



Manager & Coaches Decorum

On-Field Decorum Means Keeping Your Cool - Little League

Remember, you are not a Little League coach or manager just for fun, or just to pursue wins and develop players' skills. You are there to cultivate in impressionable and vulnerable youth the core Little League traits of Character, Courage and Loyalty.

It is more a matter of what example you want to set for your players and their parents. Yes, you must set an example for the parents, so they do not come unhinged at games and ruin their child's experience, and so they do maintain their own credibility as character educators for their children.

Internalizing takes time, plenty of experience, and a few failures (or more than a few). If your reason for joining Little League was "for the kids," then it is easy for you to accept that it is most important to put your players' development as people first – before any concerns over objectionable calls from umpires or questionable sportsmanship from an opponent. You will need to be patient with yourself and persistent in striving for the ideal.

Umpire Abuse Policy

In 2026, NLLL will implement a zero-tolerance policy related to any form of abuse against any NLLL umpire, consistent with Little League International's abuse awareness policy. This means that coaches will be ejected from the complex if this occurs. If a coach is ejected from a game, they will also be suspended for the following game and the Board will determine if additional penalties, including expulsion, is appropriate.

If a team manager argues an umpire's call, either judgment or rules violation, the first offense will result in a verbal warning. If the behavior continues, the umpire will rule that the *team manager* must remain in the dugout. This extends per team coaching staff. If the issue is with an assistant coach, the *team manager* is still relegated to the dugout. Additionally, in cases when the team manager is relegated to the dugout the umpires will contact a board member to document the issue. If further issues arise, the coach will be ejected from the complex and be subject to suspension.

Two ejections may result in Board review for team manager expulsion from Northern Lights Little League.

In agreeing to participate in the 2026 NLLL program, you are agreeing that you understand and will abide by this policy.

Code of Conduct: Coaches & Managers

- I will strive to win, but never at the expense of sportsmanship or the well-being of my players.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will follow the Little League requirements related to player playing time.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I will not yell at or verbally abuse any umpire before, during, or after the game.
- I acknowledge that umpires are humans and will make mistakes, but we as a league and a team will move on from these mistakes.
- I will follow and promote all health and safety procedures set forth by the league, field providers, and the local health department.
- I will promise to uphold the integrity and spirit of Little League at all times.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
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- I will follow and promote all health and safety procedures set forth by the league, field providers, and the local health department.
- I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
- I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will treat the facilities, including the fields, with respect and not damage them. This includes no soft toss against any of the fences.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules and I will teach these rules to my players. I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills I teach. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for the children and not the adults.

Coaching Responsibilities

1. Contact your team immediately after receiving your roster. Here are some ideas of what you can include:
 - a. Introduce yourself and your qualifications.
 - b. Introduce your assistant.
 - c. Tell when and where practices are.
 - d. Give tips for what to wear and bring.
 - e. Share how parents can be helpful at practices
 - f. Share any pertinent league information.
 - g. Share your goal(s) for the season.
2. You are responsible for your team:
 - a. Lead and prepare for each practice. Have a plan so that you maximize your time. Be the first to arrive.
 - b. Attend/lead every game.

- c. Meet after the games and talk about what your team did well and what your team needs to improve on.
 - d. Weather or Absence: plan to have your assistant or a parent fill in if you cannot be there. WE DO NOT CANCEL PRACTICES unless there is a weather event that forces us to cancel the entire league's practices.
- 3. Weekly Communication (Several apps that make this easy)
 - a. Reminder of game times and location
 - c. Who has snacks
 - d. Practice time/place/etc.
- 4. Safety
 - a. Always have another adult or parent at practice with you. Never be 1 on 1 with a Child. This is for your safety and liability.
 - b. Injuries: Communicate with parents / board members present. If it is serious, call 911.
- 5. Growth
 - a. Prepare for practices. Help your players grow in skills, leadership, and character!
- 6. You are in charge of your parents and fans!
 - a. You set the tone. They will follow your lead.
 - b. Referees and Zero Tolerance Policy: Remember that our umpires are human too. Some of our umpires are still young and learning. They will not be perfect. Treat them with respect and appreciation that they are willing to referee. Expect your fans and players to do the same.