

Lower Gwynedd Little League Code of Conduct

GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Lower Gwynedd Little League (LGLL) is a youth recreational baseball program. We all need to be reminded from time to time that our main goal is to ensure that the players have a safe and fun environment where they can learn and grow. With that in mind, LGLL has zero tolerance for poor or negative game attitudes. It is expected that all fans, parents, managers and coaches set a good example for the team/players.

Our umpires have the final call on the field and no one is allowed to argue a call by the umpire. All communications with umpires shall be done in a courteous and respectful manner. Managers and coaches will instruct players to treat the umpires in a reasonable and respectful manner. A manager may call time out or approach an umpire between innings to ask for clarification on a ruling, interpretation of a rule, etc., **AS LONG AS IT IS DONE IN A POLITE, NON-THREATENING MANNER.** After a game, a manager may approach an umpire to offer friendly advice or constructive criticism as long as it is done in a polite and civilized manner. Absolutely no sarcasm, no harassment, no intimidation and no profanity will be tolerated. The umpire will deal with the actions/attitudes of anyone within the fences. If there are issues outside the fence, the umpires will ask the Director on Duty (or one of the LGLL Board of Directors (Board)) to deal with the issue.

During all games at Ingersoll Park and other LGLL fields, the Board will provide a Director On Duty. This person has final say on all actions/attitudes of anyone outside of the fences. One warning may be given depending on the severity of the action/attitude. If after a warning, the actions/attitudes continue, the offender will be removed/ejected from the game and/or park.

No Board member, manager, coach, player, or spectator shall:

- Lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike any other person or player.
- Be guilty of heaping personal verbal or physical abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary belief of a wrong decision or judgment.
- Be guilty of an objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's decision by throwing of gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls, or any other forceful unsportsmanlike action.
- Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of a game against the body of an opposing player.
- Be guilty of a verbal or physical attack upon any board member, umpire, manager, coach, player or spectator.
- Be guilty of the use of profane, obscene or vulgar language in any manner at any time.
- Appear on the field of play, stands, or anywhere on the Ingersoll Park complex, or any of the other LGLL fields, while in an intoxicated state.
- Be guilty of gambling upon any play or outcome of any game with anyone at any time.
- Smoke while in the stands or on the playing field or in any dugout. Smoking is not permitted in the Ingersoll Park complex, or at any of the other LGLL fields.

- Be guilty of publicly discussing with spectators in a derogatory or abusive manner any play, decision or a personal opinion on any players during the game.
- As a manager or coach, be guilty of mingling with or fraternizing with spectators during the course of the game.
- Speak disrespectfully to any manager, coach, umpire or representative of LGLL.
- Be guilty of tampering or manipulating any league rosters, schedules, draft positions or selections, official score books, rankings, financial records or procedures.
- Challenge an umpire's authority. The umpires shall have the authority and discretion during a game to penalize the offender according to the infraction up to and including expulsion from the game.

The Board will review all infractions of the Code of Conduct. Depending on the seriousness or frequency, the Board may assess additional disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from LGLL.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The LGLL Board has implemented the following Parent Code of Conduct for the important message that it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting the youth of our community and their child in sports.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are the foundations of sportsmanship and are demonstrated by the core principles of respect, responsibility, fairness, and good citizenship.

As an LGLL Parent, I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for each child participating in LGLL by adhering to the following Code of Conduct:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support at all times.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun, and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any umpire, coach, player or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- I will respect the umpires 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.
- 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 wellbeing of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I have for my own child to win.
- I will never use drugs, tobacco, or alcohol at any league event.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the LGLL Board that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Parental suspension for games
- Parental season suspension
- Parental removal from all LGLL activities

The LGLL Board retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.

MANAGER/COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social, and emotional development of children. As managers and coaches in LGLL you should be models of good sportsmanship and behavior for your child and all children in the community including participants and spectators alike.

The LGLL Board asks that you pledge to be responsible for your words and actions while coaching, officiating, and participating in LGLL events, and that you conform your behavior to the following Code of Conduct:

- Place the emotional and physical wellbeing of players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- Treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- Do your best to provide a safe playing environment for all players.
- Do your best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players.
- Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
- Teach the rules of the game to all players, officials, and parents.
- Remember that you are a youth sports coach and that the game is for children and not adults.
- Do not abuse other coaches, umpires, parents, or players.
- Promote fun, fairness, and sportsmanship over winning.
- Do not engage in the use of profanity or other offensive language.
- Encourage all team members to treat all players, teammates, coaches, umpires, and parents with respect.
- Emphasize and foster a team atmosphere and not individual achievements.
- Be responsible for league policies.
- Demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free sports environment for my players and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all LGLL games, practices and events.
- Understand that LGLL is a volunteer organization that encourages all parents to participate in activities, such as field preparation, umpiring, snack-bar duty, and scorekeeping and will use its reasonable efforts to enlist the support of all the parents of my players in this effort.
- Return all equipment and player evaluations per league policies.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned, I will be subjected to disciplinary action levied by the LGLL Board that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Manager/coaches suspension for games
- Manager/coaches season suspension
- Manager/coach removal from all league activities

The LGLL Board retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Player's responsibilities are simple; be respectful of others, be responsible, play fair, and always do your best, and always exhibit good sportsmanship.

As an LGLL participant I hereby pledge that I will:

- Encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents.
- Be a team player and support my teammates.
- Be on time and attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coaches if I cannot.
- Work hard to improve my skills.
- Do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- Encourage my parents to be involved with my team and LGLL in some capacity.
- Congratulate the other team after each game as a demonstration of sportsmanship.
- Refrain from using violence, unfriendly language, or insults to others.
- Be generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
- Obey the rules of the game and always work for the good of the team.
- Accept the decisions of the officials with grace and never challenge or question calls.
- Refrain from challenging or questioning on-field calls by officials and/or managers and coaches.
- Never throw equipment (bats and helmets).
- Conduct myself with honor and dignity.
- Applaud the efforts of my teammates and opponents.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the LGLL Board that could include but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Player suspension for games
- Player suspension for season including postseason (Tournament Teams)
- Player being expelled from the league

The LGLL Board retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.