



## Zero Tolerance Policy

Youth sports are a fantastic opportunity for a child to build self-esteem and learn fundamentals skills. It is also an opportunity for adults to become positive role models and to teach the value and importance of good sportsmanship.

This policy applies to **ALL coaches, players, parents and other supporters and referees**, effective immediately. Drinking alcohol, smoking, or use of illegal substances is prohibited during sanctioned Indigenous HOOPS League events. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, and other behavior (including but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) will not be tolerated during any event. Ultimate responsibility for the actions of coaches, players, and spectators resides with the team organizations. It is the responsibility of the coaches to provide referee support and spectator control. This policy will apply, always, prior to, during and after the game, at the facility, and its immediate surrounding areas. It is the responsibility of the team organizations to provide instructions to their coaches on how they are expected to fulfill this responsibility.

Indigenous HOOPS League Directors will be assessing each incident on an individual basis.

### **Parents and Spectators:**

No parent or other spectator shall persistently address the Tournament staff or referees/officials at any time.

This includes but is not limited to:

- 1. Spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players of either team.**
- 2. Spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.**



## Zero Tolerance Policy

- 3. Spectators shall not advise the coach or referee to watch certain players or address rough play.**
- 4. Spectators shall not yell at the tournament staff or referees, EVER, including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, discriminatory comments, or feedback of any kind before, during, or after the game.**

Below are some simple rules you should observe. PLEASE CONSIDER THEM CAREFULLY!

1. Suffer in silence (or moan softly) whenever something occurs that goes against your child's team. A display of anger may inflame a delicate situation resulting in embarrassment for you or your child. Some parents embarrass their own children by making a spectacle of themselves.
2. Do not run up and down the sidelines. Find a comfortable place to sit down or stand, relax and enjoy the game.
3. Do not shout insults or verbally abuse the referee/official. It's hard for a child to learn respect for the referee or other officials when their parents set a poor example. The referee can and will stop the game if the crowd becomes discourteous.
4. Set the tone for good sportsmanship by adopting a positive attitude if your team loses. Compliment your team upon their good plays and ignore the mistakes. Your team will be happy if you notice their good qualities.

The only allowable exceptions to the above are:

1. Spectators may point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player down on the court.



## Zero Tolerance Policy

### **Players:**

Communications between players and referees/officials are only encouraged when the player is intending on learning from the call they received from the referee/officials. Or when the referee/official is explaining to the player so they can correct the action committed.

### **Coaches and Bench Personnel:**

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all games. Failure to do so undermines the referee's/official's authority and the integrity of the game, resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee, coaches, bench personnel and spectators. As role models for all the participants and spectators, coaches participating in an IHL event are expected to be supportive of, and to applaud the effort, good play, and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a contest. By example, coaches and bench personnel are expected to show that although they are competing in a game, participants always have respect for the opponent, referees and spectators.

IHL will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the tournament staff, referees/officials, players or coaches of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic, or otherwise ill-intentioned behavior toward IHL Staff, referees, opposing players or coaches will be subject to sanction by the referee/official and subsequent sanctions may be imposed by the Team Organization and the IHL Directors.

Coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks.



## Zero Tolerance Policy

Coaches shall not offer objection to any call made by the officials at any time.

Coaches shall not address the referee/official during the game except to:

1. Respond to a referee/official who has initiated a conversation
2. Point out emergency or safety issues
3. Request time out.
4. Ask the referee to repeat a call (this should be infrequent)
5. Ask for the time remaining in the half (this should be infrequent).

**Head coaches** can ask a referee/official during or after a game, in a polite and constructive way, to explain a Rule or foul.

1. Polite and friendly concerns can be exchanged with the referee/official. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the referee/official may abandon the exchange at any time.
2. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed.

The IHL Directors suggests that all parents, spectators, players and coaches become familiar with the zero-tolerance policy that has been put in place for the safety of ALL IHL Staff, Participants, Coaches, spectators and referee/officials.

### **Penalties for Parents, Spectators, Players and Coaches:**

1. **If any game, IHL sanctioned event or timeframe mentioned above is interrupted because of behavioral issues, the involved parties will have to comply without complaint and be escorted from the facility and will be asked to not attend the remaining time of the IHL event as directed by the IHL Directors.**
2. **Each team organization has the right to the first disciplinary action such as game and or practice suspensions and release from the Team Organization.**



## Zero Tolerance Policy

3. The IHL maintains the right to uphold or supersede the disciplinary actions taken by the

Team Organizations. Each incident will be examined individually and the IHL Directors will determine the penalties and disciplinary actions based on the severity of the misjudgment or the neglect to follow the Zero Tolerance Policy rules and guidelines.

4. Illegal acts as defined by the zero tolerance will be an immediate removal and suspension

from the league and the prompt compliance to notify the authorities. The duration of the removal and suspension will be determined by the affected Team Organizations and the IHL Directors. A threat of bodily injury is a mandatory five (5) year suspension as regulated within the context of the bylaws.

5. Any Team Organization member such as a President, current Board Member or Team Representative may enforce some or all these rules to maintain order in any situation were the Zero Tolerance Policy has been infringed or violated.

### **Synopsis:**

**Play with integrity:** One of the most essential lessons a child can learn from sports is to follow the rules. Make sure your team understands the rules and doesn't break them, even if they can get away with it.

**Respect the officials:** It's important to teach not only our young athletes but also our parents and coaches to respect the referees and officials. Our kids have a watchful eye and take notice when parents and coaches are disrespectful.



## Zero Tolerance Policy

**Be a good sport.** This means doing what we can to lift our teammates up and help them reach their potential. Being a good teammate means also being a good person on and off the field regardless of the outcome.

**Maintain self-control.** Keep your cool, have a positive attitude, and don't overreact during practice or games. Be encouraging to other players.

**Let the coach's coach:** Avoid chiming in with your coaching advice for the team, or other parents. Let those in charge run the plays.