



**70 YEARS**  
INSPIRING YOUTH

## 2018-19 Y&G CODE OF CONDUCT

It is essential to California YMCA Youth & Government (Y&G) that each participant enjoys the right to a safe environment. Being responsible for one's behavior at all times is a necessary part of self-government. It is critical that all participants, advisors, program volunteers, core staff and guests act responsibly. The Code of Conduct binds both youth and adults attending Y&G sponsored or coordinated conferences and trainings. There are no double standards. By choosing to participate in Y&G's programs, each participant (and their parent or guardian, should it apply) agrees that they have read, understand and will follow the Y&G Code of Conduct while attending Y&G activities. Local delegations may also have additional conduct standards. Each participant is accountable for preserving the reputation and high expectations of their delegation as well as that of California YMCA Youth & Government. All participants share equally in the responsibility to uphold and enforce the Y&G Code of Conduct and notify appropriate staff or an advisor of violations. Participants who do not remove themselves from situations or groups which constitute violations of this code will be considered a party to the violation. The regulations outlined below begin when the first youth participant arrives at the conference or training facility and are lifted only when the last youth participant has departed.

### I. GENERAL RULES

Violations of General Rules a-i **shall** result in expulsion from all California YMCA Youth & Government (Y&G) conferences and trainings for the remainder of the program year. To ensure the safety of all participants, Y&G reserves the right, if deemed necessary, to conduct searches of baggage, rooms and persons; including the use of Breathalyzers. Y&G may refer incidents involving illegal conduct to local law enforcement agencies for criminal prosecution.

- a. All program participants shall give the highest care and attention to the public and private facilities placed at the disposal of California YMCA Youth & Government. Specific rules set by individual facilities (i.e. YMCA, State Capitol, Convention Centers, Hotels, Camps, etc.) must be observed. Any act of vandalism, destruction of property, misuse of a facility and or harassment of a facility staff member is strictly prohibited.
- b. Possession and or consumption of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited.
- c. Possession and or consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, nicotine, e-cigarettes, or vape pens in any form (with or without nicotine, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Regardless of a medical doctor's prescription, possession or consumption of marijuana is prohibited.
- d. Weapons of any kind, including items that might cause injury to others or damage to property are strictly prohibited.
- e. Conduct that endangers the health and safety of oneself or others is prohibited.
- f. Physical, psychological, verbal, nonverbal, written or cyber abuse including harassment of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- g. Acts of dishonesty, fraud, or falsification of records is strictly prohibited.
- h. Inappropriate or uninvited physical contact between Y&G participants, staff, advisors, program volunteers or guests is strictly prohibited.
- i. Intimate sexual behavior is strictly prohibited.

Violations of General Rules k-g **may** result in expulsion from California YMCA Youth & Government (Y&G) functions and conferences:

- j. A Y&G provided name badge shall be worn at all times by every participant, staff member, advisor and program volunteer when they are not in their sleeping rooms. Badges are to be worn above the waist and must be visible. Badges are not to be defaced, decorated, or altered in any way. Badge switching and or sharing is prohibited. Only advisors may request replacement badges for participants.
- k. Participants shall be present and punctual to all meetings where their involvement is expected or required.
- l. Participants shall observe all curfews and be in their assigned sleeping rooms at the established curfew times. Participants may not switch rooms without advance permission from their delegations lead advisor.
- m. Participants shall observe the following rules regarding hotel rooms for conferences.  
Model Legislature & Court: At Training and Election conferences, no delegate shall be present in any hotel room or sleeping quarters assigned to members of the opposite sex unless an advisor is present in the room. At MLC Sacramento, no delegate shall be present in the hotel room with a member of the opposite sex unless an advisor is present in the room; or there are five or more participants present in the room, two of which are the same sex ("ratio rule"). Model United Nations: Ambassadors are not allowed in sleeping rooms other than their own.

- n. Y&G does not permit participants to drive vehicles to or from any of its related conferences. Advisors seeking to drive during a conference shall obtain clearance through Y&G. In all cases, liability is assumed by the sponsoring local YMCA or school.
- o. All electronic devices must be silenced and not visible during all sessions, meetings and hearings in all program areas unless they have been specifically authorized for use by Y&G staff or volunteers. Advisors should leave the room if they need to use their device in a manner that disrupts the session, meeting, or hearing.
- p. While at conferences, participants may not have in-person contact with anyone not participating in or associated with Y&G without prior clearance from the program or their delegation and lead advisor. This includes family and friends that may wish to visit in-person.

## **II. DRESS CODE & CONFERENCE SPECIFIC RULES**

For each program, refer to the Dress Code and Conference Specific Rules printed in the program handbook for additional participation requirements. California YMCA Youth & Government's CEO has the authority to determine both the appropriateness of appearance and attire of participants, advisors and program volunteers.

## **III. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

- a. The Code of Conduct is binding for all participants, advisors, program volunteers and staff. Each person will be accountable for his/her actions. In addition, each YMCA or school and shall be held accountable for the conduct of their participants and advisors.
- b. California YMCA Youth & Government's CEO has the authority to make accommodations under or exceptions to the Code of Conduct. Any delegation seeking an exception or accommodation must clear it in advance with their local YMCA Executive Director/CEO or, in school-based delegations, School Principal and must provide a written request to the Y&G CEO prior to the related conference.
- c. California YMCA Youth & Government's CEO or their designee has the authority to interpret the Code of Conduct and administer any disciplinary action deemed necessary.
- d. All expenses and arrangements related to any disciplinary action or expulsion from the program are the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian of the delegate. If a parent is unable to assume financial responsibility for the delegate, then the YMCA or school shall assume responsibility.

## **IV. LOCAL DELEGATION RULES**

Each YMCA or school may outline additional or stricter rules of conduct for its delegation as long as they do not conflict with or attempt to diminish any standard in the Youth & Government Code of Conduct. A violation of either the Y&G Code of Conduct or the local delegation's rules may subject the offender to dismissal from the program. Delegation advisors shall be responsible for enforcing such additional rules of their local YMCA or school.

**Updated July 20th, 2018**