

"No Tolerance" Policy

Within the last few years recreation across the country has seen a dramatic change in issues dealing with parents, coaches, and fans, umpires, and league officials conduct at sporting events. Although not as severe as some instances nationwide, Lexington County has had its share of conduct problems.

With this in mind, our Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission board of Commissioners have taken a "No Tolerance" stance in order to help prevent severe situations from occurring on and within leagues operating on (LCRAC) facilities. This includes unsportsmanlike behavior, verbal abuse, threatening physical abuse, and actual physical abuse. The "No Tolerance" Policy is as follows:

- 1.) Fans should strive to develop a positive and friendly attitude toward each other, coaches and players of both teams and officials.
- 2.) No fan shall verbally confront or argue with an official, coach, players, or other fans; before, during or after a game. If this occurs, such person will be asked to leave the facility.
- 3.) Any person who physically attacks an official, coach, other fan or player, may be subject to criminal prosecution as well as civil suit for money damages.
- 4.) It is the goal of LCRAC and advisors that participation in recreational sports programs be individually and cooperatively a wholesome, fun and personally rewarding experience. Each participant, along with the coaches, should try to achieve a more positive attitude for the sport and its objectives than he/she had at the start of the season. All players, coaches, fans, and parents shall be guided by the NYSCA Code of Conduct, which is mandated (for coaches) by the LCRAC board.

Guidelines for enforcement

- 1.) Any official, league representative, parent, or coach must report a violation to the local league governing body that is operating on LCRAC facilities or property.
- 2.) The local league shall institute, according to its local by laws, a hearing and deliver sanctions deemed necessary against the offender. The local governing board's decision must meet final approval by the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission.
- 3.) Should the local league, for any reason, not be able to handle the situation, then a review committee of LCRAC Athletic Department employees and 3 local league members will address the situation. The offender may also appeal to this review committee. The committee will inform the person by certified mail of the reported incident and that the committee will meet at a particular time and date of this hearing. The offender shall be in

attendance to state his/her case. After the hearing, the committee shall make a decision on the sanctions, which will be a final decision. Sanctions may include, revoking of NYSCA coaching privileges and/or suspensions. This includes fans, coaches, players, and parents.

In closing we hope you will find the enclosed information for all sports leagues necessary for insuring a positive environment for our youth. It also insures that the LCRAC and its constituents comply in the true spirit of cooperation. In addition, the policy enacted enhances the coordination of programs and facilities between LCRAC and each sports leagues governing bodies. The "No Tolerance" policy will go into immediately.

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