



HINGHAM LITTLE LEAGUE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR PLAYERS, MANAGERS, COACHES, UMPIRES AND PARENTS

In an effort to make to make youth baseball in Hingham the most positive experience it can be for players, coaches, parents and umpires, the Board of the Hingham Little League has adopted the following Zero Tolerance Policy which governs the interactions between Players, Coaches, Parents/Spectators and Umpires. This policy is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a positive atmosphere of sportsmanship before, during and after all Hingham Little League games. This is also written in the spirit that our umpires are teenagers, not adults, and should always be treated the same way we would want our own son or daughter treated.

The following points will be implemented by the umpires and HLL officials:

Players

Before, during and after all Hingham Little League games, a player shall not:

- Openly dispute any call or decision by an umpire.
- Visually display any sign of dissatisfaction with an umpire's decision, including throwing any equipment.
- Use obscene or vulgar language to an umpire, manager or coach, another player, or anyone else for that matter, at anytime.
- Taunt players, managers, coaches, umpires or spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, negative comments, threat of physical violence or physical violence.

Should a player act in such a way, the umpire shall issue one warning to the player and to both managers. If any player on the same team subsequently performs such an act, the umpire shall add an out to that team at the earliest opportunity without impacting the batting order or runners. For each act committed by any player on that team thereafter, another out will be added and the offending player will be disqualified from that game, plus the team's next scheduled game.

Managers and Coaches

Before, during and after all Hingham Little League major and minor league games, a manager or coach shall not:

- Openly dispute any call or decision by an umpire.
- Visually display any sign of dissatisfaction with an umpire's call or decision, even if the manager or coach thought the call or decision was clearly wrong. A manager or coach may ask the umpire for clarification of any call or decision, but may not use such a question to simply express dissatisfaction with the call – you know what we mean.
- Use obscene or vulgar language to an umpire, coach, another player, or anyone at anytime.

- Agree with another manager or coach to change any rule.
- Taunt players, managers, coaches, umpires or spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, negative comments, threat of physical violence or physical violence.

In order to avoid a situation where a umpire would be openly arguing with an adult manager or coach, the umpires will be instructed not to confront the manager or coach when such an act occurs. Instead, the umpire will continue with the game and will report the occurrence to a Board member attending the game (if any), or to the Coaching Coordinator and the Head of Umpiring after the game is over. Upon reporting of one act by a manager or coach, he will be warned by the Coaching Coordinator. Upon reporting of a second act, the manager or coach will be suspended by the Coaching Committee for one game. Upon reporting of a third act, the manager or coach will be suspended by the Coaching Committee indefinitely, pending review by the Board.

This provision is not meant to discourage managers from helping our umpires become better at their jobs and managers are encouraged to discuss the game and rules with umpires in between innings, provided it is consistent with principles outlined in this policy.

Umpires

All umpires will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, impartial and conservative (not flashy) manner at all times. Actions such as “baiting” or inciting players, managers or coaches are strictly prohibited. In addition, umpires will recognize that they must address adult managers, coaches and parents/spectators with the respect due an adult, and should avoid - under all circumstances - any argument with an adult manager, coach or parent/spectator. Umpires will answer any question of a manager or coach, but will not respond to any argument. Instead, umpires will report any argument or other inappropriate behavior to a Board Member attending the game (if any), or to the Coaching Coordinator and the Head of Umpiring after the conclusion of the game.

Umpires shall make every effort to know the rules of the game – particularly those “local” rules that apply to the Hingham Little League major and minor leagues. Each umpire will also carry a copy of the Little League Rule Book and the Local Rules for that level at each game he or she umpires.

Parents/Spectators

Any major or minor league game will be stopped by the umpire(s) when parents/spectators display inappropriate or disruptive behavior which interferes with other spectators, players or the game. The umpires will identify violators to the managers and ask that the adult managers and coaches remove the offending parents/spectators from the game area. Under no circumstances will the umpire ask the offending parents/spectators to leave. If the manager or coaches refuse to ask the offending parents/spectators to leave, or if the parents/spectators refuse to leave, the umpire shall continue with the game and report the incident to a Board Member attending the game (if any), or to the Coaching Coordinator and the Head of Umpiring after the game concludes.

Prohibited conduct includes:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language to anyone at any time.
- Openly disputing any call or decision by an umpire.
- Taunting of players, managers, coaches, umpires or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, negative comments, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing any object on the field – whether at a player or not.
- Consumption of alcohol at the game.

Depending on the severity of the action, upon the initial occurrence of the action, the Board may either issue a warning or prohibit the parent/spectator from attending subsequent Hingham Little League games in order to preserve the positive atmosphere which is intended. Should such an action occur another time, the parent/spectator will be prohibiting from attending any Hingham Little League event.