



Zero-Tolerance Policy

Effective September 21, 2024

The rise in unacceptable and physically aggressive behavior in youth sports has necessitated the implementation of a Zero-tolerance Policy by Opportunity for Youth Tournaments. This policy is in effect for all coaches, players, spectators, and referees/officials.

1. **Sportsmanship.** Recognize and appreciate the significance of sportsmanship. Win with humility, lose with grace, and carry out both with dignity.
2. **Prohibited Behavior.** Abusive, obscene, and racially charged language, threats, violence, play, violent conduct, fighting, and other inappropriate behavior (including, but not limited to, taunting, harassment, bullying, etc.) will not be tolerated during any Opportunity for Youth, Inc. event.
3. **Coaches Conduct Standard.**
 - a) Coaches, as well as all non-players on the bench, must adhere to the conduct rules and standards outlined in the National Federation of State High School Associations Basketball Rules, except as specifically noted otherwise.
 - b) Coaches are responsible for fostering respect towards officials and ensuring spectator discipline.
 - c) Coaches are expected to limit their interactions with the opposing team and game officials to discussions about rule interpretations and not challenge an official's judgment call.
4. **Spectator Conduct Standard.**
 - a) Spectators are prohibited from persistently addressing game officials at any time. This encompasses:
 - (1) Refraining from making derogatory remarks towards players on either team.
 - (2) Avoiding disputes over calls both during and after the game.
 - (3) Not advising officials to monitor specific players or rough play.
 - (4) Never yell at officials, which includes any form of criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, discriminatory remarks, or negative feedback before, during, or after the game.
 - b) The only permissible instances where a spectator may address a referee or official are:
 - (1) A spectator may reply to an official if the official has initiated a conversation with a parent or attendee.
 - (2) A spectator may identify emergencies or safety concerns, such as a player injury or observed fighting.
5. **Policy Violations**
 - a) The Opportunity for Youth Site Tournament Director reserves the right to remove any individual failing to adhere to the Conduct Standards outlined in this zero-tolerance policy from the event premises, deny refund of admission, and prohibit attendance at future Opportunity for Youth events pending a review for reinstatement.
 - b) If a coach, athlete, or spectator fails to comply with an order to vacate the venue, their team will face disqualification from both the current game and all subsequent games of the event, without any refund of entry fees or spectator tickets.
 - c) The Opportunity for Youth Director maintains the right to enforce corrective actions deemed essential for upholding sportsmanship, ensuring the safety of participants and spectators, securing the well-being of officials and event staff, and preserving the integrity and standards of the event. All affiliated teams, coaches, players, and spectators are subject to these decisions and the ensuing measures.

PROTECT THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY THE GAME

opportunityforyouth.org
817-504-4047