



Dalton Parks and Recreation Zero Tolerance Policy

The goal of Dalton Parks and Recreation Department (DPRD) is to provide a fun, safe, positive, and supportive atmosphere for the players, coaches, and spectators of DPRD athletic events. Due to the increase of unsportsmanlike conduct and actions at our youth sporting events, DPRD has taken a proactive, no tolerance stance towards any unsportsmanlike conduct. Any participant, coach, spectator, or official may be disqualified from future participation in DPRD's athletic programs for any unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes, but is not limited to, booing, shouting at officials, or arguing calls. Expressing ANY negative behavior or comments, threats, or obscene gestures to players, coaches, officials or other spectators is also unacceptable.

Cheering in a positive fashion, for both sides, is highly encouraged. We are a recreational league with fundamentals and fun as our primary emphases. All coaches are volunteers, and we should all appreciate their time and efforts. Our officials will be treated with respect. Officiating youth sports is a low paying, selfless profession. All spectators should support the coaches and officials.

Any participant, coach, spectator, or official who does not behave appropriately, as stated in the Zero Tolerance Policy, will be asked to leave the sporting event according to the following steps:

1. Officials/DPRD Staff will identify violator(s)
2. Officials/DPRD Staff will approach the violator(s) and may give a warning, or ask the person to leave
3. If the decision is made for the violator(s) to leave, play will not resume until they have left the facility
 - a. If they refuse to leave the facility, the police will be called and the game may be forfeited

The following will be the consequences for violating the Zero Tolerance Policy:

1st Offense – the participant, coach, spectator, or official will be suspended for the remainder of the game and the next scheduled game or make-up game. The suspended coach or spectator must come to DPRD and sign the Zero Tolerance Policy that will describe the second offense and punishment. The violator(s) cannot return until the Policy is signed.

2nd Offense – the participant, coach, spectator, or official will be suspended for the remainder of the game, and will be suspended for the next **SIX REGULAR SEASON GAMES**, post-season not included. For example, if an individual is suspended with four games remaining in the season, they will be suspended for those four games, plus the first two games of the next season in which their child participates. They will not be able to attend post season games, and post season games DO NOT count for the six-game suspension. The child of the violator(s) will not be able to return until the Zero Tolerance Policy is

signed. Once the policy is signed, the child is free to play; the violator(s) cannot return until the Policy is signed and the suspension has been fulfilled.

3rd Offense – the participant, coach, spectator, or official will be suspended for the remainder of that game and will be suspended for **ONE YEAR** from the date of the incident. The child of the violator(s) will not be able to return until the Zero Tolerance Policy is signed. Once the policy is signed, the child is free to play; the violator(s) cannot return until the Policy is signed and the suspension has been fulfilled.

The following will be the consequences for engaging in a physical altercation with a participant, coach, spectator, or official:

1st Offense – the participant, coach, spectator, or official will be suspended from all scheduled events at Dalton Parks and Recreation facilities for **ONE YEAR**. The violator(s) must come in and sign the Zero Tolerance Policy that will describe the second offense and punishment. The violator(s) cannot return until the Policy is signed.

2nd Offense – the participant, coach, spectator, or official will be suspended from all scheduled events at Dalton Parks and Recreation facilities for an unlimited duration. This will include all programs and non-program events at DPRD facilities. The violator(s) must come in and sign the Zero Tolerance Policy that will describe the second offense and punishment.

In addition to their respective suspensions, violator(s) will be required to complete a sportsmanship training provided by DPRD prior to returning.

Each offense will have a probationary period of ONE YEAR starting on the date of the incident. If a violator(s) commits two offenses within the same year, the new probationary period will begin on the date of the second offense.

All violations must be reported to Dalton Parks and Recreation. All reports will be investigated and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Zero Tolerance Policy. All suspensions are subject to review by the DPRD Director and/or the Recreation Commission. The Recreation Commission reserves the right to alter any suspension.