

# Parkway Little League Zero Tolerance Policy

**Our Goal:** To provide a safe, fun, and competitive environment where sportsmanship is the priority. As a volunteer, parent, or spectator, your role is to support the players, not to officiate or manage the game from the sidelines.

## Part I: For Parents & Spectators

### Code of Conduct

- **Respect the Umpires:** I will not address the umpires at any time. I understand that questioning calls (e.g., balls/strikes, safe/out) is strictly prohibited.
- **Respect the Opposition:** I will not yell at, jeer, or distract players or coaches from the opposing team. I will cheer for good plays made by both sides.
- **Let the Coaches Coach:** I will refrain from shouting instructions to my child or other players during the game so the coaches can provide the necessary guidance.
- **No "Indirect" Criticism:** I will not make loud comments in the stands regarding officiating or player performance that are intended to be heard by those on the field.
- **Maintain Professionalism (The 24-Hour Rule):** If I have a concern regarding a coach's decision, wait at least 24 hours after the game to request a private meeting rather than approaching them on the field.

### Disciplinary Actions for Parents & Spectators

- **1st Violation:** Any hostile or unauthorized interaction with an umpire, coach, or opposing player will result in immediate ejection from the facility.
- **2nd Violation:** A second infraction will potentially result in a suspension from all league activities for the remainder of the season.
- **Failure to Comply / Forfeiture:** If an individual is asked to leave and refuses to do so, their child's team will immediately forfeit the game.

## Part II: For Coaches

**Code of Conduct & Umpire Interaction** The only time coaches may interact with an umpire is to do the following:

- Review the field's ground rules before the game.

- Interpret rules during the game (done respectfully).
- Point out emergencies.
- Respond directly to the umpire if addressed.
- Thank them after the game.

No other coach-initiated interaction with an umpire is acceptable. This strictly prohibits disputing calls, yelling, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or unsolicited feedback.

**Disciplinary Actions for Coaches** The umpire has the right to immediately expel a coach who violates this policy.

- **1st Offense:** Expulsion from the current game and a mandatory one-game suspension.
- **2nd Offense:** A minimum, mandatory suspension for the remainder of the season including any and all postseason and all-star games. Based on the severity of the conduct, it will be the league's discretion to increase the suspension up to a lifetime ban.
- **3rd Offense:** A lifetime ban from coaching or participating in Parkway Little League activities.

*(Note: Based on the severity of any conduct, the league reserves the right to escalate penalties, up to and including a lifetime ban, on a first or second offense).*

## Part III: For Umpires

**Conflict Resolution Protocol** No umpire is to interact or argue with a parent or fan. If an umpire feels bothered or harassed by anyone outside the fence, they must follow this procedure:

1. **Stop the Game:** Immediately pause play and convene with both team managers.
2. **Delegate:** Instruct the managers to address their spectators and remind them of the Zero Tolerance Policy.
3. **Eject:** Any spectator who continues the disruptive behavior after this warning will be ejected without further discussion.
4. **Forfeit:** If an ejected spectator refuses to leave the premises, the umpire will call the game, and the offending spectator's team will forfeit.
5. **Emergency:** If at any time anyone is, or may be, in physical danger, call the police immediately.

## Part IV: General League Standards

All participants—including coaches, volunteers, and spectators—are held to the following standards of unacceptable behavior:

- **Language & Conduct:** The use of profanity, racial slurs, or sexually explicit language is strictly prohibited.
- **Digital Privacy & Social Media:** Using social media to post negative comments about players, coaches, or umpires, or sharing confidential player/family information, will result in disciplinary action.
- **Administrative & Safety Preparation (Coaches):** Coaches are expected to maintain reliable attendance for practices and games, ensure players are in uniform with proper equipment, and attend all league-mandated meetings. Chronic unexcused absences or failure to maintain minimum safety standards will trigger a league review and potential disciplinary action.
- **Any Physical Offense:** Any volunteer that physically assaults any player (including their own child), official, coach, volunteer, or other spectator will be asked to leave immediately and will be banned from all events for a minimum of one year from the date of the offense. Upon evaluation, the league may choose to extend the ban. Parkway Little League will issue a written notification and keep it on file. A physical assault may include, but is not limited to: hitting, slapping, pushing, spitting, kicking, striking, or throwing of any objects.