



# Morrisville Little League

## Player/Parent Code of Conduct

Little League should be a fun and rewarding time for the players, parents, coaches, umpires, and fans. Through baseball, the Morrisville Little League (“MLL”) seeks to enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of every child that takes part. It is the League’s express goal that every player will be a better citizen, and have a greater chance for success in future endeavors, as a result of their Little League experiences. As such, the Morrisville Little League expects the highest degree of sportsmanship from its members.

In keeping with this philosophy, the following Code of Conduct has been adopted to better promote fairness, teamwork, trust, good citizenship, sportsmanship, responsibility, and respect among the members of the Morrisville Little League.

Morrisville Little League strongly encourages the following:

- Applaud effort on the field, regardless of the score.
- Remember that the league exists for the players to learn and to have fun. Even though baseball is competitive in nature, winning is of secondary performance.
- Parents should be supportive of coaches. The coaches are volunteers giving of their time and often, giving of their money – in order to coach. Parents should be a positive role model that fosters respect of the coaches among the players. Concerns about a player’s role on a team should be expressed to the coach(es) in a private setting, never in public.
- Coaches and parents are expected to accord the umpires with the respect their position within the game deserves.
- Booing, taunting, refusing to shake another coach’s and/or player’s hands after a game, or ridiculing another player is not acceptable behavior.
- Teach players that they have a responsibility to learn and to try their best. Effort leads to achievement and respect.

Players will learn these values by the examples they see from those around them, and to this end, the following rules will be strictly enforced:

- Verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated. The offender may be removed from the MLL fields at the discretion of an umpire or MLL board member.
- 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 manner. Only managers may initiate such discussions with an umpire.
- Coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
- All discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player yell at an umpire, coach, fan, or player. The lone exception to this rule is when a coach or player shouts to another coach, player or teammate during the course of a play as part of that play.
- Profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at the Morrisville Little League complex.
- Alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all MLL games, including events outside the Morrisville Little League complex.
- The use of tobacco products on the MLL fields and in the dugouts is prohibited.

Anyone removed from the MLL fields must leave all fields and the access roads to the fields. Such persons may not remain in the MLL parking lot.

Any infraction of the above rules will result in a report being delivered to the Morrisville Little League Board for consideration of further action, as appropriate.

**First Offense:** Upon the reporting of a first offense by an individual, the Board of Directors, at a minimum, will provide a written warning to the offender, detailing the consequences of future infractions. Depending upon the severity of the infraction, nothing precludes the Board of Directors from banning a repeat offender from all Morrisville Little League activities, including, but not limited to, practices and games, for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

**Second Offense:** The Board of Directors may institute a wide range of penalties for repeat offenders, beginning with the second offense, as deemed appropriate by the Board. Such penalties include, but are not limited to:

1. A ban from participating in all MLL activities for a set period of time or number of games.
2. Player ineligibility for post season play (All-Stars).
3. Severe violations can result in suspension from all MLL activities for the remainder of the current season or tournament.

**Third Offense:** The Board of Directors may choose to apply any of the penalties prescribed for a second offense. In the most extreme of circumstances, the MLL Board of Directors may hold a meeting to determine whether or not the individual should be permanently banned from all future MLL activities. The individual in question must receive a certified letter of such a hearing at least one week prior to the meeting, and must be given the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

**Physical Abuse -** Physical abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator will result in **immediate** expulsion from the MLL fields at the direction of an umpire or a MLL board member. Anyone expelled for this reason may not return to the MLL fields or participate in any MLL activity until the MLL Board of Directors approves. Any parent, fan, or player who has been suspended or banned from league activities may petition, in writing, to the Board of Directors for a review of the penalty. The petition should be delivered to the league president, and the Board of Directors will meet as soon as reasonably possible to consider the petition. The aggrieved parties will have the opportunity at the meeting to present their appeal.

## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

- I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth baseball experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Code of Conduct.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will expect to receive a fair amount of playing time.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my baseball experience and will alert my parents and coaches if it stops being fun!
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will remember that youth baseball is an opportunity to learn and have fun.

## **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.



# Morrisville Little League

## Player/Parent Code of Conduct

My signature verifies that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by and agree to the consequences of Morrisville Little League guidelines on the Player Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_

(Printed name of player)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of player)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Team if known)

My signature verifies that I have read, understand and agree to abide by and agree to the consequences of the Morrisville Little League guidelines on the Code of Conduct. I have also read and discussed with my child participant the Player Code of Conduct and will do my best to positively encourage my child to abide by its contents.

\_\_\_\_\_

(Printed name of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)