

## ***Sunderland Recreation Zero Tolerance Policy***

Because of increased levels physical and verbal abuse in recreational youth sports programs, the Sunderland Recreation Committee has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents and other supporters, and referees effective immediately. Abusive and obscene language or gestures, aggressive play, violent conduct, fighting and other behavior (including but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game between or among any of the above mentioned groups will not be tolerated.

### **COACHES/ASSISTANT COACHES:**

It is the responsibility of all Coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, fans and supporters in all games. Failure to do so undermines the Referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in an unsportsmanlike and potentially hostile environment for players, the referee, coaches, assistant coaches, parents and spectators. Each coach is responsible for the conduct of his or her team, including all players, assistant coaches, parents and spectators. Any questions, concerns, criticisms or complaints of the assistant coaches, players, parents or fans about any aspect of the game must be voiced through their head coach. Under no circumstances will the opposing coach(es) or the referee get involved in a critical discussion with a parent or fan before, during or after the game.

Each Coach must treat the Referee, his/her own players and coaches, opposing players and coaches, his/her own parents and fans, as well as the opposing team's parents and fans, with respect. Abusive behavior, defined as (but not limited to):

- Abusive and/or obscene language or gestures of any kind directed toward another person,
- Violent conduct or fighting,
- Questioning or criticizing the judgment or decisions of the Referee (during the game: coaches may ask about emergency or safety issues, making substitutions, asking the Referee to repeat a call, asking the Referee for the time remaining in the half; at the half or after the game: coaches may ask a Referee to explain a rule or foul in a polite and constructive way, but not about a judgment call),
- Taunting, criticism, harassment or intimidation of the opposing team's coaches, players, parents or fans, or of the Referee, will not be tolerated.

If in the judgment of the Referee, a Coach is abusive in any of these ways, play will be stopped, the Coach will be given a warning and required to cease the abusive behavior or leave the game. If this does not occur, the game will be discontinued at this point. If play is resumed, and, in the judgment of the Referee there is further abusive behavior on the part of the Coach, or of another Coach on the same team, play will be stopped, that Coach will be required to immediately leave the game. If he or she does not immediately leave the game, the game will be discontinued at this point. Any Coach asked to leave a game by the Referee, will be assessed a minimum of an additional one (1) game suspension.

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#### **PLAYERS:**

Each player must treat the Referee, his/her own coach and players, as well as the opposing players and opposing coaches with respect. Abusive behavior, defined as (but not limited to):

- Abusive and obscene language or gestures of any kind directed toward another person,
- Violent play or violent conduct or fighting,
- Questioning or criticizing the judgment or decisions of the Referee,
- Taunting or criticizing members of the opposing team or the Referee, will not be tolerated.

If in the judgment of the referee, a player is abusive in any of these ways, play will be stopped, the player's coach will be notified, a warning may be given and the player will be required to sit out a minimum of ten (10) minutes (if the abusive behavior is egregious enough, the referee, may remove the player from the rest of the game). If in the judgment of the Referee, there is further abusive behavior in the game, play will be stopped again, the player's coach will be notified and the player will be required to sit out the remainder of the game. Any player required to sit out the remainder of any game will be assessed a minimum of an additional one game (1) suspension.

#### **PARENTS AND SPECTATORS**

In the interest of a supportive and civil environment at games, parents must treat the Referee, opposing players, opposing coaches, and opposing fans with respect. If a parent has concerns or complaints of any kind that he or she feels must be addressed during or after the game, those concerns or complaints must only be raised with his or her child's coach. Abuse behavior, defined as (but not limited to):

- Abusive and obscene language or gestures of any kind directed toward another person,
- Violent conduct or fighting,
- Questioning or criticizing the judgment or decisions of the Referee,
- Taunting or criticizing coaches, players, parents or fans of the opposing team, or the Referee, will not be tolerated.

If in the judgment of the Referee, a parent or fan is abusive in any of these ways, play will be stopped, the coach representing the parent's or fan's team will be notified and that parent or fan will be required to cease the abusive behavior or leave the game. If this does not occur, the game will be discontinued at this point. If play is resumed, and, in the judgment of the Referee there is further abusive behavior on the part of the same parent or fan, or of other parents or fans, play will be stopped, the coach representing the parent's or fan's team will be notified and that parent or fan will be required to immediately leave the game. If they do not immediately leave the game, the game will be discontinued at this point.

***Sunderland Recreation  
Zero Tolerance Policy Consent Form***

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The undersigned have read and agree to the terms of the  
Sunderland Recreation Philosophy and the Sunderland Recreation  
Zero Tolerance Policy, a copies of which are attached hereto.**

**Players Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Players Name (sign):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents Name (sign):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents Name (sign):** \_\_\_\_\_