

**Southwick Recreation Center**  
**Zero Tolerance Policy**

“It is your response to winning and losing that makes you a winner or loser”

*~ Harry Sheehy*

*Please remember that sports are meant to be FUN...*

*Don't let someone make the sport UNFUN for you !*

## **Southwick Recreation Center's Zero Tolerance Policy**

The Southwick Recreation Center Board of Directors have agreed and accepted the following document that states there will be a "Zero Tolerance" for fans, participants and coaches for misbehavior at all sporting events. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Booing & shouting out at officials
- Arguing any calls
- Expressing any negative behavior or comments
- Threats or obscene gestures to players, coaches or officials is also unacceptable

Cheering in a positive fashion, for both sides is highly encouraged. Ours is a recreational league with FUN as the primary emphasis. Many officials and coaches are volunteers and we should all appreciate their efforts, and support them, setting good example for the children.

Any spectator who does not behave appropriately, as stated in the Zero Tolerance Policy, will be asked to leave the sporting event according to the following steps:

- Officials/SRC Board of Directors Member/Committee Member of that sport will identify violators to the coach, or vice versa.
- Officials/SRC Board of Directors Member/Committee Member of that sport will confer with both coaches, one of whom will then approach the spectator and may give a warning, or ask them to leave. If the spectator is not recognized by either coach, the home coach will speak to him/her.

If the decision is made for the spectator to leave, play will not resume until he/she has left the facility/fields. If he/she refuses to leave, his/her team will forfeit, and the game will be over.

All violations must be reported to the Committee Chairman of that sport and all reports violations of the policy will be investigated and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the "Zero Tolerance Policy", that could include, but not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by an official, head coach or Board of Director Member/Committee Member of that sport.
- Parental game suspension with a written documentation of incident kept on file by the Committee of that sport.
- Game forfeit initiated by the official or coach
- Parental season suspension

## **Code of Conduct**

For Kid's Sake ! - Children's sports are supposed to be fun for the children ! Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sport activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults.

The Southwick Recreation Center Board of Directors have adopted the following Code of Conduct as a result of its concern for good sportsmanship. All coaches, players and parents must abide by our "Code of Conduct". Violations of this code must be reported to a member of that sport committee/Board of Director Committee member and all reported violations of the "Code of Conduct" will be investigated and enforced as stated in the Southwick Recreation Center's "Zero Tolerance Policy".

### **Parents Code of Conduct:**

- As a parent, I acknowledge the importance of being involved in my child's recreational activities.
- I will introduce myself to my child's volunteer coach/leader and will exchange pertinent contact information.
- I will know who is transporting my child to and from any recreational activity.
- I will know my child's schedule - practice days, dates and schedules.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of any personal desire to succeed.
- I will provide support for coaches and leaders working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- My child and I will treat other participants, spectators and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- Parents will respect the decisions of officials and encourage players to do so as well.
- Parents will applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and the team.
- Never ridicule players for making mistakes. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coach, officials or players.
- Encourage all players to follow the rules and official's decisions.
- Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.
- I will demand a sport environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sport events.
- Be a FAN...Not a FANATIC !

### **Coaches Code of Conduct:**

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will attend all meetings and rules clinics set up by the Southwick Recreation Center prior to the beginning of each sport season.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead by example in documenting fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and I will refrain for their use at all youth sports events.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach and I will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for the children and not the adults.

## **Code of Conduct(cont.)**

### **Players Code of Conduct:**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun !
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun.

## Procedure for Administration of the Zero Tolerance Policy

The Southwick Recreation Center has adopted a policy for Zero Tolerance of unsportsmanlike conduct in its sports programs. The Board of Directors along with the Sport Committee members & Coaches have the responsibility to adhere to and enforce this policy. All of the above mentioned must read the following guidelines. It is the responsibility of the Chairman of their sport to administer the rules and regulations of this policy in accordance to the procedures outlined below:

### OFFICIAL:

- It is also the responsibility of the official to inform all of the coaches of the infraction. It will be the responsibility of the coaches to inform the involved party of the infraction and the minimum penalty that is being instituted (If a coach is the offender they need not to be informed a second time).
- When, in the opinion of the official, rules stated in this policy are violated, the official shall notify the Chairman of that sport of the nature of the infraction(s) within 24 hours of the incident.
- Any participant suspended from a game is to immediately leave the field/building of play or any area where the participant's presence might in any way disrupt the remainder of the activity.

### COACHES:

- It is the responsibility of the coaches of a contest to notify the Chairman of that sport as well as the Supervisor of Officials, in writing, of all infractions of the Code of Ethics within 24 hours of the infraction. This includes, but is not limited to, infractions brought to the attention of the coaches by the game official or umpire.
- Any participant suspended from a game is to immediately leave the field of play or any area where the participant's presence might in any way disrupt the remainder of the activity.

### CHAIRMAN OF A SPORT COMMITTEE:

- The Chairman of that sport is responsible to submit all reports of any incident involving the violation of the Code of Ethics to his/her Committee within 48 hours of the incident. This is not limited to violations reported by officials.

### THE SPORT COMMITTEE:

- A Committee of that sport will investigate all reported violations of the "Code of Conduct".
- Review all reports, interview necessary parties, schedule necessary meetings, assess penalties and refer to the Southwick Recreation Center's Board of Directors when appropriate.
- The time frames stated will be strictly adhered to. The participant involved will remain suspended from team activities until the incident has been reviewed and a decision rendered by the Committee of that sport. The Committee of that sport will not review any incident until it has received reports from officials, coaches, Supervisor of Officials and Chairman of that sport.

### Code of Conduct: Penalties:

01. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** At any time lay a hand upon, above, strike or threaten an official, coach, player or spectator. Officials are required to suspend any player who violates this rule immediately from play and report players to the Committee of that sport. Such players shall remain suspended for the maximum period or until reinstated by the Committee of that sport.

- A. MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from (2) league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
- B. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year.

02. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Refuse to abide by an official's decision. Officials are required to suspend any player who violates this rule immediately from play and report players to the Committee of that sport. Such players shall remain suspended for the maximum period or until reinstated by the Committee of that sport.

- C. MINIMUM PENALTY: Placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
- D. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year.

## Procedure for Administration of the Zero Tolerance Policy(cont.)

03. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Use obscene gestures or objectionable demonstrations of dissent concerning an official's decision. The degree of the infraction of this principle of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgement, draw the following:
- E. MINIMUM PENALTY: Immediate removal from the game.
  - F. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year.
04. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Discuss with an official in any manner the decision reached by an official. The coach shall be exempt from this rule. The degree of the infraction of this principle of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgement, draw the following:
- G. MINIMUM PENALTY: Warning by the official.
  - H. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the game.
05. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Use unnecessary roughness in the play of a game against an opposing player. Officials are required to suspend a player who violates this rule immediately from further play and report such players to the Committee of that sport. Such player shall remain suspended for the maximum period or until reinstated by the Committee of that sport.
- I. MINIMUM PENALTY: Placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
  - J. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year.
06. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Fight, physically attack as an aggressor upon any player, coach, official, or spectator. Officials are required to suspend any player who violates this rule immediately from play and report players to the Committee of that sport. Such players shall remain suspended for the maximum period or until reinstated by the Committee of that sport.
- K. MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from (2) league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
  - L. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year.
07. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Use abusive language or verbally attack another player, coach, official, or spectator. Officials are required to suspend any player who violates this rule immediately from play and report players to the Committee of that sport. Such players shall remain suspended for the maximum period or until reinstated by the Committee of that sport.
- M. MINIMUM PENALTY: Immediate removal from the game.
  - N. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year.
08. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Appear on the court or field of play under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- O. MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from (2) league games, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
  - P. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year.
09. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Smoke while in any facility used for the Southwick Recreation Center programs or coming off or going on the field of play, or while in the field of play.
- Q. MINIMUM PENALTY: Warning by the official.
  - R. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the game.
10. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Be cited in violation of the policy regarding alcohol/drugs on Southwick Recreation Center's property and facilities.
- S. MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from one (1) league game, placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
  - T. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and placed on probation for the following year.
11. **NO PARTICIPANT SHALL:** Be in violation of any three (3) of the above conduct rules. Three(3) violations in any class, sporting or non-sporting event sponsored or co-sponsored by the Southwick Recreation Center will result in the following:
- U. MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from any Southwick Recreation Center sponsored/co-sponsored events or activities for one(1) full year and two(2) years probation.
  - V. MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from any Southwick Recreation Center sponsored/co-sponsored events or activities for an indefinite period of time.
  - W. PROBATION: Any participant who violates any of the above conduct rules while on probation shall be subject to suspension for one(1) to five(5) years.