



## Wilson Youth Softball Anti-Bullying Policy

Liberty-Wilson Youth Softball (LYS) has adopted an anti-bullying policy due to the negative effects that bullying has on our youth. This policy overview is intended to guide all Coaches, Players, Umpires, Volunteers, Parents, Guardians, and Spectators on their behavior at LYS games, practices, events, and fields. Bullying not only leads to anxiety and low self-esteem in youth who are targeted, but it also causes other youth to feel unsafe. Youth of all ages deserve the right to feel safe and supported by all coaches, players, umpires, volunteers, and parents.

By raising awareness throughout our league, LYS participants can work together to ensure that our organization is a place that youth and parents feel welcomed and included.

**Bullying:** Bullying involves behavior by one person or a group of people with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate, or intimidate another person during league games, practices and events.

*Verbal bullying* involves repetitious behavior and includes the use of words and gestures.

*Emotional bullying* involves rejection, terrorizing, extorting, humiliating, rating/ranking personal characteristics such as race, disability, ethnicity, or perceived sexual orientation.

*Physical bullying* can include a single incident of pushing, hitting, or kicking a person or interfering with their property.

LYS officials may address bullying which occurs outside of the LYS setting only if such conduct markedly interrupts or severely impedes the purposes of LYS.

No amount of bullying is acceptable.

**Report Bullying:** If you are being bullied, or know of someone being bullied, you must tell a team manager, coach, player agent, commissioner, or the President of LYB as soon as possible.

All parents are expected to discuss bullying and LYS's anti-bullying policy with their children.

Consequences of Bullying:

1. If a person involved in the league (including players, parents, and spectators) has taken part in bullying behavior, a warning will be given to that individual. If a player is involved in the bullying, his/her coach is expected to issue this warning to the player individually (presence of the player's parents is at the discretion of the coach) and alert the parent of the issue warning.
2. If the bullying continues or there is a second incident, that player may be disciplined by the coach at the coach's discretion given the circumstances. Such discipline may include, but is not limited to suspension for all or part of a game, or exclusion from the fields. Coaches must report this occurrence to their Commissioner immediately.
3. Any further incidents will be referred to the LYS Committee for further action. Such disciplinary action may include additional warnings, discussions with parent/guardians, further suspensions or exclusions, or permanent removal from the league and reporting to law enforcement.

I have read the "Liberty-Wilson Youth Softball Anti-Bullying Policy" and understand the negative effects of bullying, the consequences of bullying and how to report bullying.

Player: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_