

LOS GATOS LITTLE LEAGUE DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Los Gatos Little League expects all participants to exhibit exemplary conduct both on and off the field, but especially during any LGLL, associated activity.

In accordance with Article IX, Section 5(a) of the LGLL Constitution and Bylaws, the Board of Directors hereby establishes the Protest and Disciplinary Sub-Committee and adopts the following disciplinary procedures.

Filing a Complaint

Any participant who witnesses or experiences a violation of this Code of Conduct may file a complaint with any LGLL Board member. Complaints should be submitted in writing whenever possible. Anonymous complaints cannot result in formal disciplinary action.

1. All complaints will be forwarded to the LGLL President.
2. If the complaint involves the President, it will be forwarded to the Vice President, who will assume the President's role in all proceedings.
3. The President may resolve the complaint directly or refer it to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
4. All individuals accused of a violation will be informed of the complaint and given the opportunity to respond before any formal action is taken.
5. Pending review, the President may suspend any manager, coach, parent, volunteer, or player from participation if circumstances warrant immediate action.

The Disciplinary Sub-Committee

As authorized by Article IX, Section 5(a) of the LGLL Constitution, the Protest and Disciplinary Sub-Committee is hereby established. Its members shall be:

1. The LGLL President
2. An LGLL VP
3. At least one Player Agent
4. The Chief Umpire
5. The Coaching and Clinics Director

If a complaint directly involves the child of a required Sub-Committee member, that member must recuse themselves and the President shall appoint a Board replacement. All proceedings are strictly confidential. The Sub-Committee will act as expeditiously as possible, present its recommended action to the President, who will then bring it to the full Board of Directors for approval. A written summary of any formal action will be delivered to the subject of the complaint via email, U.S. mail, or other confirmed means.

Severity Classification

The Sub-Committee will classify each violation by severity based on the nature of the conduct, the context, the intent, and the impact on those involved. The Board recognizes that circumstances vary

and retains discretion to adjust classifications where the facts warrant. The examples below are illustrative, not exhaustive.

Minor Violations Disruptive or unsportsmanlike conduct that does not create a hostile, threatening, or discriminatory environment. Examples include arguing with an umpire, inappropriate sideline commentary, or an isolated use of profanity not directed at an individual. The Board may exercise discretion to treat a Minor violation as a Major violation if the context, pattern of behavior, or impact on others warrants a stronger response.

Major Violations Conduct that materially disrupts a game or causes harm to participants. Examples include verbal abuse directed at a specific individual, persistent sideline interference, threats, or repeated minor violations. The Board may exercise discretion to escalate or de-escalate classification based on the full circumstances, including whether the behavior was isolated, provoked, or part of an ongoing pattern.

Severe Violations Severe conduct that harms, discriminates, or endangers the physical or emotional safety of any participant. Examples include physical altercations, directed use of racial slurs or hate speech, sexual harassment, or conduct directed at a child in a threatening or demeaning manner. Severe violations may result in immediate expulsion regardless of prior history. Given the serious nature of these violations, downward reclassification by the Board requires a documented rationale and majority vote.

Three-Strike Escalation Policy

The following framework provides a structured starting point for disciplinary decisions. The Board and Sub-Committee retain discretion to adjust penalties within each strike level based on the specific facts, context, and any mitigating or aggravating circumstances. All decisions will be made in good faith with the goal of fairness, consistency, and the best interests of the league and its participants.

Strike 1 — First Violation

- Minor: Formal written warning. The Board may, at its discretion, substitute a verbal warning for a first-time Minor violation where circumstances suggest it is more appropriate.
- Major: Suspension from 1 to 3 games, including all associated practices and LGLL events during that period. The Board may adjust the length of suspension based on severity of the specific incident.
- Severe: Suspension for the remainder of the season, or expulsion. The Board retains full discretion on the appropriate penalty given the nature of the conduct.

Strike 2 — Second Violation

- Minor: Suspension from 1 to 3 games, including all associated practices and LGLL events during that period. The Board may consider mitigating factors such as time elapsed since the first violation or demonstrated good-faith effort to improve conduct.
- Major: Suspension for the remainder of the season. The Board may adjust duration based on the circumstances of each violation.
- Severe: Expulsion. Board discretion applies only in extraordinary circumstances and requires a documented rationale and majority vote.

Strike 3 — Third Violation

- Any severity: Expulsion from the league for the remainder of the season, subject to Board review for future participation. The Board retains discretion to consider the totality of circumstances, including the severity and timing of each violation, before a final determination is made.

Important: Expulsion is available after any single violation if the severity warrants it. The Sub-Committee and Board are not required to exhaust prior strikes before recommending expulsion for conduct that is discriminatory, threatening, or endangers participant safety. Conversely, the Board may determine that a lesser penalty is appropriate in cases where all relevant facts, context, and mitigating circumstances support a different outcome. All discretionary decisions will be documented in writing and maintained in the league's disciplinary records.

Strike Carryover Policy

Strikes do not reset at the end of a season. A participant who accumulates violations over multiple seasons is subject to the full escalation framework based on their cumulative record. The following carryover rules apply by severity:

Minor Violations

A Minor violation will expire from a participant's record after two full consecutive seasons with no additional violations of any severity. The expiration clock begins at the end of the season in which the violation was issued. The Board retains discretion to weigh whether the two-season period requires active participation in those seasons or is calendar-based, depending on the circumstances.

Major Violations

Major violations carry permanently on a participant's record. The Board retains discretion to consider the age of a Major violation as a mitigating factor when determining the appropriate response to a subsequent infraction, but is not required to do so.

Severe Violations

Severe violations carry permanently on a participant's record with no expiration and no Board discretion to discount their weight in future proceedings.

Mid-Season Timing

Any strike issued during a season is considered active and on record at the start of the following season, regardless of when during that season it was issued. A participant who receives a strike in the final week of a season carries that strike into the next season at full effect.

Record Keeping

The LGLL Secretary shall maintain all disciplinary records in accordance with their recordkeeping duties under Article VII, Section 4 of the LGLL Constitution. Records are confidential and available only to the Board of Directors and the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. Participants are not proactively notified when a Minor violation expires, but may inquire about their record status with the President at any time.

Suspension Terms

Any suspended participant is prohibited from being present at any LGLL event or function during the suspension period. This includes dugouts, spectator areas, bleachers, outfield spaces, and any LGLL-affiliated location during games or practices. Violations of suspension terms will be treated as a separate additional infraction.

Board Authority — Article III, Section 4(a)

The following language is reproduced directly from the LGLL Constitution and Bylaws and governs all disciplinary proceedings:

"The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of those present at any duly constituted Board meeting, shall have the authority to discipline or suspend or terminate the membership of any Member of any class, including managers and coaches, when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the best interests of the Local League and/or Little League Baseball, Incorporated. The Member involved shall be notified of such meeting, informed of the general nature of the charges and given an opportunity to appear at the meeting to answer such charges."

In the case of a Player Member, the Board shall give notice to the team manager, who shall appear in an advisory capacity alongside the player. The player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may also be present. The Board has full power to suspend or revoke the player's right to future participation by a two-thirds vote of those present at any duly constituted meeting (Article III, Section 4(b)).

Season-Long Removal

Any action resulting in removal for the remainder of the season requires approval by two-thirds of the LGLL Board of Directors at a duly constituted Board meeting. The subject of the action, or their parent or guardian if a minor, will be given the opportunity to address the Board before any vote is taken. Board members who are the subject of a complaint may not observe or participate in those proceedings.

In-Game Ejection Procedures

1. Any player ejected from an LGLL competition for misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior will be suspended per Little League Rules 4.07, 4.08, 9.01(a,d), 9.05(c), and Regulation XIV(a).
2. Any manager, coach, or administrator ejected for misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior will be suspended per Rules 4.06.1, 4.06.2, 4.07, 9.01(a,d), 9.05(c), and Regulation XIV(a).
3. Any fan or parent may be asked to leave the field by the team manager for misconduct. The umpire in charge may suspend play until the individual departs. If the individual refuses to leave, the umpire may end the game per Rule 4.15.5.

Ejection Reporting Requirements

1. All umpires present at an ejection must submit a written report to the LGLL Chief Umpire within 24 hours.

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2. Both team managers must submit a written report to the LGLL Board of Directors within 24 hours.
 3. Any LGLL Board member present must submit a written report to the Board within 24 hours.
 4. Per Little League International rules, any player, manager, or coach ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the next scheduled game, independent of this policy.
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Board Acknowledgment

The Los Gatos Little League Board of Directors adopts this Code of Conduct as the standard of behavior for all league participants.

LGLL President (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Approved by the Los Gatos Little League Board of Directors on April 6, 2026