

WESTWOOD LITTLE LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the desire of the Westwood Little League (“Westwood” or “the League”) Board of Directors (“Board”) for players, managers, coaches, umpires, parents, and spectators to be able to enjoy the sports of baseball and softball in a safe and positive environment.

Westwood Little League strongly encourages:

- Applauding effort on the field, regardless of the score.
- Remembering that the league exists for the players to learn and to have fun. Even though the game is competitive in nature, winning is secondary.
- Parents being supportive of coaches. Parents should be a positive role model and foster respect of the coaches among the players. Concerns about a player’s role on a team should be expressed to the coach(es) in private, never in public.
- Remembering umpires are often “in training” as well as the players. All umpires will make mistakes occasionally, but coaches and parents are expected to accord the umpires with the respect their position within the game deserves.
- Modeling acceptable behavior. Booing, taunting, refusing to shake the hand of another coach and/or player after a game, or ridiculing another player is not acceptable behavior.
- Teaching players that they have a responsibility to learn and to try their best. Effort leads to achievement and respect.
- Providing all children, regardless of race, creed, sex, or talent, an opportunity to play ball and to learn.

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

- A “zero tolerance” policy for physical abuse or verbal abuse, including obscene gestures, of an official, coach, player, or spectator.
- Baseball and softball are games of interpretations and, as a result, disputes will occur from time to time. All disputes that are taken up with the umpire will be handled in a civil manner. Only coaches may initiate such discussions with an umpire. The coach(es) will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the coach(es) will make no further field protest. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Board per League policy.
- 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, player, or spectator yell at an umpire, coach, player, or spectator, except when a coach or player shouts to another coach or teammate during the course of a play as part of that play.

This policy is adopted to establish guidelines as to what actions constitute unacceptable behavior and the recommended consequences of such actions.

I – Scope

This policy pertains to actions taken by players, managers, coaches, parents, and other spectators before, during, and after a game, practice or team event. The punishments recommended here are to be considered guidelines that the Board may choose to follow. If the Board implements a termination or suspension of a manager, coach, parent, or other spectator or invokes a period of probation, those so penalized shall lose the privilege of participating in any league activities or serving the league in any official capacity during their period of termination, suspension or probation.

II – Procedure

Any player, manager, coach, parent, umpire or spectator may bring a complaint against another party. The complaint shall be in writing and shall be directed to the President of the League, who shall notify the subject in writing of the complaint and the possible consequences, and instruct the appropriate Vice President to investigate the circumstances within 14 days. The President may choose at his or her discretion to call a special meeting of the Board in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting to review and act upon a complaint. This meeting date and time are at the discretion of the President and are closed to the public. If no special meeting is called, the findings will be presented at the next scheduled Board meeting.

The subject may request to address the Board regarding the complaint. Such request shall be made in writing to the President of the League within 14 days of the written notice of the complaint, and the address may be made in person or in writing.

III – Specific Infractions and Consequences

In all cases below, physical contact includes bumping, pushing, shoving, or striking in any way. Note that such physical contact may be considered a violation of State of Michigan penal code and can result in prosecution.

Offenses will be reported to and recorded by the League Coaching Coordinator for Managers/Coaches, the appropriate Vice President for Players, or the President for all others. If parents fail to honor their suspensions, their children will lose playing privileges.

Infraction	Offense	Consequences for Managers, Coaches and Players	Consequences for Parents and Other Spectators
Aggressively challenging an umpire's decision, either by raising his/her voice, gesturing or otherwise clearly demonstrating dissent.	First	Manager/Coach – Written warning from the President or Vice President Player – Counseling from Manager or Coach	Suspension from attending the next game at Westwood
	Second	Suspension for the next game	Suspension from attending games at Westwood for the remainder of the season
	Third	Suspension for the remainder of the season	Permanent suspension from attending games at Westwood
Aggressively challenging an umpire's decision by initiating physical contact with the umpire, or by directing foul language toward the umpire.	First	Suspension for the remainder of the season	Suspension from attending games at Westwood for one year
	Second	-	Permanent suspension from attending games at Westwood
Confronting any adults or other spectators attending a game, practice, or team event by initiating physical contact, or by directing foul language toward other adults.	First	Suspension for the next two games	Suspension from attending games at Westwood for one year
	Second	Suspension for the remainder of the season	Permanent suspension from attending games at Westwood
Entering the dugout or field of play during a game without being invited by a manager, coach or umpire.	First	-	Suspension from attending games at Westwood for one year
	Second	-	Permanent suspension from attending games at Westwood
Striking or attempting to strike a player, either on his/her own team or an opponent.	First	Manager/Coach – Immediate and permanent suspension from the League Player – Suspension for the next three games and from All-Star consideration	Permanent suspension from attending games at Westwood
	Second	Player – Suspension for the remainder of the season	-
Misuse of equipment (for example: throwing helmets or bats) or other behavior of poor sportsmanship (in the opinion of the Umpire or your Manager or Coach).	First	Suspension for the next game	-
	Second	Suspension for the remainder of the season	-
Smoking or consuming alcoholic beverages at League functions, including games at other sites.	First	Asked to leave the game area or grounds where the game is being played	Asked to leave the game area or League grounds
	Second	Suspension for the next game	Suspension from attending the next game at Westwood
	Third	Suspension for the remainder of the season	Suspension from attending games at Westwood for the remainder of the season
Manager refuses to provide name of player or coach to umpire if requested.	Every	Manager/Coach – Suspension for the next game	-

IV- General Rules

No dogs on League premises, except service animals. If found outside the owner's vehicle, the owner will be reminded of this policy and asked to return the animal to the vehicle, or that the owner remain with the animal near their vehicle.

V - Special Circumstances

The Board may at any time administer any sanction to any participant, up to and including permanent suspension from the League in response to an action that the Board deems to be detrimental to the values of the League and Little League International.

VI - Agreement

The League registration form contains a means for the parent to indicate they have read this Code of Conduct and that they, their immediate family, and the players listed on the form agree to abide by it for the duration of the season, including pre-season practices, in-season tournaments, post-season Little League International tournaments, and other League-sponsored play such as "Fall ball"/"second season".