

**DATE: November 25, 2022**

**TO:** EYBA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Jay Ouellette  
President / Edmonton Youth Basketball Association

**SUBJECT: CONCERNS, COMMUNITY SPIRIT, LEAGUE EXPECTATIONS, & ZERO TOLERANCE**

Dear valued member,

**Be sure to read this in its entirety, as it contains important information that will have a direct impact on all EYBA participants.**

As leaders in the basketball community, we are continually trusted to be the voices of reason and to conduct ourselves in an ethical manner that ensures the decisions we make are in the best interest of the community and the sport. It is imperative that while we work as a collective to achieve these goals we always maintain a high standard of respect and professionalism towards each other. Setting an example for our youth.

We have had an alarming number of discipline reports come in as the season progresses. Primarily reports coming from our U11 division. That being said, that does not minimize the gravity of behavioural problems we are having at all levels. What is most concerning is that 90% of the reports we receive involve coaches and spectators.

- Harassing officials and players with foul language
- Displays of poor sportsmanship, i.e., cheering when kids have been hurt and laying on the floor
- Coaches intentionally running up scores against teams, teams clearly weaker in development
- Coaches failing to reign in players who are taunting, over celebrating with rude gestures
- Teams failing to show any class when winning by large margins

This is all behaviour unbecoming community spirit. To be frank, it is appalling. It is unfortunate that this type of behaviour is celebrated all over social media, and in pro sports. I wish to remind everyone it is has never been acceptable in the EYBA.

**Coaches, Teams, opposing and alike should be working together to maintain the integrity of the game at all levels. It is never acceptable to embarrass another team. The kids and parents on the other team are just like you! They are just sitting on the other side of the gym.**

It is our jobs as mentors to prepare these kids for society. Teach them how to be good people in the community. Minor sports have always been about more than the game. Its about teaching life skills that will allow them to succeed. This is not about having a coach's name at the top of the standings, winning a \$2.00 medal or trophy, and it is most definitely not about belittling or berating anyone at any time. It is simply unacceptable.

**EYBA non-negotiable values:**

- Value the development of life skills, and self-discipline

- Teach athletes to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity
- Putting team before self
- Persevering through adversity
- Compete with respect and dignity
- Provide a safe and welcoming environment to all participants
- Equal opportunity for all participants to play
- Respect for teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents.
- Value and encourage volunteer participation in our organization
- Foster a life-long love of the game

**How do we as coaches and volunteers help maintain these values when winning by large margins?**

- Stop fast breaking
- Allow opponent to get across half, implement steals on passes only
- Focus on offensive and defensive concepts
- Encourage more passing
- Have players encourage opponents who are clearly struggling
- Large Leads = equal playing time for all on your team, possibly more time for those who struggle
- Continually communicate with your teams' spectators about what is acceptable behaviour
- *Hold all associated with your team accountable to demonstrate the values mentioned above*

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY IN EFFECT**

This is notice to all organizations, coaches, players, officials, and spectators that our ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY is effective immediately. The EYBA is partnering with our officials to enforce this policy.

This means any coach, player, or spectator may be removed without warning for behaviour deemed unacceptable. Officials have been instructed to stop games if those asked to leave remain or dispute the ejection. **EYBA has notified the EBOA officials and executive about teams and individuals we have concern to be repeat offenders. Meaning monitors will be sent to future games, and further disciplinary action may be taken if poor conduct persists.**

We thank you in advance for your continued support.

Best regards,



Jay Ouellette  
President  
Edmonton Youth Basketball Association.

