

Rockwall Baseball and Softball Association Zero Tolerance Treatment of Umpire Policy

Purpose:

The Rockwall Baseball and Softball League (RBSL) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all participants, including players, spectators, coaches, parents, and umpires. Umpires play a crucial role in ensuring fair play and maintaining the integrity of the games. RBSL has a zero-tolerance policy for behavior that is disrespectful, discourteous, or may in any way be construed as intimidating towards its umpires. With this policy, RBSL hopes to maintain an environment in RBSL that is both umpire friendly and that teaches parents, spectators, and players to have respect for those in positions of authority. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary actions including suspensions and potentially expulsion from RBSL. This No Tolerance Policy is designed to emphasize our dedication to treating umpires with respect and dignity.

Policy:

The RBSL enforces a strict No Tolerance Policy concerning the treatment of umpires during games and related events. All participants, including players, coaches, parents, and spectators, are expected to adhere to this policy. Any violation of this policy may result in severe consequences including and not limited to suspension, expulsion or forfeit of game(s).

Guidelines:

1. **Respectful Communication:** All individuals interacting with umpires are expected to communicate in a respectful, calm, and courteous manner. Disagreements may arise, but they must be expressed without resorting to loud language, personal attacks, foul language, or aggressive behavior. Judgment calls by an umpire can NEVER be questioned. Interpretations of a rule may be questioned but only in a quiet and respectful way by requesting to approach the umpire.

2. **Zero Physical Contact:** Any form of physical contact, whether intentional or unintentional, directed towards an umpire is strictly prohibited. This includes but is not limited to pushing, shoving, grabbing, or any aggressive physical behavior.

3. **Verbal Abuse:** Verbal abuse, harassment, threats, or intimidation of umpires will not be tolerated. This includes shouting, name-calling, using profanity, or making derogatory comments.

4. **Coaches and Players Responsibility:** Coaches and players are expected to model appropriate behavior for their team members and maintain control over their emotions. It is their responsibility to ensure that their actions do not contribute to the mistreatment of umpires. Coaches are also expected to exercise control of their players and parents.

Failure to be proactive in this regard will also place coaches at disciplinary risk. RBSL knows that coaches can't guarantee parent and player behavior however, coaches are expected to take responsibility for proactively intervening early in situations that could put a player or parent at disciplinary risk.

5. Parent and Spectator Conduct: Parents and spectators are expected to support the league's values by refraining from engaging in disrespectful or aggressive behavior towards umpires. Unsportsmanlike conduct or actions that undermine the umpire's authority will not be tolerated.

Consequences:

Violations of the No Tolerance Policy will result in immediate actions, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. Game forfeiture: Any individual found in violation of the policy may be subject to game forfeiture without warning.

2. Ejection: Any individual found in violation of the policy may be ejected from the game or event without warning.

3. Suspension: Repeat or severe violations may lead to a suspension from further participation in RBSL games or events.

4. Expulsion: In extreme cases, where behavior demonstrates a consistent disregard for the policy, the individual may be expelled from participating in the league permanently.

Reporting and Investigation:

Reports of violations of this policy should be submitted in writing to the league officials. The league will conduct a fair and thorough investigation into all reported incidents. Appropriate actions will be taken based on the investigation's findings.

Appeals:

Individuals subject to consequences have the right to file a written appeal within five (5) days from the date of action. Appeals will be reviewed by a designated committee to ensure fairness.

The Rockwall Baseball and Softball League remains committed to fostering a positive and respectful environment for all participants. This No Tolerance Policy is designed to ensure that umpires are treated with the respect they deserve, allowing for the fair and enjoyable experience of all involved.

By adhering to this policy, we collectively contribute to the growth and success of our league while upholding the values of sportsmanship and fair play.