



## Sportsmanlike Behavior Policy

### Section 1: Scope:

This policy covers anyone participating in or watching the Keystone Little League (the "League") supervised programs, including player, managers, assistant coaches, umpires, Board Members, volunteers, spectators and visitors. This policy applies to all location and times during which the League programs are being conducted. This includes any on-site All-Star or similar tournament competition.

### Section 2: Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to help achieve the objective of the League, which is to provide our children with healthy experiences in competition, development of good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for authority that will encourage their development into upstanding citizens.

### Section 3: Policy:

It is the policy of the League that all parties mentioned in Section 1 above to behave in a manner that furthers the purpose of the League as stated in Section 2 above. Anyone subject to this policy who behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner (as defined in Section 4 below) toward any other party shall be disciplined.

Players, Managers and Coaches:

For Players:

- In the case of isolated instances of minor unsportsmanlike behavior (such as a short outburst) may be dealt with volunteers (such as Coach/Umpire) present on site.
- For all other player situations, including frequently repeated behavior of this type, the offending party will be suspended for the balance of the competition in progress and also for the next scheduled competition for their team or assignment.
- Players will meet with a review committee consisting of the Division Player Agent, Vice-President, Coaching Coordinator and President and a Board Member at large of the League. This committee will meet within 5 days of the suspension and the player will not be allowed to participate in the remaining games until the meeting is held and the results are reported to the manager, coach and in the case of a player, the player's parents by the Player Agent of the division

# KEYSTONE LITTLE LEAGUE OMAHA, NEBRASKA

For Managers and Coaches:

- In the case of isolated instances of minor unsportsmanlike behavior (such as a short outburst) may be dealt with Board Member present on site.
- For all other coaches situations, including frequently repeated behavior of this type, the offending party will be suspended for the balance of the competition in progress and also for the next scheduled competition for their team or assignment.
- Coaches will meet with a review committee consisting of the Division Player Agent, Vice-President, Coaching Coordinator and President and a Board Member at large of the League. This committee will meet within 5 days of the suspension and the manager, or coach will not be allowed to participate in the remaining games until the meeting is held and the results are recorded.

Spectators:

- In the case of spectators, the offending party will be banned from attending any other League activities for seven (7) days. Immediately upon any suspension or ban, the offending party will be removed from the playing field area and be required to remain away from any League site for the duration of the suspension or ban.

If any party commits a second occurrence of unsportsmanlike behavior during the same season the party will be:

- In the case of players, managers, coaches and umpires, they will be suspended for the balance of the season and the League's Board of Directors must specifically approve their next application for participation;
- In the case of spectators, they will be banned from attending any further of the League's activities for the balance of the season and the League's Board of Directors will consider extending the ban to subsequent seasons. If any party commits any act of extreme misconduct (as defined in Section IV below), they shall be immediately suspended or banned from any further participation or attendance at any League activities

#### **Section IV: Definition of Unsportsmanlike Behavior Policy and Misconduct:**

For purposes of this policy, the League defines unsportsmanlike behavior as any actions that significantly interfere with the objective of the League as described in Section II above.

The following is a list of some (but not all) actions, which will be considered unsportsmanlike behavior:

- foul language;

# KEYSTONE LITTLE LEAGUE OMAHA, NEBRASKA

- throwing equipment in anger;
- spitting on anyone;
- verbally abusing anyone;
- intentionally throwing a ball directly at anyone;
- striking or fighting with anyone (except in self-defense);
- continual or lengthy protest of any umpire's call;
- excessive taunting, demeaning or ridicule of anyone;
- excessive celebrating; and
- any other action which is not a normal part of playing the sport that is meant to physically harm another.

It is not possible to list all actions that constitute unsportsmanlike behavior. It will be up to the good judgment of the Board Members and other volunteers carrying out this policy to determine whether other actions are unsportsmanlike. The contesting of umpires' calls in a manner that demonstrates respect for all parties is generally not considered unsportsmanlike behavior for purposes of this policy.

For purposes of this policy, misconduct is defined as unsportsmanlike behavior that violates any criminal law, such as assault or battery, or could cause another person physical harm or that which an ordinary, prudent and rational person would deem outrageous or would cause him/her to fear for his/her safety.

## **Section V: Responsibilities:**

All parties subject to this policy shall make themselves aware of and follow its provisions. All managers and coaches, and umpires shall be alert for any unsportsmanlike behavior or extreme misconduct, whether by people affiliated with their team or another team, and report such to a Board Member. Board Members shall attempt to gather relevant facts regarding alleged acts of unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct and shall determine whether such unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct did, in fact, occur.

## **Section VI: Procedure:**

The Board of Directors shall have at least one (1) Board Member present on Keystone premises during all scheduled Program activities.

Each Keystone volunteer, including managers, coaches, and umpires, shall monitor their area for unsportsmanlike behavior or extreme misconduct.

In the case of players, recognizing that young individuals are just now learning how to deal with competitive pressure, failure and victory, and recognizing the faith that the Board of Directors has in the good judgment of the volunteers it selects, isolated actions by a player can be dealt with by the managers, coaches and/or adult umpires as long as they address the situation with the player in a

**KEYSTONE**  
**LITTLE LEAGUE**  
**OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

manner that the player knows his/her actions were unacceptable. Such address may include disciplinary action, such as benching.

For non-isolated player, manager and coaches actions, and for all other instances of unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct, volunteers will promptly report any such actions to the Board Member(s) present. Any Board Member(s) present shall attempt to gather relevant facts, and will make all determinations, acting together or alone as they alone see fit, whether unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct has occurred.

If so determined, the discipline shall be administered immediately. The determining Board Member(s) will timely document the incident, their findings and conclusion, and provide same to the President and League Secretary for maintaining in the League's records.

At the time of the determination, the disciplined party may request that the determining Board Member(s) arrange a review of the determination, which will be conducted by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. The determining Board Member(s) will advise the disciplined party and any other interested party present at the incident that they may address the Executive Committee during the review. Any party desiring to do such shall at that time make their intentions known and provide their contact information to the determining Board Member(s). The determining Board Member(s) will forward to the Executive Committee the names and contact information of all parties desiring to address the Executive Committee during the review along with a copy of their documentation regarding the incident. The Executive Committee will make every effort to conduct the review within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident unless the discipline has already run its course.

If the Executive Board cannot be sat in the required timeframe a Board Member at Large, agreed by all parties, may be sat as a determining member.

There shall be no deferment of discipline during the progress of any appeals.

All decisions concluded during the appeal process are final.