



## **WOONSOCKET LITTLE LEAGUE Anti-Bullying Policy**

Given the serious effects that bullying has on children and organizations, Woonsocket Little League (WLL) has adopted an anti-bullying policy. This policy overview is intended to guide all Managers, Coaches, players, volunteers, parents, guardians and spectators in their behavior at WLL Little League games, events and fields.

Bullying not only leads to anxiety and low self-esteem in children who are targeted, but also causes other children to feel unsafe. Children of all ages deserve the right to feel safe and supported by all WLL Board Members, Managers, Coaches, players, volunteers, parents and guardians. By raising awareness throughout our league, we can work together to ensure that WLL is a place that children and parents feel welcome and included.

### **Definition of Bullying**

Bullying involves behavior by one person or a group of people with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate another person during league games, events and/or at league fields. Verbal bullying involves repetitious behavior and includes the use of words and gestures. Emotional bullying involves rejection, terrorizing, extorting, humiliating, rating/ranking personal characteristics such as race, disability, ethnicity, or perceived sexual orientation. Physical bullying can include a single incident of pushing, hitting or kicking a person or interfering with their property.

Bullying which occurs outside of the Little League setting may be addressed by Little League officials only if such conduct markedly interrupts or severely impedes the purposes of WLL Little League. No amount of bullying is acceptable. Not all joking or horseplay is bullying, but when the intent or effect is to cause distress, continuation or repetition of such behavior is bullying and will not be tolerated.

### **Reporting Bullying**

If you are being bullied, or know of someone being bullied, you must tell a Manager, Coach, Player Agent or the League President as soon as possible.

### **Consequences of Bullying**

If a person involved in the league (including WLL Board Members, Managers, Coaches, players, volunteers, guardians and spectators) has taken part in bullying behavior, a warning will be given to that individual. If the behavior continues, that person may be suspended or excluded from the fields for at least one (1) full game. Any further incidents will be referred to the Board of Directors for further action, pursuant to the Little League Regulation XIV – Field Decorum, which can include further warnings, discussions with parents and guardians, further suspensions or exclusions, ineligibility for playoff, tournament and/or all-star involvement, up to and including permanent removal from the league, and reporting to local law enforcement.