

# Granada Little League Conduct Policy Letter

V1 January 2023

This policy letter from the Granada Little League (GLL) Executive Board of Directors provides information and expectations about conduct and states the current process for dealing with misconduct. The standards for conduct are stated in the Official Regulations and Playing Rules and policies of Little League Baseball™, the policies defined by Little League District 57 and in the GLL Code of Conduct.

**It is the responsibility of all Little League managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents, fans and players to know and abide by the code of conduct.**

## Conduct Committee

Each year a Conduct Committee (CC) is appointed by the League President. CC members are appointed for the year and are responsible for informing GLL participants of the expected, appropriate conduct at GLL. In any cases of misconduct, the GLL CC will suggest appropriate corrective actions according to the GLL Disciplinary Action Plan. The GLL CC will be made up of 3 members; one general board member, one executive board member and the current GLL president.

When any conduct related problem is brought to the attention of any league official the CC should be notified and the following process will be used to understand the situation and make a recommendation for possible action.

1. The members of the CC are all notified immediately. Until the situation is understood, and an outcome decided, all communication should be held confidential to this group.
2. The CC will decide how to investigate and all findings are reported to the CC. When the CC is satisfied it has all the information deemed necessary the CC will develop a recommended course of action, if any, and how it is to be communicated to all parties. If any action is taken the entire process and outcome may be recorded in writing for the League's own official use.

CC members shall not have conflicts of interest with any situation or person under review. Anyone with a conflict will be replaced by appointment by the League President. If the League President has a conflict they will be replaced by the League Vice President.

### **It is important to note the following:**

1. Little League rules state that once a game begins the umpires are **solely in charge** of the field, the game and everyone participating in said game, until it is officially concluded.
2. **Managers**, not umpires, are solely responsible for the behavior of all fans and spectators.
3. Proper conduct is required at all Little League events and fields, not just during a game.

4. Action may be taken by the CC regardless of whether an umpire did or did not make a ruling during a game (such as a warning or ejection). Such CC action will not replace or modify the umpire's previous call.

### **Little League Regulation XIV (a) – Field Decorum**

“The actions of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, manager, coach, umpire or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity, is subject to disciplinary action by the Local League Board of Director.”

(Please read the Official Regulations and Playing Rules for the complete text of Regulation XIV and other related rules)

### **Little League CA District 57 policy letter (#5) on disruptive spectators**

When in the opinion of the Umpire in Chief at a league game, a spectator or other non-participant is disrupting the progress of a game, either by verbal or other offensive conduct, the UIC shall call both team's managers to a conference on the field in full view of all participants and spectators. (Note that the in-game UIC will usually not be the League appointed UIC, this is referring to the Umpire in Chief of this particular game). At that conference the UIC shall advise the managers that the game will not continue if the offending conduct continues. The managers will be given an opportunity to address such persons present as is appropriate in the managers' opinion. If the offensive conduct is not discontinued, or resumes later during the game, the UIC shall once again summon the managers to a conference on the field, and shall advise the managers that the game will be suspended until the offending non-participant leaves the vicinity of the playing field. (This may incorporate an entire public park, or such an area as, in the opinion of the UIC, is appropriate to ensure that the game may be resumed without disruption.) If the offending non-participant refuses to leave, the game shall be suspended. The protest committee in charge of the division in which the game was held shall determine whether one or both teams shall suffer forfeiture as a result of the suspension, or whether the game shall be replayed from the point at which it was suspended. If the offending non-participant is determined by the committee to have been affiliated with one of the teams playing in the game, that fact may be considered in the decision of the protest committee. Such determination shall be final and no appeal may be taken from the determination of the protest committee.

NOTE: This policy is directed at non-participants who disrupt games or render the atmosphere of competition unwholesome due to unacceptable conduct.

### **Granada Little League Code of Conduct**

No Board Member, Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator shall:

- Physically attack, trip, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike anyone
- Impose personal verbal or physical abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary belief of a wrong decision or judgment.
- Be guilty of an objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's decision by throwing of gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls, or any other forceful unsportsmanlike action.
- Challenge the umpire's authority
- Use unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of a game against the body of an opposing player.
- Speak or act in a disrespectful, demeaning or unsportsmanlike manner towards any player, official, coach, manager or spectator
- Use any profane, obscene or vulgar language or gesture(s) in any manner, at any time
- Appear on the field of play, stands or near the stands, while in an intoxicated state or what reasonably appears to be in such a state
- Gamble or bet upon any play or outcome of any game
- Smoke or use tobacco products, or what could be confused with tobacco products by a youth, when in team uniform or while at the ballpark, parking lot or with the players in a League event or capacity
- Publicly discuss in a derogatory, demeaning or abusive manner any play, decision or personal opinion on any player, official, coach, manager or spectator
- Willfully, or repeatedly, violate any safety rules including pitch count rules
- Tamper with or manipulate any League rosters, schedules, draft positions or selections, official scorebooks, rankings, financial records, policies or procedures, or the minutes of any official League meeting

Any umpire shall have the authority and discretion during a game to penalize the offender for any violation of this Code of Conduct, according to the severity of the infraction, up to and including expulsion from the game.

**The Conduct Committee will review all infractions of this Code of Conduct. Depending on the Committee's evaluation of the seriousness of the offense, or its frequency, the Board in its sole and absolute discretion may assess additional disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the League.**

Infraction Examples and Penalty Guidelines

INFRACTIONS	
MINOR	SEVERE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swearing (not directed at someone or a group)</li> <li>• Arguing with fans in public</li> <li>• Chewing or smoking tobacco like substance in sight of players</li> <li>• Questioning umpire judgment calls</li> <li>• Ignorance of the rules, regulations, policies</li> <li>• Running up scores</li> <li>• Purposely losing</li> <li>• Delaying or disrupting games</li> <li>• Making side deals</li> <li>• Heckling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not upholding the values of Little League and GLL as stated here</li> <li>• Disrespectful, violent, threatening, discriminatory, unsportsmanlike or hateful behavior directed towards anyone</li> <li>• Swearing (directed at someone or a group)</li> <li>• Verbally or physically threatening, attacking or abusing anyone</li> <li>• Deliberate violation of any official rule, policy, or its intent</li> <li>• Not representing Little League or GLL in a professional manner.</li> </ul>
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PENALTIES	
MINOR	SEVERE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warning on first offense</li> <li>• Possible removal from future game(s) after first offense</li> <li>• Possible removal from postseason participation after first offense</li> <li>• Possible removal from any League or Board position after first offense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero tolerance, no warnings required</li> <li>• Possible removal from future game(s) after first offense</li> <li>• Possible removal from postseason participation after first offense</li> <li>• Possible removal from any League or Board position after first offense</li> </ul>

**I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ALL OF THE ABOVE.**

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Division & Team: \_\_\_\_\_