



Park and Recreation
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Office of PARK and RECREATION

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Zero Tolerance Policy for Umpire Abuse

The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department is committed to providing every participant with a positive baseball and/or softball experience. The fabric of a sports league is held together by good sportsmanship and the mutual respect of everyone involved. The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department believes that every participant deserves to be treated with respect. To this end, the department has developed a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR UMPIRE ABUSE.

Across the country and throughout sports, there have been increasing numbers of incidents involving coaches, players and parents abusing game officials. The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department utilizes youth umpires and uses our programs as an additional benefit to the youth of our community. This youth umpire program helps young people develop valuable life skills, while also filling a needed role in our youth baseball and softball programs. Because of this, the City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department has adopted a 'zero tolerance' policy toward any cases of umpire abuse that are reported and confirmed by umpires, spectators, managers/coaches or staff. This policy is effective immediately.

Umpire abuse at its simplest is defined as any deliberate action that makes an umpire feel physically threatened, verbally intimidated or emotionally humiliated. Disrespectfully objecting to calls, yelling at, publicly calling, constantly disagreeing with an umpire verbally or by action can be deemed umpire abuse. Coaches and managers should always show decorum, respect and observe all game rules whenever questioning an umpire about a call.

The penalties for any confirmed case of umpire abuse:

Coach/Manager Umpire Abuse:

1st incident – 1-game suspension for a coach/manager regardless of history, coaching experience or program involvement. This suspension will be in addition to any suspension due to an ejection from a game.

2nd incident (within same season) – 3-game suspension for a coach/manager.

3rd incident (within same season) – a lifetime ban from coaching or managing any City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department team.

In addition, if a coach/manager confronts an umpire after a game in order to continue verbally abusing a referee, these penalties will be increased to 2 games for the 1st and 6 games for the 2nd incident.

Any incident that involves physical abuse by bodily threatening, shoving, bumping or harming an umpire will result in an immediate suspension and notification of proper authorities.

Parent/Team Umpire Abuse:

1st incident – 3-game suspension.

2nd incident (within same season)– 5-game suspension.

3rd incident (within same season) – a lifetime ban from attending any City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department games.

Managers and coaches will be asked to provide the names of any parents who abuse umpires and those who don't cooperate may face a 1-game suspension for refusing to cooperate.

Please remember that City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department coaches and team managers are responsible for the behavior of their players, parents and spectators during games. Umpires may file an abuse report on any coach whose players and supporters are abusing an umpire.

If you have feedback on an umpire's performance, managers and coaches are asked to complete an umpire evaluation form and submit it to the Recreation Director. The Recreation Director can address individual umpires need for supervision, instruction or additional training.

The City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department retains the right to increase any of these penalties based upon the severity of the incident.