

SVBSA Zero Tolerance Policy for Conduct & Sportsmanship

Purpose & Commitment

Seneca Valley Baseball & Softball Association (SVBSA) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all participants. Youth sports thrive when players, families, coaches, and volunteers treat one another with dignity, respect, and good sportsmanship.

The goal of this policy is not to punish isolated emotional moments or normal developmental behavior, but to ensure that SVBSA remains a safe and positive environment for all participants.

Abusive, threatening, harassing, or intimidating behavior directed toward players, coaches, officials, volunteers, or spectators will not be tolerated.

This policy applies to all SVBSA activities, including games, practices, meetings, tryouts, events, and communications related to SVBSA (including electronic or social media interactions).

Participation in SVBSA activities constitutes agreement to comply with this policy.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all individuals involved in SVBSA activities, including:

- Players
- Parents and guardians
- Spectators and fans
- Managers and coaches
- Volunteers
- Board members
- Umpires and officials

SVBSA reserves the right to investigate and discipline any conduct that undermines the safety, integrity, or sportsmanship of the association.

Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviors are not permitted during any SVBSA activity:

- Verbal abuse, personal insults, or degrading language directed at any individual
- Profanity directed toward players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, or spectators
- Taunting, mocking, or humiliating another participant
- Threatening, intimidating, or aggressive behavior
- Engaging in overly confrontational, aggressive, or disruptive arguments with officials, coaches, volunteers, or spectators during or immediately following events
- Harassment or bullying of any participant
- Encouraging players or spectators to engage in unsportsmanlike behavior
- Retaliation against anyone who reports misconduct

Expectations of Conduct by Role

The expectations below are intended to guide positive conduct and sportsmanship within SVBSA. Not every lapse in these expectations constitutes a violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy. Coaches and league leadership will use judgment to distinguish normal developmental behavior from conduct that rises to the level of harassment, abuse, intimidation, or other prohibited behavior defined above.

Players

Players are expected to:

- Show respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators
- Refrain from taunting or unsportsmanlike behavior
- Follow team and league rules

Youth sports are a learning environment, and coaches will address typical behavioral issues as teaching opportunities whenever appropriate.

Managers, Coaches, Volunteers & Board Members

Individuals in leadership roles are held to a higher standard of conduct and are expected to:

- Model sportsmanship, professionalism, and respect
- Address concerns calmly and through appropriate league channels
- Avoid overly confrontational or aggressive interactions
- Help promote a positive environment for players and families

Managers and coaches are encouraged to make reasonable efforts to address inappropriate behavior from individuals associated with their team and to notify league leadership when intervention is needed. However, coaches will not be held responsible for the independent actions of spectators beyond their reasonable control.

Parents & Spectators

Parents and spectators are expected to:

- Support participants in a positive manner
- Respect coaches, officials, and league representatives
- Avoid overly confrontational behavior during games or events

Concerns regarding gameplay, coaching decisions, or league operations should be addressed through appropriate channels outside of active games or events.

Zero Tolerance for Physical Abuse

Any physical aggression—including pushing, shoving, threatening physical contact, or fighting—will result in:

- Immediate removal from the event
- Indefinite suspension pending review
- Possible removal from SVBSA activities
- Notification of law enforcement when appropriate

Reinstatement, if considered, may require a formal review before the SVBSA Discipline Committee.

Disciplinary Actions

SVBSA will review reported incidents and determine appropriate disciplinary action based on the severity, frequency, and circumstances of the behavior.

Possible disciplinary measures may include:

- Verbal or written warning
- Removal from an event or facility
- Game or event suspension

- Multi-game suspension
- Removal from coaching or volunteer roles
- Long-term or permanent suspension from SVBSA activities

Serious misconduct, including threatening or abusive behavior, may result in immediate suspension or removal without prior warning.

SVBSA reserves the right to impose disciplinary action at its discretion when necessary to protect the safety and integrity of league activities.

Reporting & Review Process

Incidents may be reported by umpires, coaches, parents, spectators, volunteers, or board members.

Reports may be submitted to SVBSA leadership at: **SVBSA.President@gmail.com**

Reported incidents will be reviewed by the SVBSA Discipline Committee.

Individuals subject to discipline may be required to participate in a review or hearing before reinstatement.

SVBSA strictly prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports misconduct in good faith.

Constructive Feedback & Conflict Resolution

SVBSA encourages concerns and feedback to be addressed respectfully and through appropriate league channels rather than during games or events.

Feedback regarding league operations, coaching decisions, or conduct may be submitted to the SVBSA Board for review.

Acknowledgment

Participation in SVBSA activities constitutes agreement to comply with this Zero Tolerance Policy. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in disciplinary action regardless of role, tenure, or prior involvement with the association.

SVBSA thanks all players, families, volunteers, and community members for helping create a safe, respectful, and positive environment for youth sports.