



Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.
586 Middletown Blvd. Suite C-100 ▪ Langhorne ▪ PA ▪ 19047
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Association Contacts
Cc: League Contacts
Regional Administrators
FROM: Wynn Jessup, Chairman, National Board of Directors, Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.
DATE: January, 2005
SUBJECT: Parental Behavior

The National Board of Directors of Pop Warner has discussed with increasing concern the number and severity of incidents of parental violence and misbehavior in youth sports.

We unanimously endorse parent meetings and parental education in all local Pop Warner Associations. We strongly recommend that every Pop Warner Association have at least one pre-season, or early season, meeting with parents of all participants.

Pop Warner Leagues, and their member Associations, should make clear that some behavior is unacceptable, and that there are consequences for such inappropriate actions. At the minimum, unacceptable behavior includes profanity, obscene gestures, verbal threats and physically threatening action.

All of us are aware of the tragic death of the hockey dad in suburban Boston. None of us want to see any violent or profane occurrences in Pop Warner. If not already detailed, each Pop Warner League should include in their By-Laws one or more policies that specify possible penalties for unacceptable behavior. Such penalties may include banning from practices and competitions of any parent(s) or other adult guilty of unacceptable behavior. In some rare cases, it may be necessary to prohibit participation of a child in Pop Warner due to repeated instances of inappropriate actions or words by a parent, guardian or family member. An example of such language is enclosed.

Several states have enacted laws that elevated any act of violence at a youth sports event to felony level. This is a growing and disturbing situation that all of us must manage.

It is sad and unfortunate that bad behavior has reached this level. As a Board of Directors, we want all of you to be proactive in dealing with this inflammatory issue. Let us all make our best efforts to allow the children in Pop Warner to have fun without rude or intimidating interruptions from parents and adults.



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Proposed Pop Warner League/Conference Bylaw addition or change:

Adult Behavior:

1. At any Pop Warner event, practice or competition, any adult who: 1) verbally abuses; 2) attempts to intimidate; 3) is flagrantly rude, or, 4) cannot control their language or actions with an official, coach, or Pop Warner volunteer will be asked to leave the Pop Warner event. He or she will receive a written warning regarding their behavior. His or her child(ren) will be immediately removed from the Pop Warner event.
2. Any adult that commits a second similar offense will be banned from Pop Warner events for the remainder of that season and their child(ren) removed from Pop Warner for the remainder of that season. Association will refund registration monies pro-rated based on the percentage of the season remaining.
3. Any adult who physically assaults an official, coach or Pop Warner volunteer will be banned from Pop Warner and their child removed from the Pop Warner program for one year from the date of the offense. The child(ren) may not participate in another Pop Warner Association during the sanction period. After one year, the parent may apply for re-instatement of his or her child. If the adult commits a second offense, he or she will be permanently banned from Pop Warner and the child(ren) permanently removed from Pop Warner.

The term physical assault includes, but is not limited to: hitting, slapping, pushing, spitting, kicking or striking in any way with any part of the body or any physical implement.