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Zero Tolerance Policy

The Board of Directors of Maplewood Independent Youth Baseball League (MIYBL) have instituted a “zero tolerance policy”. This means that inappropriate displays of anger, poor sportsmanship, bad language and all forms of harassment on the part of managers, coaches, parents, spectators, and players will NOT be tolerated.

Umpires have been instructed to penalize individuals who, through verbal communications or physical gestures, make obvious attempts to:

- Intimidate an umpire
- Challenge the authority or competence of an umpire, manager, or coach
- Incite abuse or disrespect toward any umpire, parent, manager, or coach
- Embarrass an umpire call
- Make negative comments or gestures intended to be personal in nature to a player, manager, coach, or parent

- NO WARNINGS WILL BE ISSUED -

If a violation occurs, the game will be stopped immediately by an on-field umpire. The offending person will be asked to leave the field. Failure to leave the field in a timely manner will result in the game being forfeited.

Any ejection of a player, manager, or coach will result in an automatic one game suspension. A second ejection will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season. The Board reserves the right to:

- Increase (but not decrease) the severity of these penalties based on the specific circumstances surrounding the violation,
- In extraordinary circumstances, impose penalties where no action was taken by an on-field umpire, and
- Suspend any player whose parent/guardian is found to be in violation of this policy.

In enacting this policy, it is the Board's intent to provide a safe and positive environment for our children to learn the game of baseball. Parents, coaches, and managers can do their part by learning to respect an umpire's decision. If you have a problem with an official's attitude or actions, it is advised that you do not take matters into your own hands. File a complaint with the Umpire-in-Chief or a member of the Board of Directors. All complaints will be reviewed and appropriate action taken. If it is a problem, let us correct it through the proper channels, not on the baseball field.

Board of Directors

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Guidance for Managers & Coaches:

- Managers or coaches should call time out and approach an umpire to discuss a call or ruling.
 - Managers or coaches can ask for clarification but cannot argue a judgement call.
 - Discussion should be in normal tones and not intended to embarrass an umpire or his call/ruling. If you raise your voice in anger, you should be expected to be ejected.
 - General comments or gestures meant to indicate displeasure or disagreement with an umpire's call/ruling or otherwise intended to embarrass an umpire will result in immediate ejection.
- Discussion among opposing managers/coaches during the course of play should be mediated by the home plate umpire. Debate or argument among opposing managers/coaches during the course of the game is cause for immediate ejection.
- Managers are responsible for the actions of their fans. If a parent/spectator violates the League's zero tolerance policy, the umpire will (discretely) instruct the manager to warn the offending party. If the violation recurs, the umpire will ask the individual to leave the field. Failure to leave the field in a timely manner will result in the game being forfeited. A second ejection will be subject to Board review.

Guidance for Umpires:

- This policy was enacted to protect you from undue and inappropriate criticism and abuse. It will only work if you apply it fairly and consistently. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the attached Policy and "Guidance for Managers & Coaches" above.
- Remember: No warnings for Managers & Coaches should be issued. Any violation of this policy should result in immediate ejection.
 - Use your best judgement in determining whether a manager's or coaches emotional response is directed at the play itself or your call on the play. Ejections should be limited to situations where the reaction is clearly a reaction to your call and further meant to embarrass or intimidate you.
- Allow additional leeway for violations by parents/spectators. Try to get the managers/coaches to resolve these situations. If they are unable or unwilling to do so, issue one warning and if to no avail, call a forfeit.

Board of Directors

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