

Cape Elizabeth Little League Zero Tolerance Policy

The Cape Elizabeth Little League (CELL) runs its programs for the benefit of the children it serves. Our goals are to teach the fundamentals of baseball and softball, provide a fun and safe environment for our children, and promote good sportsmanship. Our T-Ball, AA Baseball, and 7/8 Softball programs are instructional and non-competitive. Our AAA Baseball, Majors Baseball, 9/10 and 11/12 Softball programs are instructional and competitive; however while these programs are competitive, winning is not the ultimate goal. Good sportsmanship and citizenship are our most important values, and it is important that all of us (managers, coaches, players, parents and spectators) cheer good plays by all players and not criticize or call attention to bad plays or mistakes by anyone.

The Cape Elizabeth Little League uses a combination of high school students (many of whom have played in our program) as well as adult volunteer umpires, who are all donating their time and trying their best to fill a very difficult role. The quality of our umpires may be inconsistent over the course of the season and possibly over the course of a game, however CELL has a zero tolerance policy related to the criticism of umpires. Managers, coaches, players and spectators should not complain, make comments, or in any way criticize our umpires. If you have a complaint about an umpire, please contact the League President at president@cape-ll.com.

All persons associated with the team, including players, managers, coaches and spectators, shall support the umpires. No one is to address the umpire during the game with the following exceptions:

1. Managers or players responding to a question or comment from the umpire;
2. Managers making substitutions;
3. Managers, coaches, players or spectators pointing out emergencies or safety issues;
4. Managers asking for a rule interpretation.

A manager may ask an umpire in a polite and constructive way to explain a rule. Polite and friendly feedback can also be given to the umpire after the game, and umpires should understand that they can always improve their skills as well. Absolutely no demonstrative behavior, sarcasm, harassment or intimidation by managers, coaches, players, parents or spectators before, during, or after games will be tolerated.

In the event of behavior that the umpire deems is in violation of the zero tolerance policy, the League has instructed the Umpire to take the following action:

1. Call time out
2. Approach the offender(s)
3. Calmly explain that CELL has a zero tolerance policy and they are in violation of the policy

4. Calmly explain that if there is another violation of the policy the offender(s) will be told to leave the field complex immediately.
5. Umpires should report any infractions they deem relevant to the League President for further action, as determined by the League President and the Board of Directors.

While this protocol stipulates that the Umpire should give one warning, there may be extreme circumstances that would warrant an immediate ejection from the game, at the umpire's discretion.