

Colonial Little League

Sportsmanship Pledge, Code of Conduct & “No Tolerance” Rules

Kids participate in Colonial Little League (CLL) primarily because it's fun. Adults need to keep it fun. Some kids and adults get too emotional about youth sports because they are too concerned about their own performance, have the mistaken belief that winning is too important, and/or have a desire for glory at the expense of others. Players need to know that if they're trying their best, they are winners. Parents need to remember that their kids are not the only players on the field. Everyone needs to know and remember that there are rarely perfect games, everyone makes mistakes and that bad calls, while not intentional, nor numerous, are part of the game.

Placing too much pressure on kids to perform well creates stress that can detract them from the fun of the game, affect their performance and their self-esteem. Instructions shouted to players are distracting, usually too late, and sometimes inaccurate or in conflict with what the coach is teaching. **The golden rule for a code of conduct for everyone should be” Let the Players play. Let the Managers and Coaches coach, let the umpires ump and spectators should be either positive in their comments or silent.**

Game Conduct: Officials, Managers, Coaches, Spectators and Players are expected to conduct themselves during the game in an acceptable manner. It is CLL's pledge to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. The following rules will be strictly enforced and should be followed throughout the season:

- Play for the fun of playing, not to please others.
- Watch as an ambassador of good sportsmanship, not just a fan of any one player or one team.
- Play by the rules. Encourage fair play.
- Never argue with or complain about umpire's calls or decisions. This is unacceptable and is immediate grounds for ejection from a game. Even balls and strikes.**
- Control your temper and resist the temptation to retaliate (verbally or physically) when you feel you or your team has been wronged.
- Concentrate on baseball, the rules of the game and the next play, not what has already taken place.
- Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it is your teams or your opponent's.
- Treat all Players, Managers, Coaches and Officials as you would like to be treated.
- Cooperate with Manager, Coaches, Teammates, Opponents, Official and Umpires.

Any Player, Manager, Coach, Parent or Spectator whose conduct is not consistent with these guidelines may be cautioned by the Head Umpire or other League Official. Foul or abusive language is strictly prohibited and may result in immediate ejection from the game. If an individual is unable to refrain from obeying an umpires warning or using foul language or making derogatory remarks to any anyone involved in the game, the Head Umpire or other League Official may suspend the game until that individual leaves the Little League Park or other playing area. If the individual refuses to leave the Little League Park or other playing area, the Umpire may discontinue the game and award to win to the team of his choice. If further action is required the police will be called for assistance. If the disruptive individual is a manager, coach or player, additional sanctions will likely occur depending on the circumstances.

Ejection Protocol: Each Umpire has the power and authority to eject Players, Managers, Coaches and Spectators from the game and or Little League Park or other playing area.

Players: If a Player is ejected, the player shall immediately leave the playing area (field, dugout, bullpen etc.) before play continues, but may become a silent spectator in the stands. The player shall NOT participate in the next scheduled game, but may watch the game from the stands, but may not wear the team uniform.

Manager/Coach: When a Manager or Coach is ejected, that individual shall IMMEDIATELY leave the Little League Park or other playing area. In addition, that individual shall have NO CONTACT with the team and shall be PROHIBITED from the Little League Park or other playing field until the day AFTER the completion of the next scheduled team game. The Manager or Coach shall NOT participate in the next scheduled game*, but may watch the game from the stands, but may not wear the team uniform.

Parents/Spectators: Other ejected individuals shall immediately leave the Little League Park or other playing area. Refusal to do so may result in the Umpires "calling" the game and other sanctions being assessed on the team associated with that individual.

Other Disciplinary Action: The CLL Board feels strongly that proper field decorum is an important element of the Little League experience. For example, ejected individuals who do not "go quietly" once ejected can expect additional sanctions. Note: Any Player, Manager or Coach who is ejected or otherwise suspended two times in a season, will have their association with CLL terminated. The Executive Committee or Protest Committee is responsible to impose any other disciplinary sanctions necessary to effectively operate the League.

*Any manager or coach that believes he has been ejected unfairly by an umpire may protest the ejection within 24 hours of the ejection, to the Executive Committee and it will be reviewed by a Protest Committee appointed by the Executive Committee. The Committee's responsibility is not to overturn the umpire's decision but they may rule that the suspension from the next scheduled game be annulled. Once a protest is logged the manager may participate in all games until the Protest Committee renders a final decision to uphold or reject the suspension.

My Pledge to Set a Good Example: Whether I am a player or an adult participating in CLL:

- I will not be loud or negative towards players, referees, coaches or spectators.
- I know that failing to show respect for people who are doing the best they can sets a bad example and can result in expulsion from the venue and additional consequences.
- If someone else makes an inappropriate comment, I will not make a negative response that could lead to a confrontation.
- I will control my negative emotions to avoid embarrassing myself and my team, risking ejection, and hurting my team's chances of winning and I realize that my behavior influences others (players and spectators).
- I will remember that encouragement and praise for every child, not just the best athletes and no matter what team they are on, is critically important to the self-esteem and the ability of all to do the most they can.
- I recognize that *striving* to win, rather than winning: is what is important in baseball and in life. Striving to win means doing the best you can.
- Participation and teamwork is what makes baseball fun. I acknowledge that this is more important than winning games.
- I acknowledge that winning and losing is part of the game and part of life.
- I pledge that I will be tolerant of the mistakes of players, coaches, referees, and others.
- I recognize that within the parameters of competition, sportsmanship and fair play are paramount.
- I pledge that I will commit to promoting an atmosphere of healthy competition to ensure fun for all participants.
- I have read, understand and agree to uphold the Little League Pledge

****Please sign and cut along the line below and return to a CLL Official **** Keep the rest for your records.

I have read, understand and agree to uphold the Colonial LL Sportsmanship Pledge, Code of Conduct & "No Tolerance" Rules, to the best of my ability.

Player Signed: _____ Please print name _____

Date _____

Parent 1 Signed: _____ Please print name _____

Date _____

Parent 2 Signed: _____ Please print name _____

Date _____

Or
Signed: _____ Please print name _____

Date _____

(Circle one: Coach, Manager, Umpire, Other)