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|  | <b>Yaphank Fire District Policy</b>            |                     |
|   | <u>Subject</u>                                 | DP# 26-003          |
|   | <b>Junior Firefighter Rules &amp; Policies</b> | Initiated<br>2-3-26 |
|   | <u>Authority</u>                               | Revised             |
|   | <b>Board of Fire Commissioners</b>             |                     |

**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear rules, expectations, and standards of conduct for members participating in the Junior Firefighter Program. This policy is intended to ensure the safety, supervision, discipline, and professional development of Junior Firefighters while they are present in the firehouse or participating in department activities.

**Scope**

These rules and policies apply to all Junior Firefighters, advisors, officers, and members who interact with or supervise Junior Firefighters while on department property or during department-sponsored activities.

**Authority**

This SOP is issued under the authority of the Chief of Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners. Compliance is mandatory.

**Definitions**

- **Junior Firefighter:** A member between the age of 12 and 21 years of age shall enroll in the Junior Firefighter Program who has not yet reached the minimum age for active firefighting membership.
- **Chief:** A elected official of the Yaphank Fire Department (Chief of Department, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant)
- **Officer:** Any duly elected or appointed line officer of the department.
- **Senior Advisor:** An officer or senior member designated to oversee Junior Firefighters.

**General Conduct**

- Junior Firefighters shall conduct themselves in a professional, respectful, and courteous manner at all times.
- Junior Firefighters shall obey all lawful orders issued by advisors, chiefs, and officers of the Yaphank Fire Department.
- The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:
  - Profanity or obscene language
  - Harassment, bullying, hazing, or intimidation
  - Horseplay or unsafe behavior
  - Disrespect toward members, visitors, or the public

### **Supervision**

- Junior Firefighters shall be under the direct supervision of an authorized chief officer or designated advisor at all times while in the firehouse.
- Junior Firefighters are prohibited from entering restricted areas of the firehouse unless authorized and supervised by 1 or more junior advisors, chiefs, or officers.

### **Firehouse Access and Attendance**

- Junior Firefighters may **ONLY** be present in the firehouse during approved activities, scheduled trainings, meetings (in-house or off-site), or with explicit permission from an adviser or chief officer.
- Overnight stays are **PROHIBITED.**

### **Apparatus and Equipment**

- Junior Firefighters shall not operate any department vehicle or fire apparatus.
- Handling of tools, power equipment, or protective gear is permitted only for approved training or maintenance purposes and under direct supervision.
- Riding assignments and non-emergency participation for off-site trainings or meetings shall strictly comply with departmental SOPs, and insurance requirements.

### **Training**

- Junior Firefighters are expected to attend required drills, training sessions, and meetings as established by the team of advisors.
- All training activities shall be age-appropriate and compliant with state and local regulations and in accordance with all NFPA standards and EMS protocols.

### **Uniform and Appearance**

- Junior Firefighters shall wear the approved uniform or attire as directed by the chief officers and or junior advisors.
- Appearance shall be neat, clean, and professional, reflecting positively on the department.

### **Use of Department Property**

- Department property shall be treated with care and respect at all times.
- Damage caused by misuse, negligence, or intentional acts may result in disciplinary action and restitution.
- Personal electronic devices may be used only when they do not interfere with training, duties, or supervision.

### **Prohibited Substances**

- The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco products, vaping devices, or illegal substances by Junior Firefighters is strictly prohibited on department property or during department activities.
- Any violation of this section shall result in immediate disciplinary action.

### **Discipline**

- Violations of these rules and regulations may result in one or more of the following actions:
  - Verbal warning
  - Written warning
  - Suspension from the Junior Firefighter Program
  - Dismissal from the Junior Firefighter Program
- All disciplinary actions shall be administered through the established chain of command.

### **Acknowledgment**

- All Junior Firefighters and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall sign an acknowledgment form stating they have read, understand, and agree to comply with these policies and regulations.

### **Review and Revision**

- This SOP shall be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary by the Chief's Office and or by the Board Of Fire Commissioners.