



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Sports Violence Prevention Policy

The opportunity to participate in, coach or attend public recreational sports programs is a right guaranteed to all citizens. However, continued participation in or attendance at such programs is a privilege based on each individual's conforming to the expected standard of behavior outlined in this policy.

All players, managers, team attendants and spectators at sports activities conducted by the Findlay Recreation Department and Findlay's volunteer sports organizations shall be expected to conduct themselves as privileged participants. It is not the intent of these rules to prohibit anyone from participation, but to clearly define and explain what is expected, and what are considered unacceptable and intolerable behaviors, in hopes that no person displays any behavior that may lead to their removal from any program.

The Findlay Parks and Recreation Board is committed to providing safe, enjoyable sports opportunities for all persons who attend, participate or officiate in programs offered by the Recreation Department and Findlay's volunteer sports organizations. To achieve this goal, it is the intent of this policy to provide opportunities free from any and all violent acts and/or threats of physical violence.

On May 14, 2001, the Findlay Parks and Recreation Board gave its approval to the requirement that all sports organizations that scheduled activities on City of Findlay and/or Findlay City School properties implement a policy of zero tolerance toward sports related violence. Furthermore, the Board directed the Recreation Supervisor to develop and enforce said policy on city and school properties.

Distribution of the Policy.

All volunteer sports organizations permitted to use City or City School property shall endorse this policy as a part of their guidelines or by-laws. Failure to enforce this policy may result in loss of granted rights to any use of City or City School facilities.

Organizations shall see that all coaches receive a copy of this policy. Coaches are responsible for the actions of all team members, attendants and spectators and shall be responsible for informing all players, attendants and spectators regarding the content and intent of this policy. Ignorance will not be a justified excuse for any violations.

Definitions

- Acts of Violence: including, but not specifically limited to acts of physical assault and / or property damage as described herein
- Physical Attack: any unwanted or hostile physical contact such as, but not limited to hitting, fighting, pushing, shoving, kicking, spitting or throwing objects.
- Intimidation: includes, but is not limited to actual direct physical threats, stalking, or engaging in any actions intended to frighten or cause fear for one's safety

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Sports Violence Prevention Policy

Definitions (cont.)

- **Property Damage:** intentional damage to property owned by the city, schools, the organization, other participants, officials or spectators
- **Zero Tolerance:** violations will not be tolerated and will result in severe disciplinary action including immediate and possible permanent suspension from further program participation.

Prohibited Behaviors

IMPORTANT NOTE: Controversies will occur during athletic contests that may result in an immediate emotional and/or physical reaction or response by the involved participants. These "game situations" can best be controlled by the sponsoring volunteer organizations, as has been, and is presently the case.

This particular policy shall apply specifically to acts of violence that occur outside the normal on-field playing of the scheduled activity, i.e. behaviors that occur on the field or sidelines, in the stands, the parking lot or elsewhere, either during or following the game that are not an immediate emotional reaction among players to a game situation.

Behaviors that are prohibited by this policy and subject to the "zero tolerance" as defined herein, as concerning the behavior of participants, game officials, coaches, team attendants, spectators, as well as any non-participating attendees, toward other participants, game officials, coaches, team attendants, spectators, organization or city representative and sub-contractors shall include, but are not limited to:

- **Any unwanted physical attack or contact** including but not limited to hitting, slapping, shoving, fighting, grabbing, kicking, or spitting at or on an individual.
- **Intentional destruction or damage to property** owned by the City of Findlay, Findlay City Schools, the organization or any individual.
- **Making harassing or threatening** telephone calls, letters, e-mails or other forms of verbal, written or electronic communications.
- **Harassing surveillance** (stalking), which is the intentional and malicious following of another person, which may or may not include making a credible threat, with intent to place the other person in reasonable fear for their safety.
- Unauthorized possession or inappropriate **possession or use of firearms, weapons**, or any other dangerous devices on City or Schools property.

Policy Parameters

- on City of Findlay or City Schools property during activities scheduled by the City and/or any of the volunteer youth sports organizations.
- on City or Schools property during activities not officially scheduled by, but involving participants of any of the volunteer youth sports organizations.
- away from City or Schools property but directly resulting from and involving participants of any of the volunteer sports organization activities

Sports Violence Prevention Policy (cont.)

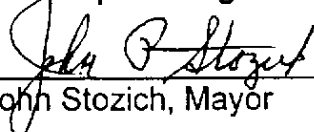
Disciplinary Action Administered by the Sponsoring Sports Organization

1. Any player, coach, team attendant or spectator removed from a game by an official for any reason must leave the park or school property immediately and shall be suspended for a period of time *to be determined by the sponsoring organization*. Failure to leave the area may result in further suspension.
2. Any participant involved in a fight or other act of violence with another participant shall be suspended for a period of time *to be determined by the sponsoring organization*.


Disciplinary Action Administered by the City of Findlay Department of Recreation

1. Any person(s) intentionally damaging or destroying property shall serve a minimum of a one (1) year suspension from the date of the incident and shall be required to pay for damages before participating following the suspension.
2. Any player, game official, coach, team attendant or spectator willfully involved in any act of violence as defined by this policy toward another player, game official, coach, team attendant, spectator, organization or city representative shall serve a minimum of a one (1) year suspension from the date of the incident, even if first offense. Second offense may result in permanent suspension.
3. Suspended individual(s) are prohibited from attending activities scheduled by the organization responsible for the event which ultimately resulted in said person(s) suspension. Failure to obey this condition of suspension shall result in additional disciplinary action and/or criminal trespassing charges.
4. Persons who are victims of, or who witness acts of violence as defined by this policy should contact the Findlay Recreation Department, 424-7176.
5. Additionally, the Findlay Police Department can be called, and criminal charges can legally be filed against any person who violates this policy.
6. Persons accused of violating this policy shall receive full due process, including opportunity to prepare present a response to any charges, to attend a hearing, and to appeal any findings.

The Findlay Parks and Recreation Board and the Findlay Recreation Department reserve the right to make any decisions deemed necessary, whether or not covered by this policy, to insure the continued safe operation of all youth and adult sports programs administered by the City or any of Findlay's volunteer youth sports organizations and scheduled on City or City Schools property .



John Stozich, Mayor



Robert Ruse, Service Safety Director
Chairman, Parks and Recreation Board