

Niles Park District Zero Tolerance Policy

Recreational leagues across the country have seen a dramatic change in issues dealing with parents, coaches, spectators, umpires, players, and league officials' conduct at sporting events.

With this in mind, the Niles Park District Board of Commissioners have taken a "Zero Tolerance" stance in handling severe situations occurring on and within leagues operating on Park District facilities. The Zero Tolerance Policy regarding behavior is as follows:

A. General Unsportsmanlike conduct:

- a. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player, or umpire shall verbally confront or argue with an official, coach, player or other fans before, during, or after a game.
 - i. Penalties for such unsportsmanlike conduct will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. General Unsportsmanlike Conduct: 1 calendar week suspension from all activities including practices and games, plus probation for the remainder of the current season.
 - a. The suspension must include at least one missed game.
 2. Second Offense: suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season.
- b. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player, or umpire shall use profanity at an Niles Park District Facility.
 - i. Penalties for Profanity will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. Profanity: 1 calendar week suspension from all activities including practices and games, plus probation for the remainder of the current season.
 - a. The suspension must include at least one missed game.
 2. Second Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season

B. Drinking/ Possession of Alcohol:

- a. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player, or umpire shall consume or possess alcohol at any Niles Park District Facilities except at Park District liquor permitted events.
 - i. Penalties for Drinking will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. Drinking/Possession of Alcohol: Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season. This will also include a ban from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities.
 2. Second Offense: permanent suspension from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities for one year from the date of the offense. A final decision will be made by the Board of Commissioners.

C. Fighting/Physical Abuse/Sexual Abuse:

- b. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player, or umpire shall engage in any type of behavior that could constitute physical assault. The term physical assault includes but is not limited to: Hitting, slapping, pushing, spitting, kicking, or striking in any way any part of the body or any physical implement ¹.
 - i. Penalties for Fighting/physical Abuse will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. Fighting/Physical Abuse: Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season. This will also include a ban from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities.
 2. Second Offense: permanent suspension from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities for one year from the date of the offense. A final decision will be made by the Board of Commissioners.

ii. Penalties for Sexual Abuse:

1. Sexual Abuse: Offender will be permanently suspended from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities. Offender will not be eligible for reinstatement.

D. Possession of Weapon:

- a. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, board member, player or umpire shall possess a weapon of any kind at any Niles Park District Facilities.
 - i. Penalties for Possession of Weapon will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. Possession of Weapon: Offender will be permanently suspended from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities for one year from the date of the offense. A final decision will be made by the Board of Commissioners. ²
 2. Concealed Weapon Permit Holders will not be allowed to carry a weapon at Niles Park District facilities.

E. Social-Media

- a. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player or umpire shall engage in any type of written or implied social media posts (to include Facebook, twitter, text message or email, etc.) deemed detrimental to the Niles Park District or its programs.
 - i. Penalties for written or implied posts detrimental to a program/league will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of
 1. 1 calendar week suspension from all activities including practices and games, plus probation for the remainder of the current season.
 - a. The suspension must include at least one missed game.
 2. Second Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season.
 - ii. Penalties for written or implied threats will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of
 1. Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season. This will also include a ban from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities.
 2. Second Offense: permanent suspension from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities for one year from the date of the offense A final decision will be made by the Board of Commissioners.

Any person who has been suspended pursuant to the above may, within 7 days of receipt of the suspension, seek a hearing with the Park Board Commissioners provided they timely submit said request in writing and include a brief explanation as to why he/she disputes the suspension or whether he/she believes mitigating circumstances exist.

The Park Board will consider the appeal and may sustain, amend, or revise the previous suspension in its sole discretion.

It is the goal of the Niles Park District that participation in recreational programs be individually and cooperatively a wholesome, fun, and personally rewarding experience. Each participant, along with the coaches and parents should try to achieve a more positive attitude for the sport or program so it is a more enjoyable experience.

¹ Any person who physically attacks officials, coaches, fans, or players may be subject to criminal prosecution as well as a civil suit for money damages.

² Licensed Law Enforcement Officers on duty or while on call will be allowed to carry a Department issued service weapon.