

# APPENDIX A TO HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE SAFETY MANUAL

## Highlands Little League Code of Conduct

### Mission and Purpose:

Highlands Little League is dedicated to raising the standard of service to youth in sports through the creation and enforcement of the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct defines the expectations for managers, coaches, parents, spectators, umpires, league representatives, and players in youth sports, and explains the tools to be used by Highlands Little League and its representatives, when necessary, to check behavior and to respond with resolve to protect children from any psychological, emotional, physical, or social abuses that can be perpetrated against them during their participation in youth sports.

Highlands Little League firmly believes that for the sports experience to be a positive, safe, and enjoyable learning experience for youth; managers, coaches, parents, spectators, umpires, league representatives, and players must be held accountable for their behavior when working with and around youth. The actions of players, managers, coaches, umpires, and representatives 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 Directors.

### 1. Sportsmanship

- a. There will be a zero tolerance policy on swearing for all players, managers, coaches, and spectators while participating in Highlands Little League activities.
- b. Sportsmanship shall be the top priority observed by all managers, coaches, players, parents, and spectators. The umpires and Highlands Little League Board of Directors have complete authority to enforce good sportsmanship.
- c. Managers will be responsible for the conduct of their coaches, players, parents, and fans.
- d. Chatter/chanting of any kind must be positive in nature and may not be directed at an opposing individual or team.
- e. Tobacco and alcohol are not allowed on the premises during youth play.

### 2. Interaction with Umpires

- a. Managers, coaches, players, parents or spectators are not allowed to discuss or argue a judgment call with an umpire. Any discussion of a judgment call may be grounds for an immediate ejection.
- b. If there is reasonable doubt that any umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules of Little League Baseball, the manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. The appeal shall be made only to the umpire who made the protested decision. The manager must request time out and the appeal must be done in a professional manner.
- c. Managers are responsible for the actions of their assistants, players, parents, and fans.
- d. Harassment of umpires by anyone will not be tolerated and may be cause for immediate ejection.

### 3. Unruly Spectator/Spectators

- a. In the event of disruptive spectator(s) the umpire may order both teams into their dugouts and suspend play until such time as Highlands Little League representatives deal with the situation. If the problem can not be resolved with the disruptive spectator(s), the game can remain suspended until a later date.
- b. Any parent, fan, or spectator determined to be disruptive, unruly, or in violation of the code of conduct will be asked by a Highlands Little League Board member or appointed representative to leave the grounds.

#### **4. Disciplinary Action:**

- a. Any player, manager, or coach who is ejected from a game by an umpire due to a verbal altercation or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct as described above or in the Official Regulation and Playing Rules is ineligible to participate in the next game played as cited in rule 4.07. Additionally, this player, manager, or coach is automatically prohibited from participating in other team events [i.e. team practices, batting cage sessions, etc.] until the one game suspension has been served.
- b. Any player, manager, or coach who is ejected from a game by an umpire due to a physical altercation shall result in the ejected member being suspended for the remainder of the current playing season (including post-season tournaments).
- c. Any parent, guardian, league official, or umpire, who is involved in a verbal altercation and/or incident of unsportsmanlike conduct at the game site or any other Highlands Little League activity (i.e., games, practices, clinics, etc), shall immediately be barred from participating in Highlands Little League for one calendar week from the date of the incident.
- d. Any parent, guardian, league official, or umpire who is involved in a physical altercation shall be barred from participating in all Highlands Little League activities (i.e., games, practices, clinics, etc.), for the remainder of the current playing season (including post-season tournaments).

#### **5. Umpires**

- a. The umpire shall be responsible for the conduct of the game in accordance with the official rules, and for maintaining discipline and order on the playing field during the game.
- b. The umpire may or may not issue warnings before an ejection in accordance with the official playing rules and regulations; except in the case of a physical altercation, which will result in immediate ejection from the game.
- c. In the case of an ejection from a game of any player, manager, coach, or other person the umpire will report such incident to the Highlands Little League President in accordance with the Official Rules and Regulations.

#### **6. Coaches**

- a. Shall pay close attention to the physical condition and well being of the players. Do not jeopardize the health of a player for the sake of improving the team's chance of winning.
- b. Shall recognize safety as a top priority. Equipment shall not be thrown in anger. Equipment shall be handled in a manner to insure maximum safety.
- c. Shall control and discourage profanity or abusive language directed toward anyone involved with the league or its activities.
- d. May suspend/bench a player for one game for each infraction of the general rules of the league's Code of Conduct or for safety violations; the player will be subject to a hearing before the Highlands Little League Board of Directors. Managers are responsible for invoking the suspension/benching. Coaches are responsible for carrying out the suspension. Violation of this rule by a manager or coach shall result in a two-game suspension for the violator(s).

**Appeals:** Any member (player, manager, coach, umpire, parent, guardian, and/or league representative) who is disciplined in accordance with the above Code of Conduct or the Official Rules and Regulations shall have the right to appeal the disciplinary action and appear before the Board of Directors. Upon notification of an appeal, the Board of Directors shall convene a special meeting as soon as possible in accordance with the Highlands Little League Constitution and Bylaws.

- a. For any violation that requires a one-game suspension, the member may continue to participate in Highlands Little League activities during the appeal process until the Board of Directors renders a decision. If the Board of Directors decides to uphold the disciplinary action, the suspension period begins immediately thereafter.
- b. Due to the severity of any violations that require suspension for the remainder of the current season, suspension from all Highlands Little League activities begins immediately. The Board of Directors will hear the appeal and may decide to adjust the disciplinary action as necessary.

**Suspensions and Terminations of Membership:** In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, the Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of those present at a duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to suspend or terminate the membership of any class of member when the conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest of Highlands Little League and/or Little League Baseball.

## HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE

### CODE OF CONDUCT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My signature below acknowledges that I have received a copy of Highlands Little League Code of Conduct. I have read (or had read to me) these codes and agree to comply with them during all Little League activities.

Player Name:		Team Name:	
Player Signature:		Date:	
Parent Signature:		Date:	

**Sign and return with registration paperwork.**

