



Madison Little League Coaches Code of Conduct

You have elected to participate as Manager or Coach in Madison Little League. Coaching in a youth sports program such as Madison Little League (MLL) is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. Managers/coaches are approved and appointed by the Madison Little League Board of Directors. You as a manager/coach have an important role in the development of the young children of Madison. We strive to teach each child the positive values of good sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork. To ensure that each coach is acting in the best interest of the children and for the betterment of the League as a whole, MLL has developed a Coaches Code of Conduct for all managers and coaches.

As an appointed Manager or Coach to MLL you are expected to adhere to the following in addition to all Madison Little League and Little League International rules and codes of conduct. As a MLL Manager or Coach I pledge to:

- Follow official Little League and MLL local rules with no exceptions.
- Place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my players ahead of my personal desire to win and remember that the game is for the children, not the adults.
- Treat each player as an individual and with respect, while teaching the importance of being part of a team and putting the team ahead of individual goals.
- Remember that the goal of Little League is to provide a positive and enriching environment for youth players to learn the sports of softball and baseball.
- Remember that Little League operates around the core values of teamwork, community, inclusion, fun, and integrity. It is not about winning and losing.
- Provide players with positive feedback and constructive criticism.
- Focus on developing the skills of all the players on my team.
- Lead by example always, using appropriate language and behavior.
- Interact with all opposing coaches, parents and umpires in a professional manner. At no time will I yell from the dugout or coaches' box to an umpire, nor will I respond to comments from fans during a game.
- Respect the authority of the umpires and de-escalate any situation where players, coaches, parents and/or spectators, from either team, are arguing with or threatening youth umpires. I will report any disrespect or verbal abuse of youth umpires to the Umpire in Chief and my assigned MLL Commissioner. The complaint will be elevated to the Board of Directors if deemed appropriate.
- Encourage good sportsmanship by teaching my team to win or lose graciously.
- Refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls by officials to players, parents, or spectators.



- Compete fairly and do nothing to gain an unfair competitive advantage (e.g. intimidating opposing players or umpires).
- Demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free sports environment for my players.
- Participate in required activities such as field preparation and umpiring duties, as needed.
- Ensure that dugouts and fields are free from trash and in good condition before leaving after games, practices, or other events. I will make sure that all league equipment is cared for, kept in good working order, and returned at the end of the season.
- Agree to attend all required training seminars (e.g. first aid, coaching, umpiring).
- Agree to complete all assigned training and background checks as required by MLL and Little League International.
- Agree to contact my assigned MLL Commissioner and report any type of physical or verbal abuse or non-fair play that I witness firsthand.
- Agree to first discuss any concerns about how coaches are coaching or how umpires are officiating with the coach/umpire after the game is completed, and if not satisfied, then to my assigned MLL Commissioner. The MLL Commissioner will elevate the complaint to the Board of Directors if deemed appropriate.
- Discuss any concerns about how the league is run with my Commissioner and/or with the MLL General Board as a whole.
- At no time shall I make any comments to the media, as a representative of MLL without prior express permission from the President of MLL.

In the event of coach misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken by the MLL Board of Directors. Disciplinary actions may include verbal warnings, written warnings, suspension for (a) game(s), suspension for the season (or other defined period), disqualification from post-season tournament coaching, and/or permanent expulsion from the program.

Madison Little League has a strong youth umpiring program. It is the duty of the coaches, parents, and league officers, as with any youth participant, to provide a respectful and safe environment. Madison Little League has zero tolerance for any yelling at, using of inappropriate language with, arguing with, threatening, or bullying of youth umpires (including coercion to change calls). Any such behavior will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the MLL Board of Directors.

I have read and understand this MLL Umpire Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to comply with this Code of Conduct will result in a review by the MLL Board of Directors and the Board may assess disciplinary action up to and including the revocation of coaching privileges. I agree that I will have an opportunity to be heard, but that all decisions by the MLL Board of Directors are final.

Coach Signature/Date