



## **PLAY IT FORWARD SPORTZ ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

I find it important and necessary to share our ZERO TOLERANCE policy for Play It Forward Sportz and make it clear for all Coaches, Parents, Spectators and Players. Please read and share so there is a wide distribution to all who attend any event hosted by any director who is part of the Play it Forward Sportz, LLC team.

It saddens me to have to write this policy but I'm tired of hearing "that cost us the game!" Instead of taking responsibility for the errors, the lack of offense, the lack of knowledge of the rules or the miscues. It's easy to say "The only reason we are in the loser's bracket is because the Ump blew that call (that was a player, where do you think she heard that?)." Or when you lost a game by 10 runs and want to blame the umpires because "that one play broke our girls' spirit." COME ON!! There are many plays and many opportunities during the course of a game and although there are games that HAVE been won or lost on a particular call, most are not.

**Below is and will continue to be our policy for our events:** Coaches will be ejected immediately without warning for the following:

- 1. The use of profanity of any kind (directed at an official or not)**
- 2. Placing your hands on an official**
- 3. Intimidating or threatening an umpire, staff, another coach, a spectator, or a player in any way.**
- 4. Blatant unsportsmanlike conduct from coaches, spectators, or players. This includes a pattern of unsportsmanlike conduct over the course of a tournament. Meaning, you may receive a warning and a bench restriction in one game but if the behavior continues in subsequent games, you will be ejected without a warning or a restriction.**

Offenses of blatant unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to, kicking a bucket, throwing a bat, a helmet, or a chair, grabbing a player (whether she is your daughter or not), taunting/mocking players, instructing your players to "knock her down next time" or "throw it at her."

There will be no warning, and no bench restriction for the above situations, it is an immediate ejection.

### **If the umpire believes a coach OR THEIR FANS are out of line:**

- 1. COACHES will receive a verbal warning on their first offense.**
- 2. COACHES will receive a bench restriction on their second offense.**
- 3. COACHES will receive an ejection on their third offense.**

**If ejected, they are ejected from the game the offense occurred AND THE NEXT GAME. They will exit to the parking lot, at a minimum and depending on the offense, possibly from the facility completely. In rare instances, umpires can and will remove spectators without warning, but in that instance, the coach will receive an immediate bench restriction.**

Umpires are responsible for managing the game, Coaches are responsible for managing themselves, their fans, and their players!!

**Players/Parents/Spectators: Any bashing, berating, or belittling of an official, a player, a coach or other fans will result in you being removed from the complex.**

Contrary to popular belief, you cannot see where the pitch travels across the plate (or doesn't travel across the plate) from the 1st baseline, 3rd baseline, the bleachers or even from the scorer's table. You may think you can, but you are 60 feet away, or normally blocked by a batter, a catcher, or the umpire.

Please be aware, the following are not appealable calls and CANNOT be reversed:

- Balls and Strikes
- Out or Safe
  - You can appeal a pulled foot or a missed tag, but not out or safe. So, make sure when you approach the umpire you specifically ask, "did she pull her foot?" or "did she make the tag?"
- Fair or Foul

Please understand, when you argue these calls, no matter if the umpire got it right or not, it cannot be reversed. So, whatever time you spend discussing it is time taken away from actual playing time. Asking the umpire to ask for "help from his/her partner" is pointless because these 3 calls CANNOT BE REVERSED.

I am a tournament director now, but I was an athlete and a coach first. Never, in all my years of playing, coaching, and officiating have I been so disappointed in the actions of grown men and women. What is most disappointing is when a player on the team has the same attitude as the "offender." That behavior is learned behavior and one of the saddest things to witness on the ball field. These athletes are being taught that it's ok to blame their failures on someone else. They are taught to NOT BE accountable, patient, understanding and most of all, KIND.

Ask anyone who knows me, I am a competitor. I hate to lose! So, I understand being passionate, but I don't understand blaming someone else for your loss. I don't understand the unsportsmanlike behavior. I don't understand being disrespectful. I don't understand inappropriate behavior in front of young athletes.

## **ZERO TOLERANCE!**

These men and women give up their weekends to give back to youth sports. They spend time away from their families to spend weekends with yours. As I'm sure you wouldn't want someone standing over your shoulder, at your place of work, criticizing your every decision, we would hope that you wouldn't do that to them. But just so you know, if you do, you won't do it for long.

And no, they aren't volunteers, they are paid. However, if they didn't sign up to work events, there would be very few opportunities for your daughters to play. We don't play without them!

Words can be misconstrued when read in the written form. Make no mistake about this policy, it is meant to be stern, direct and matter of fact. No longer will I watch good umpires, good people, decide to stay at home on the weekends because we, as adults, can't act in a civil manner.

Trust me when I tell you that our umpires are evaluated, observed, and trained. And no, they don't always get it right, but I promise they don't care who wins your game and are trying hard to get it right.

# **Thank you to all of you who are respectful of the game, your opponent, and the umpires!**