

Smyrna Little League Disciplinary Action Policy

Code of Conduct Violations

Minor Violations

Behaviors such as:

- Mild disrespect or talking back to a coach or official
- Excessive complaining or arguing calls
- Tardiness or repeated unexcused absences
- Careless handling of equipment

Moderate Violations

Behaviors such as:

- Repeated minor violations after prior warning
- Use of profane or offensive language
- Taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct toward opponents
- Intentional damage to equipment or facilities

Major Violations

Behaviors such as:

- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any kind
- Physical aggression toward any person (hitting, shoving, fighting)
- Theft or intentional destruction of property
- Conduct that endangers the safety of others
- Any behavior that violates local law

Disciplinary Steps

Discipline is progressive and based on the severity and frequency of the behavior.

Step 1-Verbal Warning

- Issued by the coach during or after the game/practice
- A private, calm conversation explaining the behavior and expected correction
- Parent/guardian notified at coach's discretion
- **Reset period:** If no repeat violation occurs within **30 days**, the verbal warning is considered resolved and will not count toward Step 2

Step 2-Formal Written Warning

- Issued by the coach or league official
- Written documentation of the behavior and expectations going forward
- Parent/guardian must be notified and sign acknowledgment
- **Reset period:** If no further violations occur within **45 days** of the written warning, the record may reset to good standing

Step 3-Temporary Suspension

- Player is removed from one or more games and/or practices
- Parent/guardian meeting required before the player may return
- Duration: typically 1-3 games, at the league's discretion
- **Reset period:** If no further violations occur for the remainder of the current season, the player may begin the following season in good standing

Step 4-Extended Suspension or Removal from Team

- Reserved for major violations or repeated failure to correct behavior
- Review by the League Board of Directors and Disciplinary Committee
- Parent/guardian notified in writing
- Player may be suspended for the remainder of the season or removed from the league
- **Reinstatement:** Players removed from the league may apply for reinstatement before the following season begins, subject to Board approval

*****Note:** Steps may be skipped for major violations. Physical violence, threats, or conduct endangering safety may result in immediate suspension or removal, bypassing earlier steps. Time-based resets do **not** apply to major violations; those remain on record for the duration of the player's participation in the league.

*****Prior Season Records:** Disciplinary incidents from previous seasons or years are **not subject to automatic reset**. Any unresolved disciplinary status at the end of a season carries over to the following season. Even resolved incidents remain in a player's file and may be considered by the League Board of Directors and the Disciplinary Committee when evaluating future violations or reinstatement requests. A pattern of misconduct across multiple seasons may result in escalated disciplinary action regardless of prior resets.

Reporting a Violation

Anyone (player, parent, coach, or volunteer) may report a conduct concern to the coach or a league official. Reports should include:

- A description of the incident
- Date, time, and location
- Names of those involved and any witnesses

All reports will be treated respectfully and confidentially to the extent possible.

Appeals Process

A player or their parent/guardian may appeal a suspension or removal decision by submitting a written request to the Disciplinary Committee within **5 business days** of the disciplinary decision. The Board will review the matter and respond in writing within **10 business days**.