

**Freehold Township Little League
Manager and Coach
Code of Conduct**

Coaching a youth sport such as Little League Baseball is a privilege that should not be taken for granted. As a Manager or Coach, appointed by the Freehold Township Little League (FTLL) Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young players 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 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, Freehold Township 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 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 the manner in which it conducts itself.
3. I understand that physical or verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the fields at the discretion of an umpire, field marshal or FTLL Board Member.
4. I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players, other coaches and fans.
5. I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player be allowed to argue and raise their voice to an umpire, player, coach, or fan.

6. I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at the Little League complex.
7. I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all practices and games.
8. I understand the use of tobacco and vapor products in the dugouts and around my players is prohibited.

Rules and Policies

1. I will know and understand the rules for my division and abide by them. 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 Rule Book and the FTLL Safety Manual.
3. I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All coaches must ensure that each player get 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.

The Umpires and Other Resources

1. I recognize baseball 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. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Board of Directors.
2. I understand most of the youth umpires are “in training” as are the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position deserves.
3. I will be responsible in caring for equipment, for care of fields prior to games and for cleaning up of fields and dugouts after games.

4. 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. 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 the FTLL (i.e. FTLL 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. I will make sure that coaches and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game.

4. I understand that any information provided to me by a parent about a player's specific needs (health / behavioral) is done so with an expectation of privacy and this information will only be used to appropriately manage that individual and is not to be shared with other players, parents or fans.

The Team

1. I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players and age group.

2. I will ensure the safety of my players by requiring the use of appropriate safety equipment during games and practices. (i.e. helmets during batting practice, masks during bullpens, etc.)

3. I will focus on providing instruction 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.

4. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.

5. 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 will attend all required coaches' meetings, safety and umpiring clinics. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.
3. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and FTLL 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.

FTLL has a "zero tolerance" policy for any aggressive or inappropriate physical contact with any player, coach, umpire, parent, fan or other person and any breach of this rule is grounds for immediate action, including removal from the position of Coach, Manager or Board Member and may include a permanent ban from participating in future FTLL positions or attendance at practices/games/events.