



## PARENT & PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the duty of all involved with Hamilton Fairfield Little League (HFLL) to exemplify the highest ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play. Parents, spectators, and players are expected to recognize that one of the main purposes of HFLL is to develop and encourage good sportsmanship among its members and players for the betterment of their physical and social being. All are expected and have acknowledged by signing a Hamilton Fairfield Little League registration form or by registering online to both respect and abide by the following principles:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship through my actions, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sport event.
2. I will treat all players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators with dignity in my language, attitude, behavior, and mannerisms.
3. I will demand a sports environment that is free of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
4. I will respect all facilities and equipment made available by HFLL or other organizations.
5. I will be responsible to report to HFLL any perceived misconduct by a coach, a player, a parent, or an official so it can be dealt with in the appropriate manner.
6. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
7. I will remember that the game is for youths and not for adults.
8. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.

It is important to remember that HFLL is managed mainly by volunteers who have donated their time and talent to the organization. From the members on the Board, to the members to a Team Parent, they all have one thing in common, they all do what they think is best for the children.

### **Spectator Etiquette**

- While enthusiasm and cheering during a game can be inspiring, it is important to remember the following guidelines for behavior when watching the children participate in games.
- Cheer, don't coach - Avoid yelling specific instructions and issuing commands. Coaching from the bleachers can be extremely confusing for a child and possibly contrary to the coach's instruction.
- Practice silence - Sometimes it is more relaxing for both parents and players and you will likely view the game differently as well.
- Ask your children if they like you to cheer - The answer may surprise you.
- Be positive and not negative.
- Keep some comments to yourself - Do not speak out to the officials. Do not direct comments to the members of the opposition unless they are complimentary.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship - Applaud exceptional moves or plays by the opposition.
- Accept the results of each game - Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
- Stay off the fences and fields during games.
- Avoid running up and down the sidelines shouting — If you want to follow the action, make sure you don't distract the players or block the view of other spectators.
- Overall, parents should be cheerleaders. Allow the coach to coach, the officials to officiate, and most of all allow, your child to play the game.



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### **Parent / Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved with HFLL, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication for the coach.

#### Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- The philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as for the team.
- Locations and times of all practices and games.
- Team requirements (i.e. fees, special equipment, off—season conditioning, involvement with events, etc.) - Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
- Discipline policies (i.e. missed practices, missed games, absences, etc.)

#### Communication coaches expect from parents and players:

- Concerns expressed directly to the head coach first.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Specific concern regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved with HFLL, they will hopefully experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussions with the coach are encouraged.

#### Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- The treatment of your child both mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

There are situations that may require a conference between a coach and parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following chain of command should be used to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern:

- Assistant Coach and/or Head Coach
- Division Director
- Board of Directors



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### Penalties for Violating the Parent /Player Code of Conduct:

Code of Conduct violations may be reported to the appropriate Division Director in writing within 72 hours of their occurrence. Anyone can report these violations through an incident report which can be found on HFLL's website. The Divisional Director shall review the complaint with the rest of the Board and if the facts warrant action, the Board may request the parent or player to attend a regular or special session of the Board. The parent or player will then have the opportunity to tell their side of the story. In general, unsportsmanlike conduct by parents or players shall result in a warning.

The following are only examples of violations of the Parent / Player Code of Conduct, and additional penalties may be administered by a participating league outside of HFLL.

	<u>1st Offense</u>	<u>2nd Offense</u>	<u>3rd Offense</u>
1. Entering the field of play without permission from the official	Warning & Probation	Ejection with one game suspension	Penalty to be determined by the Board
2. Threatening action or words toward officials, coaches, players, or spectators.	Ejection with a two game suspension & probation	Expulsion from the League	
3. Abusive language to an official.	Ejection with a one game suspension & probation	Ejection with a two game suspension	Expulsion from the League
4. Aggressive physical contact with any official, player, or spectator. (i.e. grabbing arm, turning individual around abruptly, poking, bumping, pushing, spitting, etc.)	Ejection with a two game suspension & probation	Expulsion from the League	
5. Striking an official, player, coach, or spectator	Expulsion from the League		
6. Verbal harassment of an official, player, or coach.	Warning & Probation	Ejection with one game suspension	Penalty to be determined by the Board
7. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner.	Ejection with a two game suspension & probation	Expulsion from the League	
8. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner with deliberate intent to harm.	Expulsion from the League		
<p><b>Probation</b> - A parent/player will be placed on a one year probationary status starting on the day of the first offense. Any subsequent violations will be deemed a second offense if the violation occurs during the probationary period</p>			
<p><b>Game Suspension</b> - A parent/player may not participate in any way nor attend any game played during his/her suspension.</p>			
<p><b>Expulsion from HFLL</b> - A parent/player is out of the program indefinitely. The Board may make a reinstatement only after a favorable review. An expelled parent/player may not act in a coaching, managerial, or supervisory capacity to any team, nor be elected for or remain as a HFLL Board member. Violating an expulsion will result in possible necessary legal action against the violator.</p>			

I have read and understand the above Parent / Player Code of Conduct and agree to abide by both the letter and spirit of this document in my activities as a Hamilton Fairfield Little League Parent / Player.

Printed Name

Signature

Date