



Zero Tolerance Policy

Rancho Niguel Little League will institute a “Zero Tolerance” policy regarding inappropriate behavior for the 2008 baseball season and beyond. This policy will encompass all interactions during the course of the pre-season, regular season and post season, which shall include but not be limited to the following: games, practices, opening day, home run derby, TOC, all stars and any other league sponsored event(s).

Our sons, daughters, nieces and nephews far too often watch many of us forget the real reason for being involved in Little League. In the Board of Directors opinion, this is the reason for a zero tolerance policy and is why the Little League motto is recited by our players before each and every game. We must promote fair play, good sportsmanship and teach our children how to play the game. We feel it is everyone’s responsibility to teach the players that there is more to the game than winning or losing and the final score. The Board unanimously supports this policy. With that said the following statements will represent our position and more importantly constitute our “Zero Tolerance” policy from this point forward

Our umpires are unpaid volunteers, who genuinely do the best they can to ensure our children’s safety while upholding the spirit of the governing rules that guide Little League Baseball. We cannot and will not tolerate comments or constant complaining about umpire’s calls. These comments jeopardize our ability to attract, recruit and retain these volunteers, without whom the game could not be played. In addition, no abuses such as offensive language, taunting the other team or similar behavior will be tolerated. In instances where parents, relatives, friends, spectators or coaches cannot control their comments or behavior, they will be asked to leave the game area and (in extreme situations) may lose the privilege of watching or attending future games.

In all instances where discipline is required, the umpires are empowered to make the initial decision, and are the governing authority to act on behalf of the Board implementing the policy here in. In extreme situations/cases the Board will have the final say-so relating to long term expulsions/suspensions from involvement with the league.

We also would like to remind and emphasize that umpire/crowd abuse is not the only purpose for a Zero Tolerance policy. There is concern for a growing number of adults associated with the league who model behaviors inconsistent with the philosophy of Little League Baseball. Zero Tolerance is not targeted at just parents and coaches, but everyone involved with the league. This list includes all board members, coaches, players, parents, grandparents, extended family, friends and spectators.

Please help uphold the espoused virtues of Little League Baseball of character, courage and loyalty by showing good judgment and mutual respect towards others when taking in a game or while involved in any other Little League activity. Be an example for the children in our community, always remembering that Little League’s mission is to develop superior citizens rather than superior athletes.

I have read and understand the Rancho Niguel Little League Zero-Tolerance Policy and agree to abide by it and be responsible for those that attend game with me.

Parent Name (Printed)

Signature

Date

Parent Name (Printed)

Signature

Date