



## ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY



**We are Walter “Pop” Smith Little League, Inc. (WPSLL)!** Our mission is to positively impact youth and our diverse New Haven communities through the power of baseball. We use the sport to teach the Little League® virtues of character, courage, and loyalty.

We believe that developing productive future citizens is more important than developing athletic skills alone. We strive to make a lifelong impact by focusing on teamwork, sportsmanship, integrity, and fun; while fostering an inclusionary environment committed to safety and mutual respect for all.

To fulfill our mission and put our beliefs into action, the WPSLL Board of Directors has adopted this unwavering **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** for I. **Protecting Children** entrusted to us; and ensuring that all WPSLL games, practices and events remain safe and enjoyable for all members of the community under a unilateral II. **Code of Conduct**.

### I. PROTECTING CHILDREN

An integral part of the WPSLL Zero Tolerance Policy is complete adherence to the [Little League® Child Protection Program](#) including the requirement where **every volunteer that has regular contact** with our players and children must complete [Volunteer Requirements and Training](#) and be subject to the following:

1. Complete an annual volunteer process including an application, background check, appointment by the league president and approval by the Board of Directors before commencing volunteerism roles or activities at WPSLL;
2. Complete a mandatory [Little League® Abuse Awareness Course](#) before commencing volunteerism roles or activities at WPSLL;
3. Mandatory reporting of child abuse, including sexual abuse, involving a minor and a:
  - a. WPSLL Volunteer or Member ([see Article III of the League’s Constitution](#)) must be reported within 24 hours to the New Haven Police Department @ 911 and league president (Wayne Morrison) @ 203-668-1247). The league president must notify the district administrator and Little League @ [securityspecialist@litttleleague.org](mailto:securityspecialist@litttleleague.org); and/or,
  - b. Non-member must be reported within 24 hours to the above police and league president.
4. NON-RETALIATION for “good faith” reporting of child abuse; and,
5. Limited one-on-one contact with minors without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult.

Additional references on protecting children are also available to parents, volunteers, and league officials through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children:

- [Safe to Compete: Tips for Protecting Child Athletes from Sexual Abuse](#)
- [Safe to Compete: Protecting Child Athletes from Sexual Abuse; Discussion Guide: Ages 5-10](#)
- [Safe to Compete: Protecting Child Athletes from Sexual Abuse; Discussion Guide: Ages 11-17](#)



*"It's About the Kids!" – Past President & Current Director, Lynair Walker*

## **II. CODE OF CONDUCT - PROTECTING OUR LITTLE LEAGUE ENVIRONMENT**

The nature of baseball teaches that while every player eventually strikes out or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at bat, the next fielding play, or the next game.

Too often, this reality and the ethics of our game can unfortunately be ignored to the detriment of our players, coaches, volunteers, umpires, and spectators. In an effort to always turn to the ideals outlined in our mission and beliefs, the WPSLL Board of Directors has adopted this policy of **zero tolerance** regarding abuse of any kind; rude or unsportsmanlike conduct by any player, coach, official, spectator, or person associated with a team, including but not limited to:

- Unsolicited physical contact which would constitute an assault under state law;
- Profanity or verbal abuse directed towards any coach, player, umpire, official, spectator, or any other participant;
- Behavior, conduct, or language that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for an individual or group; and
- Throwing equipment, defying coaches or umpires, harassing opposing players, or showing disrespect to teammates, coaches, officials, or spectators.

Such language, abusive or violent behavior and action has no place in Little League. It will not be tolerated by WPSLL during games, practices, or any league event. Players, managers, coaches, volunteers, and spectators must show good sportsmanship and respect for others at all times or risk being ejected or suspended from the field, park, venue or event.

WPSLL Board of Directors (BOD) hereby establishes a Conduct Review Committee consisting of the league's president, vice president, player agent, safety officer, umpire coordinator, and the coaching coordinator. Should anyone violate the terms of this Code of Conduct, the BOD further authorizes the presiding umpire-in-chief or team manager at any league game, practice, or event to immediately eject the violator(s) and the violator(s) shall meet with the Conduct Review Committee to explain their actions and the reason for the ejection before they are permitted to return.

The Conduct Review Committee shall have the right to impose any penalty they feel is justified including banning the violator(s) from future games or events, or referring the matter to the full BOD for membership suspension or termination. However, the penalty shall not be less than a suspension for the next played game. Any person refusing to meet with the Conduct Review Committee shall be suspended indefinitely until the meeting is held.

Furthermore, only the respective team manager may question an umpire's judgment call. No one may yell, jeer, criticize, or give negative feedback of any kind to an umpire, manager/coach, player, or league official.

Any umpire who feels bothered or threatened by anyone outside or inside the playing field should immediately stop the game, meet with both managers and ask them to inform the offender, including spectators, of this ZERO Tolerance Policy. Anyone who continues will be ejected without further warning.

If the offender refuses to leave, the umpire (or site director) will stop the game and place both teams in their respective dugouts until the offender leaves. If the offender does not leave within 10 minutes, the umpires shall leave and the game is suspended. The BOD will decide if the game will be continued or forfeited.

If an umpire ejects anyone; player, manager/coach, or spectator from a game, that person must leave the game site before play can resume. The umpire shall provide a report of the incident within 24 hours of the game to any member of the Conduct Review Committee. The person ejected shall meet with the Conduct Review Committee to explain their actions and the reason for the ejection before being permitted to return to the site or park. Anyone suspended cannot be in attendance at the game/practice site or park during the suspension. There shall be discretion if a child cannot leave the field safely.

Finally, it is the team manager's responsibility to review this Zero Tolerance Policy with all players, coaches and parents of the team. The terms and conditions of this policy will not be waived if the team manager fails to review or distribute this policy.

This Zero Tolerance Police was ratified by the Walter "Pop" Little League, Inc. Board of Directors on April 20, 2026.