

Pocono Mountain Sunday Softball

Zero Tolerance Policy

As of the 2023 Season we are Implementing a Zero Tolerance Policy for anyone who chooses to engage in a fight.

If any player displays **ANY TYPE** of Physical Aggression towards another player, Umpire, spectator, or anyone else, they will automatically be banned from the league for **40 regular season games (20 Weeks)**. Any playoff games the team might play in **will NOT count** as part of the 20 weeks and the suspended player is **still ineligible to play**. As we are a USA Softball sanctioned league, this also means you will be **banned from any USA Softball events (tournaments)**.

In addition, the Player will be put on **probation for 2 years from their date of return to the league**. A second offense in that 2-year period will result in a **permanent ban from the PMSSB League and most likely all USA softball events (pending a hearing with USA Softball)**.

Teams – If your team is in a physical altercation, the team will be put on a **probationary period for two years from the date of the first incident**. A second team offence in a two-year period will carry a **4-game suspension** for the team manager, and **4 games forfeited with a 7-0 loss for each game**. The managers suspension will begin after the 4 forfeited games. The Team probation period will follow the player. If the suspended player returns and joins another team, **the new team** will accept a 2-year probationary period from the time the player returns.

If it comes to any team forfeiting 4 games (or 8 in the event of a second team offence), no players will be able to play for another team for that period.

If a team Drops out after the season or changes names the following season, the probation period will follow that team even if they don't play for a season until the 2 years is fulfilled.

Each sequential event within the probationary time, all penalties will be **doubled**.

If you are suspended for fighting, after the decision is made, all information including names will be posted to the PMSSB Player page for all to see. We will no longer withhold your name from everyone.

The PMSSB Board understands that there may be instances where someone may be in a position where they need to defend themselves. In these instances, the Board will evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, if they were acting in self defense based on what we hear from witnesses. If you do anything (a punch, a kick, or any other means of "attacking") it will be considered fighting, and the above rules will be applied. If someone decides to come at you, step away and play defense. We know this is a hard thing to do, but you'll have to make a quick decision if you want to continue to play ball in this league or not for the next 20 weeks.

The PMSSB Board and many, many players in this league are here to play ball, have some laughs and hang out with friends. We want families to come to the games without concern for their safety. For many years we have tried to promote a fun, family, friendship atmosphere surrounding Pocono Mountain Sunday Softball. Those of you who choose to ignore this, you will not be playing ball in the PMSSB league for a long time. As has been said over and over, we **ARE GUESTS** at the parks we play and should NOT be creating any problems/headaches for them.

The league took a black eye due to the events on 4/16/23 at our 1 pitch tournament. I took it very personally as I'm sure others did too.

WE ARE NO LONGER TOLERATING THIS TYPE OF BEHAVIOR