

Managers/Coaches Code of Conduct

As Approved February 3, 2014

Attachment 5

Coaching a youth sport program such as Little League is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a Manager or coach, appointed by the Mattawan Little League (MLL) Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. Baseball and softball embody the discipline of teamwork. They challenge players towards the perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball and softball also teach that while every player eventually strikes out, or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, the Mattawan Little League expects each manager and coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Sportsmanship

1. I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good baseball/softball skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I realize, accept and will practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy and manners.
3. I understand verbal abuse of an official, manager, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the MLL fields at the discretion of an umpire or MLL board member.
4. I understand managers/coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
5. I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a manager, coach, fan, or player yell at an umpire, manager, coach, fan, or player. The lone exception to this rule is when a manager, coach or player shouts to another manager, coach or teammate during the course of a play as part of that play.
6. I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at the MLL complex.
7. I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are strictly prohibited at all MLL games and practices.
8. I understand the use of tobacco products at the MLL complex and in the dugouts is strictly prohibited.

Rules and Policies

1. I will know and understand the rules and abide by them (whether local or national). I will instruct my team members in the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
2. I will adhere to all Little League safety guidelines from the LL handbook and the MLL Safety Manual, including participating in CPR and First Aid training.
3. I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All managers and coaches must ensure that each player gets minimum opportunities to bat and play the field in each game. I also understand that specific rules are also in place to limit the number and frequency of innings pitched by a particular player.
4. I will fully comply with the Player/Parents Code of Conduct.
5. I will review the MLL website (www.MattawanLL.com) on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all updated LL and MLL Rules and policies.

The Umpires and Other Resources

1. I recognize baseball and/or softball 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. I understand only managers may initiate such discussions with an umpire. The managers/coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the managers will make no further field protest.
2. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Board of Directors per league policy.
3. I understand most of the umpires are volunteers and "in training" as well as the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position within the game deserves.
4. I will be responsible in caring for equipment, for keys delegated for my use, for care of fields prior to games and for cleaning up fields, dugouts and stands after games in accordance with policies that MLL may establish from time to time. I will make sure that all league-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

The Parents and the League

1. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous manner.
2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of MLL, i.e. MLL is organized as a recreational league, meant for the enjoyment of all the players.
3. I will ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games. Players of

participating teams may not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged.

4. I will make sure that managers/coaches, score keepers and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game.
5. I will support (through participation and organization of parents) MLL in all fundraising efforts, concession stand duties and field improvement efforts along with other duties that may be assigned to teams from time to time.

The Team

1. I will conduct practices in an organized manner that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
2. I will focus on providing instruction to commensurate with players abilities so all players have the opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further baseball/softball competition.
3. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
4. I understand that managers are appointed by the league to be responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team in communications with the umpires, opposing teams and league. If a manager leaves the field, he shall designate a coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the manager's duties.

Non-Game Duties of Managers *Each manager has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games. Accordingly, if I am a Manager, I will adhere to the following as well:*

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
2. I understand that teams (AAA division for baseball and above and Major division for softball and above) are required to provide umpires for assigned games throughout the season. I understand that it is my responsibility to find an umpire (such as a volunteer parent or grandparent).
3. I will attend all required managers/coaches meetings, safety and umpiring clinics unless I am out of town or have a significant previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my coaches attends on my behalf.
4. I will complete, obtain and submit to the League all required paperwork, which will include Volunteer Applications and Concussion Training forms.
5. I will make sure that I maintain a folder containing the Player Medical Release Forms, the Local MLL By-laws and Rules and a copy of the International Little League rule book and make sure it is present at each team practice and game.
6. I will assume the duty of Field Director on my appointed date/time, and in the event that I am not available on that date/time, I will ensure that one of my coaches or another volunteer attends on my behalf.
7. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and MLL officials. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.

I, the undersigned, agree to follow the Code of Conduct and comply with all League rules, policies and procedures. I understand the violation of the Code will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action in accordance to the MLL By-laws, and could include a warning, game(s) suspension or season suspension, as well as impact my opportunity to manage or coach in future seasons. I further acknowledge the authority of the Board of Directors of Mattawan Little League and understand that if permitted to manage or coach I serve solely at the discretion of the Board, which permission may be revoked at any time. My failure to honor the authority of the Board and its members will be deemed to be a violation of this Code of Conduct. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to speak to some or all of the Board at any time and that if called my failure to attend could result in an immediate suspension. I understand that if I am suspended I will not be permitted to attend any league functions (practices, games, etc.).

Signature

Date