

EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT

Definition of Harassment

Harassment is defined as any unwanted or unwelcome and action that annoys, demeans, threatens, or offends someone else.

Examples of Harassment

- A player or players throwing baseballs repeatedly at another player while they are not looking.
- A player where players making negative comments towards another athlete about their gender, disability, religion, race, or sexual orientation.
- A coach or parent yelling at a player from the dugout or stands while the player is on the field, demeaning the player.

Effects of Harassment

Athletes who are being harassed may exhibit the following:

- Missed practice/s
- Loss of interest in the sport
- Signs of depression and anxiety
- Health complaints
- Decline in performance
- Lack of enjoyment
- Decline of work or school life, academic achievement, and physical and mental health
- Withdrawal from teammates, friends, or team activities

Preventing and responding to harassment

The prevention of harassment comes from a zero-tolerance policy led by the organization and the coaching staffs that helps to establish a culture that does not participate in this type of activity. Coaches and staff should institute a zero-tolerance policy for any form of harassment behavior between players, coaches, parents and other administrators. All accusations should be taken seriously, and appropriate disciplinary actions should be taken against the perpetrator and support given to the victim.

Physical Misconduct

Definition of Physical Misconduct

Physical misconduct is defined as behavior, contact or non-contact that causes physical harm to an athlete.

Examples of Physical Misconduct

- A coach forcing a concussed athlete to play before clearance of a medical professional.
- A coach or player purposefully hitting another player with a bat.
- A coach or player purposely striking a ball against another player.
- A coach or parent denying water breaks for adequate hydration.

Effects of Physical Misconduct

Athletes who are experiencing or who have experienced physical misconduct may exhibit the following

- Mental health disorders
- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Anxiety
- Low self esteem
- Pain and medical problems from physical injury
- Signs of physical injuries such as bruises or scrapes
- ADHD
- Hostility towards others
- Insomnia and sleep deprivation

Preventing and Responding To Physical Misconduct

The prevention of physical misconduct comes from a zero tolerance policy led by the organization and the coaching staffs that helps to establish a culture that does not participate in this type of activity. Coaches and staff should institute a zero-tolerance policy for any form of physical misconduct behavior between players, coaches, parents and other administrators. Coaches should create a culture that is safe and fun for all athletes, where winning is not the end all be all. Leagues and coaches should also remove the bad actors from the league or team if they are exhibiting physical misconduct. If there is an act of physical misconduct, it should be reported to authorities immediately. If the physical misconduct is carried out by a coach or a parent, those in attendance have the responsibility to contact the appropriate authority.

Remember, reporting suspicion or disclosure of abuse to authorities is absolutely mandatory within 24 hours of acknowledgement of the situation. No matter if you are sure whether or not the allegation is true, you must always make the report so that precautionary measures can be taken to protect the victim and keep them safe. When reporting suspicion or disclosure of abuse, be prepared to provide authorities with as much information as you can.

This excerpt is from www.sportdev.org. It contains many other forms of abuse. If you are part of the Little League organization or are a parent of a child who plays Little League and you would like to take this course, please send an email to JeffFrese.umpire@gmail.com to gain free access to the course.