

# ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

“Sports do not build character, they reveal it.”

-Coach John Wooden

In an attempt to make youth basketball the most positive experience it can be for our players, coaches, referees, and parents/guardians, our league has a Zero Tolerance policy which will govern the actions between all people stated above, before, during, and after all league games.

The following points will be implemented by the referees during said games:

## **PLAYERS**

Before, during, and after league games, a player will not:

- \*Openly dispute a call by an official
- \*Visually display any sign of contempt at an official's call, including throwing equipment
- \*Use obscene or vulgar language to ANYONE at ANYTIME
- \*Taunt players, coaches, refs, or spectators with any negative comments

Should a player act in this manner, the ref will issue ONE warning to the player as well as the coaches. If the act happens again during the game, the player will be asked to be removed from the court for the remainder of the game.

## **HEAD COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES**

Before, during, and after a game a coach shall not:

- Openly dispute a call or decision made by a referee
- Visually display any sign of dissatisfaction with a ref's call, even if the coach believes the call to be wrong. A coach may ask for clarification on a call but may not use the question to express their dissatisfaction.
- Use obscene or vulgar language to ANYONE at ANYTIME
- Taunt players, coaches, or spectators at anytime

- It is the responsibility of the coaches at their home games to ensure that spectators, scorers, clock keepers and bench personal show respectable behavior before, during, and after said game. It is also their responsibility to make every effort that all fans show sportsmanlike conduct towards the other team's players, coaches, and spectators.

In order to avoid a situation where a referee would argue with an adult coach, the referee will be instructed not to confront the bench when such an act takes place. Instead, the ref will be asked to continue with the game. If the ref feels it necessary, he may report the occurrence to the commissioner after the game is over. The coach will then be warned of such report by the commissioner. If a second act occurs, he/she's participation in the league may be suspended until further review by the league.

This is in no way meant to discourage coaches from assisting refs with their jobs but game rules should be discussed at a break in the game such as halftime or at a time out. Our main focus is for the players to learn the game of basketball. Stopping play to argue with a ref will not teach them that.

## **REFEREES**

All refs will conduct themselves in an impartial, sportsmanlike manner at all times. Refs must address coaches and spectators with respect and should avoid, under all circumstances, any argument with said adults. Refs will answer the question of a coach but not respond to an argument. They will be asked to report any argument to the commissioner after a game. Refs will make every effort to follow the rules of the game, particularly the "local" rules that apply to our league.

## **SPECTATORS**

Any league event will be stopped by the referees when spectators display inappropriate or disruptive behavior to anyone during the game. In games, the refs will remove the offender from the gym or court. **THEY WILL NOT BE GIVEN A WARNING.** The ref will identify the violators to the coaches and ask them to remove the spectator from the gym, under no circumstances, will the ref ask the spectator to leave. If the coach refuses to ask the spectator to leave, or if the spectator refuses to leave, the referee has the option to disqualify the game. Disqualification will mean a win for the nonoffending team. The ref will then report the incident to the League at the conclusion of the game.

The following conduct is PROHIBITED during all League games:

- \*Use of obscene or vulgar language to ANYONE at ANYTIME
- \*Openly disputing a call or decision by a ref
- \*Taunting of anyone during the game
- \*Throwing any object on the court
- \*Consumption of alcohol at the game

It is our responsibility as coaches, parents/guardians, and refs to teach kids to react with good sportsmanship and play on. Disrespectful conduct teaches nothing to our players. Please coach by your example, that is how our players will learn.

Please keep a copy of this Zero Tolerance policy as well as our league rules at all of your games. We are asking that you meet with your parents/guardians or forward this policy to them. At your registration/sign up parents/guardians are required to sign the attached form indicating that they understand the league's policy. If they do not sign the form, their player will not be able to play in the league.

Every team in your program needs to fill out a form and return a copy to the commissioner.  
Thank you.

**ZERO TOLERANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BOYS or GIRLS TEAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Player

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

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**SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BOYS or GIRLS TEAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

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