

Southborough Youth Basketball Association ZERO Tolerance Policy

The Southborough Youth Basketball Association (SYBA) exists to provide a positive and constructive basketball experience for all participants. Its goals include providing an enjoyable experience for coaches, players, and parents; developing positive traits of sportsmanship; and promoting goodwill between and among players and teams that compete in SYBA basketball programs. In order to promote these objectives and provide a positive example for children, SYBA has created this ZERO Tolerance Policy. The policy is mandatory for all participants in any SYBA program and must be followed at all times.

SYBA will not tolerate behaviors by players, coaches or parents that run counter to its goals. Coaches, players and spectators are expected to display courtesy and good sportsmanship at all times. The following rules apply at all events and to all SYBA participants.

1. Basketball Officials – Referees are the sole persons on the basketball floor empowered to make calls and interpret basketball rules. No person may, at any time, argue with referees, either during the game or after it concludes.
2. Technical Fouls – Any player or coach who receives more than one technical foul during the basketball season will be suspended from play for anywhere from one game to the remainder of the season. SYBA reserves the right to suspend or take other action against players or coaches who receive a single technical foul.
3. Players and Coaches – Disrespectful behavior towards players, coaches, referees or spectators is strictly prohibited. Good sportsmanship must be displayed at all times. No use of inappropriate language of any sort is permitted. Players and coaches are expected to line up and shake hands with opponents after every game.
4. Spectators – Yelling at or to players, coaches and referees from the stands is strictly prohibited. Spectators may not approach coaches or instruct players during the game or coach from the stands.
5. Gym Rules – All rules of gymnasiums must be followed at all times. Players, coaches and spectators must familiarize themselves with the rules, which may vary from gym to gym.

Coaches and referees are the primary monitors of these rules and are empowered to enforce them. Coaches are expected to maintain high behavioral standards and to regulate the behaviors of players and spectators consistent with this policy. Any violation of these rules will be referred to the SYBA Board of Directors for review and corrective action that will include the following.

Coaches – A single violation by a coach may result in discipline ranging from a warning to suspension and/or removal from coaching duties for the remainder of the season. Second offenses will result in suspension. Suspended coaches may not participate in games or practices.

Players – Violations will result in a warning not to repeat the prohibited behavior. A second offense will result in removal from the game and a one-game suspension from play. Any subsequent offense will be reviewed by the SYBA Board of Directors and could result in suspension from play for the remainder of the season and/or any subsequent season. Suspended players may not participate in games or practices.

Spectators – First violations will be met with a warning that the behavior must stop and cannot be repeated. A second offense may result in immediate removal from the gymnasium and review by SYBA for further disciplinary action. In cases where removal becomes necessary, play on the floor will be stopped until the spectator involved leaves the gym.

Coaches, parents and others are encouraged to report any violations of these rules to SYBA's president or other member of the Board of Directors. The identity of persons making reports will be protected to the greatest extent possible. Anonymous reports or complaints will not, however, be recognized by SYBA. All reports, questions or comments should be directed to SYBA's president, Jeff Cullen, by email: jeffcullen@yahoo.com