

THALIA-MALIBU RECREATION LEAGUE

CODE OF CONDUCT/ZERO TOLERANCE/ONE STRIKE POLICY

The Thalia-Malibu Recreation League's (TMRL) mission is to promote and develop sportsmanship and character (the good kind), skills and instruction and team unity. Parents, relatives and friends are encouraged and welcomed to attend games/practices to witness the progress your child is making on mastering their skills in their particular sport. Your attendance is important because it also offers them encouragement and support. It is very important to build good character in your child. TMRL feels it is the coach and parent's responsibilities to teach all children proper character when accepting an official's call, acting in a sportsmanlike manner at all times, only saying positive things to your teammates and opposing team members. Parents and coaches sometimes get a little carried away during games and don't realize the impact their actions and words have placed on their children. You, as coaches and parents are the role models of your children. Parents must remember, our coaches are not paid but have volunteered to take on the responsibility to coach your children, please be mindful of this!!!!

Unfortunately, some parents and spectators have exhibited extremely inappropriate behavior in the past. Under guidance of the City of Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Department (CVBPRD), TMRL has enforced a Zero Tolerance/One Strike Policy approach to poor behavior displayed by parents or spectators. Coaches and Assistant Coaches have been held to the same standards in the past by TMRL and required to sign The Coaches Code of Ethics/Conduct prior to the start of the season (practices or games).

POLICY RULES

1. No one (parents, players, children, spectators, coaches (head or assistant) is permitted to approach an official, referee, umpire or gym supervisor/volunteer, to argue a call regarding a play that has been made. The Head Coach will handle this situation in the form of a formal protest (Assistant Coach handles in absence of Head Coach).
2. TMRL will not tolerate any actions, statements or behavior by players, coaches or spectators that are disrespectful to anyone present. This includes comments directed at the official/referee/umpire regarding their decisions. Even casual comments such as "Awe come on ref!" or "Don't you know how to call a game?" will not be tolerated.
3. No individual is permitted to say anything or make any remarks to opposing players unless it is a positive comment.
4. If a fight or an altercation breaks out between spectators, the coach will identify them and report them to the official/referee/umpire.
5. No coach or assistant coach can make any contact (shoving, pushing or striking) toward an official/referee/umpire before, during or after a game.

DISCIPLINE ACTIONS

Once a game begins, the official/referee/umpire **has complete control** of the game. They have the authority to warn or eject coaches, players, parents and spectators for inappropriate behaviors. TMRL has the authority to carry out the punishments for those behaviors. Below are set specific punishments:

1. Bad or questionable calls by official/referee/umpire ~ the coach may file a formal Protest.
2. Unruly, disrespectful behaviors by coach/parent/player/spectators towards anyone will result in a warning from official/referee/umpire (**One Strike Policy**); if unruliness or disrespectfulness continues it will result in an ejection from the facility/field and a one (1) game suspension (**Zero Tolerance Policy**).
3. In regards to fighting, official/referee/umpire will eject the person from the facility/field and that person will not be permitted to attend any other games for the remainder of the season.
4. If a coach/assistant coach is involved in an altercation (pushing, shoving or striking) of an official/referee/umpire before, during or after a game, they will be ejected and asked to leave the field/facility **immediately**. If they do not leave the premises, the Police will be called and the situation will then be handled by them. TMRL coach/assistant coach will be banned from coaching with TMRL.
5. If an official/referee/umpire does not take control of the game and incidents occur, the TMRL will call an emergency board meeting to discuss and make a decision for the appropriate conduct discipline.

NOTE: Your acknowledgment of this form will be recorded on the TMRL's registration contract. You will be required to initial the following:

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and have received the following:

_____ **The TMRL Code of Conduct/Zero Tolerance/One Strike Policy**
Initial