

VBUSL Zero Tolerance Policy

The mission of the Virginia Beach Unified Softball League (VBUSL) is to promote and develop good sportsmanship, fair play, skills, and ethics, and maintain the highest integrity among all teams and all individuals participating. Parents are encouraged and welcome to attend all games and practices for your enjoyment. It is very important that parents attend their child's event not only for the enjoyment of the parent, but also for the mental support of the child. VBUSL wants to prevent any inappropriate behavior by coaches, players, parents, and guests. VBUSL is therefore enforcing a ZERO TOLERANCE approach to poor behavior displayed by teams or spectators.

It is very important to build good character in your child. VBUSL feels it is the coaches and parents' responsibility to teach all children proper character when accepting an official's call, acting in a sportsman-like manner at all times, and only saying positive things to your teammates and opposing team members. Parents and coaches often are caught up in winning and forget the game they are involved in belongs to the kid's. Your child is watching your reaction. Think before you act.

Zero Tolerance Rules: Nobody (not a parent, child, spectator, coach or assistant) may approach an umpire to argue a call or lack of a call. There is an established process to protest a game if a situation develops; the coach will handle this. VBUSL will not tolerate any actions, statements, or behavior by players, coaches, or spectators that are disrespectful to anyone present. This includes comments directed towards game officials relative to their decisions. Even casual comments such as "Awe, come on, Ump!" or "That was a strike!" will not be tolerated. Spectators should not stand or sit behind the backstop and make comments on balls and strikes.

No individual is to say anything to opposing players unless it is a positive comment. Anyone breaking any of the above rules or creating a scene may be asked by a VBUSL representative or by an umpire to leave the game. At this point, you must leave the field immediately. The game will not continue until said person departs completely. All other spectators should refrain from comments directed at that person as it may result in their being asked to leave also. Let the umpire direct the situation. The VBUSL board may discuss any inappropriate behavior and take additional action later against that individual. Upon review by VBUSL, further penalties may apply, such as game/practice suspensions or being banned for the entire season. Serious cases may include being permanently banned from participating in or attending VBUSL events.

Questionable calls may be made by umpires and as adults; it is our responsibility to teach the kids to react with good sportsmanship and play on. Disrespectful conduct teaches poor sportsmanship to the players. First and foremost, coaches should be teaching the players by example. If a coach makes comments about balls and strikes or fouls, the kids on his team will learn to do the same thing. Parents should take the responsibility to speak to the coach or talk to a board member if they do not like the behavior of the coach.

Players are expected to line up after each game and shake hands or "high 5" players and coaches from the opposing team, whether or not they won the game. Congratulate and show respect for the opposing team. This is good sportsmanship.

All parents and coaches must sign this Zero Tolerance Policy form, which will state that you have read and understand your obligation to our Zero Tolerance Policy. No child may play until their parents have signed this form with the coach.

