian of a participant, coach or official who engages in prohibited internet and electronic communications may be banned from all youth sporting events for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of the incident and shall be subject to such discipline as provided for by the applicable team's Code of Conduct.

§ 281-7. Throwing objects on field of play.
Any parent, guest, spectator, or official at any youth sports event who throws or causes to be deposited any object on the field of play, court or rink during any youth sports event may be banned from attendance at all youth sports events for a period of 12 months from the date of the incident and shall be subject to such discipline as provided for by the applicable sports team's Code of Conduct.

§ 281-8. Anger management program.
Any person banned for 12 months from youth sports events for a violation of the Code of Conduct prior to being allowed to resume attendance at any youth sports event shall be required to complete anger management or equivalent counseling program consisting of no less than 12 hours or instruction and shall provide proof of satisfactory completion to the Code of Conduct Committee. Any banning for less than 12 months may include up to 12 hours of anger management.

§ 281-9. Authority of field officials, etc.
Any parent, official, coach or spectator at any youth sporting event shall be subject to the authority of all field officials, including umpires and referees, and elected league officials of the youth sport team or teams sponsoring the youth sports event or, in the absence of such persons at a youth sports team's practice or instructional event, to the authority of the ranking youth sports team coach on the premises. Such authority shall include the authorization to direct any person or persons involved in any incident in violation of this article or the applicable sports team's Code of Conduct to immediately remove themselves from the premises.

§ 281-10. Violation procedures and hearings.

A. Upon a determination by a majority vote of the highest ranking officials and the governing board of a youth sports team that a parent, guest, spectator, coach or official at any youth sports event sponsored by such youth sports team has violated a provision of this article or the Code of Conduct of the youth sports team, such official shall forward to such violator a notice via regular and certified mail indicating the date and location and nature of the violation and period of banning or other action to be taken in response to such violation.

B. Any person receiving such a notice who wishes to contest same shall appeal to the Township of Washington Code of Conduct Committee within seven calendar days of the mailing of said notice by forwarding a copy of said notice with a written request for appeal specifically setting forth the basis of such person's contest of the notice of violation via personal delivery or certified mail to the Chairperson of the Code of Conduct Committee at 523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, New Jersey 08080.

C. Upon receipt of such appeal, the Code of Conduct Committee shall convene within 10 days and provide an opportunity for said person and any interested person to appear and be heard with respect to the occurrence of any violation and the action taken by the youth sports team.

D. The Code of Conduct Committee shall be authorized to hear testimony under oath, review affidavits and such other and further information or documentation relevant to the violation and, upon a majority vote of the members of the Committee present at such hearing, may sustain, overturn or modify the youth sports team's notice of violation and the period of banning or other action taken in response to such violation consistent with this article or the youth sports team bylaws or Code of Conduct.

E. All notices of violation and bannings shall remain in effect until overturned or modified by the Code of Conduct Committee.

F. In the event any notice of violation is not appealed within 10 days of such notice, said notice of violation and the action taken by the youth sports team official, including banning from youth sports events, shall become final.

Article II. Code of Conduct Committee

§ 281-11. Definitions.
As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

SPORT ADVISORY BOARD
Shall refer to any sports organization organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter which is affiliated with or receives economic or other support from the Township of Washington or regularly utilizes any facilities or premises owned, operated or maintained by the Township of Washington, which sport organization participates in sporting competitions involving minors.

§ 281-12. Composition of Committee.
The Code of Conduct Committee shall be comprised of a duly elected member from each Sport Advisory Board.

§ 281-13. Notification of Clerk of team member.
Each Sport Advisory Board shall annually advise the Township Clerk of the name, address and telephone number of its duly elected member who shall serve on the Code of Conduct Committee commensurate with his/her term of office with the Sport Advisory Board.

§ 281-14. Change in member.
Each Sport Advisory Board shall notify the Township Clerk in writing promptly upon any change of the identity of the Sport Advisory Board's duly elected member.

§ 281-15. Enforcement by Committee.
The Code of Conduct Committee shall be charged with enforcing the provisions of the ordinance establishing a Youth Sports Code of Conduct, Ordinance No. 21-2002. *Editor's Note: See Article I, Code of Conduct.*

§ 281-16. Election of officers; meetings.
The Code of Conduct Committee shall meet in January of each year to elect a Chairman, Secretary and such other officers as the Code of Conduct Committee shall deem appropriate, and may meet as often as is necessary to conduct its business and for the purpose of enforcing the ordinance establishing a Youth Sports Code of Conduct, Ordinance No. 21-2002.

§ 281-17. Rules and procedures.
The Code of Conduct Committee may establish rules and procedures as it deems appropriate for the conduct of its business and, in default thereof, shall operate pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order to the extent they are not in conflict with the within article or the ordinance establishing a Youth Sports Code of Conduct, Ordinance No. 21-2002.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Township of Washington heretofore adopted that are inconsistent with any of the terms and provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after final passage by Council or twenty (20) days after approval by the Mayor, whichever comes first.

Introduced: October 23, 2013

	MARTIN	DELBORRELLO	NEWMAN	D'ORAZIO	MORLEY
YES	✓	✓		✓	✓
ABSTAIN					
NO					
ABSENT			✓		
RECUSE					

Public Hearing: November 13, 2013

	MARTIN	DELBORRELLO	NEWMAN	D'ORAZIO	MORLEY
YES	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ABSTAIN					
NO					
ABSENT					
RECUSE					

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

BY: _____
Daniel Morley
Council President

ATTEST:

_____
Mary Lou Bergh, Township Clerk

On this 15TH day of NOVEMBER, 2013, I hereby approve the above Ordinance.

_____
BARBARA A. WALLACE, MAYOR