

Hobe Sound Little League

Coaches Code of Conduct



Coaching a youth sport program such as Little League Baseball is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a Manager or Coach, appointed by the Hobe Sound Little League Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. Baseball and softball embody the discipline of teamwork. They challenge players towards perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball and softball also teaches that while every player eventually strikes out, or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, the league expects each manager and coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Sportsmanship

1. I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good baseball skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I realize, accept and will practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy and manners.
3. I understand verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the fields at the discretion of an umpire or board member.
4. I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
5. I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player yell at an umpire, coach, fan, or player. The lone exception to this rule is when a coach or player shouts to another coach or teammate during the course of a play as part of that play.
6. I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at a league complex.
7. I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all league games, including events outside the league's complex.
8. I understand the use of tobacco products on the fields and in the dugouts is prohibited.

Rules and Policies

1. I will know and understand the rules and abide by them (whether local or national). I will instruct my team members in the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.

2. I will adhere to all Little League safety guidelines from the Little League handbook and the league Safety Manual.
3. I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All coaches must ensure that each player gets minimum opportunities to bat and play the field in each game. I also understand that specific rules are also in place to limit the number and frequency of innings pitched by a particular player.
4. I will fully comply with the Player/Parents Code of Conduct.
5. I will review the league website on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all updated Little League and local league rules and policies.

The Umpires and Other Resources

1. I recognize baseball is a game of interpretations, and as a result, disputes will occur from time to time. However, it is important that players learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the umpire will be handled in a civil manner. I understand only managers may initiate such discussions with an umpire. The managers/coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the managers will make no further field protest. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Board of Directors per league policy.
2. I understand all of the umpires are "in training" as well as the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position within the game deserves.
3. I will be responsible for caring for equipment, for keys delegated for my use, for care of fields prior to games and for cleaning up fields, dugouts and stands after games in accordance with policies that the league may establish from time to time. I will make sure that all league provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.
4. I will be responsible for appointing a team parent to represent our team. This individual will be the liaison to league officials (i.e. concession stand manager, picture, uniform, and fundraising coordinators, etc...). The name and contact information for this individual will be due to the Board two weeks prior to opening day. A volunteer application will be required for this position.

The Parents and the League

1. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous manner.
2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of this league.
3. I will ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games. Players, managers and coaches of participating teams may not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged. I will make sure that coaches and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game.
4. I will support (through participation and organization of parents) the league in all fundraising

efforts and field improvement efforts along with other duties that may be assigned to teams from time to time.

The Team

1. I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
2. I will focus on providing instruction commensurate with players abilities so all players have the opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further baseball/softball competition.
3. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
4. I understand that managers are appointed by the league to be responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team in communications with the umpires, opposing teams and league. If a manager leaves the field, he shall designate a coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the manager's duties.

Non-Game Duties of Managers

Each manager has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games. Accordingly, if I am a Manager, I will adhere to the following as well:

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
2. I understand that teams may be required to provide qualified umpires for assigned games throughout the season. I understand that if assigned it is my responsibility to either umpire the game myself or find a qualified umpire (such as an assistant coach or a volunteer parent).
3. I will attend all required coaches meetings, safety and umpiring clinics unless I am out of town or have a significant previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.
4. I will complete, obtain and submit to the League all required paperwork, which will include Volunteer Applications and Player/Parent Code of Conduct forms.
5. I will make sure that I maintain a notebook containing the Player Medical Release Forms, the Local By-Laws and Rules and a copy of the National Little League rule book and make sure it is present at each team practice and game.
6. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and league officials. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.

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I, the undersigned, agree to follow the Code of Conduct and comply with all League rules, policies and procedures. I understand the violation of the Code will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action in accordance to the league By-Laws under Section V - Discipline, and could include a warning, game(s) suspension or season suspension, as well as impact my opportunity to manage or coach in future seasons. I further acknowledge the authority of the Board of Directors of Hobe Sound Little League and understand that if permitted to manage or coach I serve solely at the pleasure of the Board, whose permission may be revoked at any time. My failure to honor the authority of the Board and its members or to show them proper respect will be deemed to be a violation of this Code of Conduct. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to speak to some or all of the Board at any time and that if called my failure to attend could result in an immediate suspension. I understand that if I am suspended I will not be permitted to attend any league functions (practices, games, etc.).

Signature

Name (printed)

Date