



## 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 Santa Fe Little League Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children of 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 embodies 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 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. Santa Fe Little League expects each manager and coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct.

Each manager and coach will be provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct prior to the start of the season. Each manager is responsible for ensuring their assistant coaches, players, and spectators abide by the respective Code of Conduct. It is also the manager's responsibility to review the Codes of Conduct with their assistant coaches and players.

### SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship will always be one of the most important pillars of the Little League program, and we hope this will help you at the highest level of sportsmanship every time you take the field. Please adhere to the following:

- I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good baseball skills, and have fun in the process.
- 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 manner.
- I understand that physical or verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, spectator, board member, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the fields at the discretion of an umpire or SFL board member.
- I understand that Santa Fe Little League promotes and expects good sportsmanship by its managers, coaches, players, volunteers, and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner.
- I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans, including but not limited to in person and on social media.
- I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a manager, coach, fan, or player yell at an umpire, manager, coach, fan, player, or board member. The lone exception to this rule is when a manager, coach, or player shouts to another coach or teammate during a play as part of that play.



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# **RULES AND POLICIES**

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It is important for all managers, coaches, players, and spectators to be familiar with the most up to date version of rules and policies. Please adhere to the following:

- 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 to motivate each player to always compete according to the rules.
  - I will adhere to all Little League safety guidelines from the LL handbook.
  - I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All managers and coaches must ensure that each player get 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.
  - I will fully comply with the Player/Parent Code of Conduct.
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## **THE UMPIRES AND OTHER RESOURCES**

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- 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 matter. I understand only managers may initiate such discussion 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. If there is a question on an umpire's ruling you should call time out and get with the umpire and the opposing manager out of earshot of players, parents, and spectators. Once the conversation is finished, get back to the game. Do not continue to discuss the matter. Off-field protest may be logged with the Board of Directors. No board of director will override the umpire's final call.
  - I understand most of the umpires are "in-training" as are the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect of their position.
  - I will be responsible in caring for equipment, for car of fields prior to games and for cleaning up fields, dugouts, and stands after games. I will make sure that all league provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.
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## **THE PARENTS AND THE LEAGUE**

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- 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.
- I will understand and explain goals, objectives, and Codes of Conduct of the SFLL.
- I will ensure that fans of the team always conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity while in attendance at game sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games. I will make sure that managers, coaches, and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game.

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## THE TEAM

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- I will conduct practices in an organized matter, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
- 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 competition.
- I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- I understand that managers are appointed by the board of directors of SFLL to be responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team in communication 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.

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## NON-GAME DUTIES OF MANAGERS

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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:

- I understand that I will speak positively of Santa Fe Little League and support the decisions of the Board including but not limited to on and off the field, social media, GroupMe, etc.
- I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games, and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
- I will attend all required coach's meetings and 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.
- I will complete, obtain, and submit the League all required paperwork, which will include Volunteer Applications and Annual Background Check.
- I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and SFLL 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. SFLL has a "zero tolerance" policy for any aggressive or inappropriate physical or verbal abuse with any player, manager, coach, umpire, parent, fan or board member and any breach of this rule is grounds for immediate action, including removal from the position of Manager or Coach.

**"The expert in anything was once a beginner."**



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# DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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Any Manager or Coach who violates the Code of Conduct set forth above shall be subject to penalties and sanctions as set forth in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedures below. In addition to conforming to the requirements of the Code of Conduct above, the following actions are specifically prohibited (“Offensive Actions”):

- Refusing to abide by an official’s decision.
  - Verbally abusing or assaulting any player, manager, coach, official, parent, or spectator.
  - Physically assaulting, abusing, or threatening any player, manager, coach, official, parent or spectator.
  - Stalking, tailing, or attempting to intimidate any player, manager, coach, official, parent or spectator.
  - Engaging in any other type of violent behavior, physically abusing a player, or engaging in any inappropriate physical contact with a player.
  - Engaging in any lewd or sexual behavior, physically abusing a player, or engaging in any inappropriate physical contact with a player.
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## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

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### Reporting Improper Conduct – Coaches, Players, Parents, Spectators, and Officials

- Santa Fe Little League provides a form to allow coaches, players, parents, spectators, and officials to report to the Board of Directors any issues they observe before, during, or after practices and games. To report Code of Conduct violations and Offensive Actions, please complete the “Contact Us” form on the league website ([www.santafelittleleaguebaseball.com](http://www.santafelittleleaguebaseball.com)) located under “Coaches Resources and Parent Resources”.

### Reporting By Coaches

- It is the responsibility of every coach to address improper conduct observed by the coach or brought to the coach’s attention in a timely and respectful manner.
- In the event any coach feels that the Board of Directors should be involved in addressing any improper conduct, the coach is encouraged to contact the Board of Directors in writing completing the “Contact Us” form on the league website ([www.santafelittleleaguebaseball.com](http://www.santafelittleleaguebaseball.com)) located under “Coaches Resources”.
- Coaches must report any Offensive Actions to the Board of Directors, including, without limitation:
  - 1) Any report or allegation of inappropriate physical contact, violence, or threatened violence against any player, coach, official, parent, or spectator.
  - 2) Any observed or reported use of drugs or alcohol by any player, coach, official, parent, or spectator during any Back Mountain Little League event.
  - 3) Any situation where a player, coach, parent, or spectator is ejected from a game or removed from the premises.
  - 4) Coaches are encouraged to keep the Disciplinary Committee informed of any improper conduct and the steps taken by the coach to address the misconduct, even if the coach is not

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## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES - CONTINUED

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- required to report the misconduct to the Disciplinary Committee.  
5) Coaches shall promptly respond to any request by the Disciplinary Committee for information relating to any incident or violation of the Code of Conduct.

### Reporting By Parents and Spectators

- Parents and spectators are encouraged to report any improper conduct to the coach and/or the Board of Directors.
- If a parent or spectator reports misconduct to the coach and feels that the misconduct is not appropriately addressed, the parent or spectator is encouraged to contact the Board of Directors by completing the "Contact Us" form on the league website ([www.santafelittleleaguebaseball.com](http://www.santafelittleleaguebaseball.com)) located under "Parents Resources".

### Reporting By Officials

- Officials shall promptly address any misconduct that is observed or brought to the attention of the coach or official during a Santa Fe Little League event.
- Officials have the absolute authority, in their sole discretion, to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any player, manager, coach, parent, or spectator from any game if the player, manager, coach, parent, or spectator violates the Code of Conduct or engages in any offensive action.

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## SANTA FE LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Santa Fe Little League Board of Directors will conduct a timely and reasonable investigation into any misconduct reported to the Board. The scope of any investigation will be determined by the Board in its sole discretion, provided, however, that the Board will provide any person accused of misconduct a reasonable opportunity to be heard.
- After a reasonable investigation, the Board will determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of this Code of Conduct and any offensive action.
  - Penalties will be based on the nature and severity of the violation.
  - The Board will strive to treat all similar offenses in a similar manner, while considering the individual facts and circumstances of each violation.
  - The Board will not discriminate in any manner in determining whether to impose a penalty or in determining which penalty to impose.
  - The Board will keep reasonable and appropriate records of each reported violation and shall document each penalty and the reasons for imposing the penalty.
  - ALL DECISIONS OF THE BOARD ARE FINAL AND CANNOT BE APPEALED.



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## PENALTIES

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- The Board of Directors shall determine appropriate penalty for any violation of the Code of Conduct and any offensive action. Penalties may include any one or more of the following:
  - Verbal Warning
  - Written Warning
  - Suspension:
    - One game suspension
    - Multiple game suspension, or
    - Indefinite suspension
  - Expulsion from Santa Fe Little League includes all areas of Runge Park
  - Additional Considerations
- There are no refunds because of any person being removed from the league.

I understand that as a Santa Fe Little League manager or coach, I have assumed certain responsibilities to prepare, develop and be an advocate and role model. I agree to the Coaches Code of Conduct and have read and agree to the Coaches Code of Conduct. I understand what is expected of me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**“A coach will impact more people in one year  
than the average person will in an entire  
lifetime.”**

