

# ZERO TOLERANCE RULE

Please read thoroughly

Hi SUNYFL Families,

Due to recent spectator involvement at youth sporting events in our community as well as around the nation. A new rule will be implemented throughout our league. In the past we have had outbursts in the stands and on the fields. There were moments where there was actual physical aggression towards our **referees, District Presidents, and field managers**. We have had incidents of spectators (parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.) following our

referees not just to their cars but out on the roads as well. Behavior as such is passed onto our children which has also led to some bullying in the schools. **This type of behavior WILL NOT be tolerated.** There will be a **"ZERO TOLERANCE"** rule implemented from here on out.

The following will be considered as **"ZERO TOLERANCE ACTIONS"** to be addressed as such:

- 1- Any type of Physical Contact with any Official or SUNYFL Personnel. This applies to Coaches and all Spectators , any pushing, shoving, fighting with anyone.
- 2- Any type of Verbal Threat that is directed to Officials or SUNYFL Personnel. This applies to All Coaches and Spectators.
- 3- Any Person not on the Coaching Staff that is Rushing onto the field to Confront Officials or SUNYFL Personnel.
- 4- Any Person using Vulgar or Abusive language directed to Officials or SUNYFL Personnel.
- 5- Any Other instances that the SUNYFL Executive Board feels needs to be addressed either at the field or after an event.

As note, this applies when the above is directed to Officials and any SUNYFL Personnel that includes but is not limited to , Opposing Coaches, Their own Coaching Staff, Other Parents, Any Players,

SUNYFL Directors, SUNYFL Executive Board, All Field Directors as assigned by SUNYFL.

**If there are any altercations of any kind, the consequences will be as follows:**

- **"You" and the player** that you are associated with, will be escorted off of the field and out of the premises. (We understand that this may seem harsh that the player will also be removed but this is a **"ZERO TOLERANCE"** rule. So, please think twice and even three times if you need to before behaving in an intolerant manner.)
- In the case that you refuse to be removed from the field..The game will be stopped and all players will be asked to take a knee. The game will not resume until you have removed yourself from the premises.
- **"You"** will be suspended for the following game.

**If it happens again:**

- **"You" WILL BE BANNED** for the remainder of the season.
- When we say **"You"** we are referring to the person(s) (in the case that it is more than one of you) that is causing the ruckus. Whether it be a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, cousin, friend or coach. You will be kicked off the field and removed from the premises.

Our number one priority is the safety of our children. Incidents as such **DO NOT** make our children feel safe. They become fearful and uncomfortable. In some cases it has led to families removing their child from football. The environment created is one that we **ALL**

participate in. The lashing out, angry fits, screaming and cussing **does not** make a child feel safe or comfortable. This behavior also teaches them that when things are not going their way or if they don't agree with something, then, this is how they should behave. Each and every one of us **is responsible** to show our children respectful and kind manners. Children learn by what they see in front of them. We **must work together** to keep their space safe, sound and intact. They gather to learn, develop, communicate and play. Working together as a team teaches them trust, responsibility, good sportsmanship, leadership and camaraderie/brotherhood. What they take away from football will help build good character. But, when we have violent incidents, that **is not** what they are learning. Let's build a positive and comfortable space for our athletes as they continue to grow and learn.

If for some reason, this "**Zero tolerance**" is not adhered to. Then, the league will have no choice but to hire "**PD**" (**Police department**) in each of our counties. Needing PD on site at our fields will take a big chunk out of the league. So, in order to cover those costs, there will be an increase to registration fees. This isn't something that we are looking forward to doing. However, if need be the league will do what is best to keep our children and everyone else at our fields safe.

Kind Regards,  
SUNYFL Administration

