

The W.O.A.C. Zero Tolerance Policy

Policy Statement

The White Oak Athletic Club 's facilities and properties, exist to provide all athletes with opportunities to participate in sport and other recreational activities in a safe and positive environment. The Club will ensure the most supportive climate possible for the children who participate, so that they can enjoy their sport, and learn about competition, teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play.

As with many athletic club's, W.O.A.C.'s sports is managed and operated by volunteers. These community-minded citizens contribute in many ways to the success of sports in the W.O.A.C. area. . It is the Club's responsibility that they, too, have the ability to work in a safe and positive environment.

It is critical, then, for the Club, through its parents, board members , and coaches, to do all things necessary to ensure that prevented measures are in place so that incidents of violent or inappropriate behavior do not occur in its recreational properties and facilities.

Included in this commitment is an understanding that responsibility for the behavior of all associated with them: players, officials, and spectators.

Statements of Principle

1. Participation by children in sport is an important element in the human development process.
2. To ensure maximum enjoyment and benefits from participation in sport, the maintenance of a safe and positive environment is essential.
3. The rules of each of the games exist to protect the players. Referees/officials are charged to ensure the fair and even application of the rules, and to ensure safety of the players.
4. The Club must put measures in place to ensure the safety of referees/officials, as well as organizers of the sport, who are for the most part volunteers.
5. Violent or abusive behaviors, such as verbal threats and insults, attempts to intimidate as well as physical assault have no place in the Club's recreational properties and facilities.
6. Promotion of spectator "positive cheering" will assist in the reduction of violent behaviors in Club's recreational properties and facilities.
7. Our volunteers are charged with the education of our youth on the ideals of sportsmanship, fair play and appropriate behavior.

Goals of the Policy

1. To reduce or eliminate violence and abusive behavior at the Club's recreational properties and facilities
2. To promote positive cheering behaviors among spectators and fans.
3. To increase the level of understanding among spectators and fans of the importance of creating a positive and supportive environment for children's sport.

Definition of Violence

The focus of this Policy is on the behavior of non-players, except for those situations in which a player engages in a violent act outside the area of play. For the purposes of this Policy, violence includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:

- loud verbal assaults
- threats and attempts to intimidate
- throwing of articles in a deliberate or aggressive manner
- aggressive approaches to another individual
- physical striking of another individual
- attempts to goad or incite violence in others
- vandalism to building or property
- racial or ethnic slurs
- illegal consumption of alcohol or drugs

The Consequences

Individuals who engage in any of the above behaviors will be subject to immediate ejection from the property or facility and a mandatory hearing from the W.O.A.C. board.

Those individuals who are identified and suspended in accordance with this Policy shall further be prohibited from holding any positions within the Club's affiliated sport community for a period to be determined by the WOAC board.

Incidents may be reported to the Green Township Police Department for possible criminal charges.

There will be no reconsideration by the Club with respect to the length of a suspension or prohibition. Where new information is available, a suspended individual may request reconsideration of the facts on which the suspension is based. Such request must be addressed to the Club board and President, who will consider the new information and make their final decision. **ALL SUCH DECISIONS OF THE Club President and its board ARE FINAL.** Those individuals desiring reconsideration must include with their request and payment of a non-refundable (unsuccessful) administration fee in the amount of \$250.00. In the event that the applicant is successful, the club will refund the administration fee.

Where vandalism has been perpetrated, not only will the individuals responsible be subject to suspension as outlined above, but will be required to reimburse the Club for the cost of repair, together with an additional administration charge of 100% of such cost.

Implementation

The policy will take effect for the White Oak Athletic Club, Green Township, Ohio on April 1, 2008.