Because of the physical and verbal abuse taking place at youth sporting events across the country, many organizations have chosen to adopt a Zero Tolerance Policy towards abusive behavior. The Exeter Parks & Recreation Department has decided to take a proactive approach and adopt the following measures:

 It is the responsibility of ALL coaches, players, parents, relatives, siblings, and other spectators to maintain the highest standards of conduct for their behavior at all EPRD sporting events including, but not limited to, practices, games, and tournaments. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, and other behaviors detrimental to the sporting event will not be tolerated.

It is the responsibility of ALL present to support the presiding official of that particular sport, i.e.: referees, umpires, officials, etc. There will be absolutely NO YELLING OR BELITTLING of these presiding officials. In addition, there will be no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation of any kind towards the presiding officials. Failure to follow these simple instructions will undermine the official’s authority and has the potential to lead to a hostile environment for players, officials, and all other participants and spectators.

It is the understanding of any parent that chooses to have their child participate in EPRD events that these simple guidelines MUST BE FOLLOWED.

Penalties:

1. Any minor infraction: A verbal request or warning will be given by a coach, referee, gym/field supervisor, or Exeter Parks & Recreation Staff and it is expected that the reason for the warning will stop immediately.
2. Subsequent infractions: The offending person or player will be asked to leave the playing field area immediately until the next scheduled event. The Exeter Parks & Recreation Department and its Recreation Advisory Board members reserve the right to take further action depending on the severity of the situation.
3. Serious or consistent infractions: EPRD reserves the right to take action as it deems necessary up to and including permanent dismissal from the EPRD leagues and playing areas. Should anyone not comply with this ruling, the EPRD will seek assistance from the local Police department immediately.

Coaches: Coaches are the role models for our youth and will make an impression on the players for years to come. Coaches must demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field. “Coach” represents and symbolizes a leadership role in our community and a representative of EPRD at all competitions. Coaches are expected to:

* Insure and promote the safety of all participants.
* Respect the decision of coaches and officials
* No expletives, disparaging comments or derogatory remarks
* Control the behavior of the parents/fans during competitions
* Show respect to all players, parents, officials, and opponents
* Teach fair play &  Lead by example

Players: It is a privilege to play a sport, be on a team, and represent EPRD at various competitions. Therefore, players must follow the EPRD rules during all practices, games, tournaments, and other organized EPRD events. Players are expected to:

* Treat opponents, officials, and spectators with respect
* No expletives, disparaging comments or derogatory remarks
* Respect the decision of coaches and officials
* Show good sportsmanship by wining without boasting and losing without excuses

Spectators: EPRD is honored to have incredible parents and spectators. It is important to remember that the players respond to the actions and behaviors of the spectators. Spectators are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and show respect to all players, officials, and coaches. Spectators are also expected to:

* Not coach players from the sidelines during the game
* No expletives, disparaging comments or derogatory remarks
* Respect the decision of coaches and officials
* Do not criticize the officials or coaches
* Cheer and support all players regardless of the outcome
* Communicate with the coach and create a supportive environment
* Understand and respect the different roles of parents and coaches
* Understand that improper behavior at any event may result in a parent being asked to leave the field or event by a referee or other official and respect that action
* At all times show empathy for our young developing athletes

 ***The likelihood that our children***

 ***will realize positive sports value is greatly enhanced when***

***everyone shows good sportsmanship.***

Please review the Exeter Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Zero Tolerance policy with your participant. Adults and youth should exhibit the behavior outlined in the policy at all times while participating in all Exeter Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Leagues.

