



South Metro Recreational League

ZERO Tolerance Policy

The South Metro Recreational League (SMRL) exists to provide a positive and constructive basketball experience for all participants. Its goals include providing an enjoyable experience for coaches, players, and parents; developing positive traits of sportsmanship; and promoting goodwill between and among players and teams that compete in SMRL basketball programs. To promote these objectives and provide a positive example for children, SMRL has created this ZERO Tolerance Policy. The policy is mandatory for all participants in any SMRL program and must be followed at all times.

SMRL will not tolerate behaviors by players, coaches, or parents that run counter to its goals. Coaches, players, and spectators are expected to display courtesy and good sportsmanship at all times. The following rules apply at all events and to all SMRL participants.

1. **Basketball Officials** – Referees are the sole persons on the basketball floor empowered to make calls and interpret basketball rules. No person may, at any time, argue with referees, either during the game, or after it concludes.
2. **Technical Fouls** – Any player or coach who receives more than one technical foul during the basketball season will be suspended from play for anywhere from one game to the remainder of the season. SMRL reserves the right to suspend or take other action against players or coaches who receive a single technical foul.
3. **Players and Coaches** – Disrespectful behavior towards players, coaches, referees, or spectators is strictly prohibited. Good sportsmanship must be displayed at all times. No use of inappropriate language of any sort is permitted. Players and coaches are expected to line up and shake hands with opponents after every game.
4. **Spectators** – Yelling at or to players, coaches, and referees from the stands is strictly prohibited. Spectators may not approach coaches or instruct players during the game or coach from the stands.
5. **Gym Rules** – All rules of gymnasiums must be followed at all times. Players, coaches and spectators must familiarize themselves with the rules, which may vary from gym to gym.
6. **Bullying** - Any bullying or cyber bullying will not be tolerated by SMRL. SMRL may monitor games and practices for misconduct and will monitor social media sites for any violation of this section, to ensure a positive and safe playing environment. All parents/guardians, spectators, coaches, and participants are expected to use social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, or any other) in a respectful manner. Inappropriate use of social media will result in sanctions imposed upon player(s) and team(s). Please do not post pictures of children unless you have the permission of their parent or guardian.

Coaches and referees are the primary monitors of these rules and are empowered to enforce them. Coaches are expected to maintain high behavioral standards and to regulate the behaviors of players and spectators consistent with this policy. Any violation of these rules will be referred to the SMRL Board of Directors for review and corrective action that will include the following.

Coaches – A single violation by a coach may result in discipline ranging from a warning to suspension and/or removal from coaching duties for the remainder of the season. Second offenses will result in suspension. Suspended coaches may not participate in games or practices.

Players – Violations will result in a warning not to repeat the prohibited behavior. A second offense will result in removal from the game and a one-game suspension from play. Any subsequent offense will be reviewed by the SMRL League Directors and could result in suspension from play for the remainder of the season and/or any subsequent season. Suspended players may not participate in games or practices.

Spectators – First violations will be met with a warning that the behavior must stop and cannot be repeated. A second offense may result in immediate removal from the gymnasium and review by SMRL for further disciplinary action. In cases where removal becomes necessary, play on the floor will be stopped until the spectator involved leaves the gym.

Coaches, parents, and others are encouraged to report any violations of these rules to your basketball organization's president or other member of the Board of Directors. The identity of persons making reports will be protected to the greatest extent possible. Anonymous reports or complaints will not, however, be recognized by the SMRL.

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