



Introduction: Overview of Appropriate Standards

North Natomas Little League (NNLL) is one of the largest local Little Leagues in the Sacramento Region and aspires to be a premier youth sports organization. It is geared to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training, under good leadership, in the atmosphere of wholesome community participation.

More than that, Little League and NNLL provides a safe environment that models adult behavior and community involvement dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens. We strive to inspire the youth of our community with goals and enriched lives to become better individuals and develop their skills.

Little League, both baseball and softball, embody the discipline of teamwork. It challenges players towards perfection of physical skills and brings into play the excitement of tactics and strategies. It also allows practicing the skill of overcoming adversity.

At its core, the nature of Little League teaches 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, the next fielding play or the next game.

Too often, this ethic can be ignored to the detriment of our players, coaches, umpires and spectators. To ensure an experience consistent with Little League's mission statement and to insure that all events continue to remain safe and enjoyable for all members of the community, all participants annually agree to the NNLL "Parent" and "Coach" Codes of Conducts that include a policy of zero tolerance for abusive, rude or unsportsmanlike conduct by any player, coach, official, parent, grandparent, or spectator at any NNLL event.

Cooperation with umpires, league officials, coaches, and team representatives is expected. In short, the following are prohibited at all NNLL events:

1. Jeering, booing, hissing, taunting, or any other form of negative fan interaction.
2. Verbal or physical abuse in any form of umpires, league officials, coaches, players, or spectators.
3. Use of profane language.
4. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.
5. Persons under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

Firearms and weapons, except in possession of law enforcement personnel. The NNLL Disciplinary Committee reviews each reported violation of the NNLL Code of Conducts. This document identifies unacceptable behavior and corresponding **minimum** consequences. In **no case, shall a penalty be reduced**. Conversely, NNLL reserves the right to INCREASE any consequence up to, and including, lifetime suspension from NNLL events.

Above all, NNLL is committed to continually improving the experience for youth, volunteers, and spectators. Ensuring a safe and fun sports environment is paramount. Together with the community, NNLL looks forward to continue providing an exceptional experience for our youth. So a reminder – positive cheering and words of encouragement are appreciated and strongly encouraged.

Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Adults are expected to role-model positive sportsmanship at all times, regardless of any lack of sportsmanship exhibited by anyone else.



Section I. Code of Conduct (Agreements)

The following section includes the current NNLL Code of Conducts agreed to by parent/guardian and coaches at time of player registration.

NNLL Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

North Natomas Little League is committed to the physical and emotional well-being and safety of all of the children in its program, as well as to its managers, coaches, umpires, volunteers, and parents and fans attending NNLL events including games, practices and any other league sponsored and/or affiliated events.

NNLL adheres to essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and the core principles of: respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports;
2. I will remember that children participate in sports to have fun and develop friendships and that the game is for youth, not adults;
3. I will inform the manager or coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others in a timely manner;
4. I will endeavor to learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league;
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents and spectators at every game, practice, or other league sponsored and/or affiliated events;
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any players, managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents and spectators including, but not limited to, physically and/or verbally harassing, taunting, booing and otherwise in any way demeaning or insulting; refusing to shake hands; using profane or crude language and/or gestures; any other inappropriate behavior;
7. I will not exhibit and/or display any behaviors, language and/or other practices that would, or even potentially could, endanger the physical and/or emotional health, well-being and/or safety of any players, managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents and spectators;
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts in a safe and respectful manner without resorting to hostility or violence;
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, managers, coaches, umpires, officials, parents and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, religion, age, or ability;
10. I will teach my child that trying and doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance;
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time, just for participating;



- 12. I will never ridicule, yell at, berate, antagonize and/or otherwise degrade my child or any other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition;
- 13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning;
- 14. I will deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups, and place them in the proper perspective in all other groups;
- 15. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child and/or his/her team to win;
- 16. I will respect the umpires and other officials and their authority during games and practices and will never question, discuss, and/or confront umpires, officials, managers and/or coaches at the game field, and will take the time to speak in a respectful and civil manner to officials, managers and/or coaches at an agreed upon time and place;
- 17. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and I will refrain from their use at all games and practices;
- 18. I will refrain from coaching and/or instructing my child or any other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official managers or coaches of the team;
- 19. I will not incite, participate in and/or otherwise condone any unsportsmanlike conduct at any time;
- 20. I will accept all decisions of umpires and game officials as being fair and judged to the best of their ability, regardless of whether I agree with same;
- 21. I will act as an adult and strive to set a positive role model and example for my child and other players;
- 22. I will not do or say anything that will cause my child to feel embarrassed, shamed, belittled or disrespected.

Child's Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Dated:



NNLL Coach Code of Conduct

North Natomas Little League is concerned about the conduct of all coaches, officials, players and fans during practices and games at all levels. NNLL seeks to ensure that games are a fair, positive and an enjoyable experience for all of the children and adults involved. NNLL expects all Coaches to conform to this code of conduct. Coaches are to adhere to this code at all times.

1. As a Coach with NNLL, it is your responsibility to ensure that you create a positive environment of safety, learning, fun and reinforcement.
2. The Coach will treat all of his/her players fairly and with respect at all times.
3. The Coach will communicate his/her expectations to the players and their parents as clearly, consistently, and as early as possible.
4. The Coach is expected to advise parents/guardians of the players on his/her team to be timely and responsible in dropping off and picking up their children for all practices and games. NNLL seeks to maintain player safety at all times.
5. The Coach is an example of dignity and patience, and a role model to players.
6. The Coach should introduce himself/herself to officials and opposing coaches before the game.
7. The Coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players during the game.
8. The Coach is responsible for the conduct of the parents of his/her players during the game. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting. Encourage them to applaud and cheer good plays by either team. Clearly, forcefully, and directly discourage them from being derisive toward officials or opposing players.
9. The Coach is responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for his/her team during the game.
10. During the game, the Coach will not address the officials of the game inappropriately. If there is an issue or dispute, discuss it with the official calmly and patiently. If the complaint is unresolved, or if the Coach thinks the official was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, the Coach should report his/her opinion in writing to the Division Commissioner.
11. After the game, the Coach and his/her players should thank the officials, opposing players, and coaches.
12. Coaches are required to familiarize themselves with NNLL by-laws pertinent to their responsibilities and to adhere to the requirements of those by-laws and to conduct all practices and games in strict conformance with NNLL's playing requirements and guidelines.

The example of a Coach is powerful. As a Coach with NNLL, your role is to ensure fair play, support the officials, and focus on the players' enjoyment of the game and their overall long-term development. Coaches who do not follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed in accordance with NNLL by-laws.

By signing below, I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

Coach Name (Print)

Coach Signature

Dated:



Section II: Unacceptable Behavior and Consequences

All volunteers and parents have pledged respect and support. Players have pledged to do their best. This section identifies specific unacceptable behaviors inconsistent with these pledges and provides corresponding minimum consequences.

The Little League “Parent and Volunteer Pledge”

- I will teach all children to play fair and do their best.
- I will positively support all managers, coaches and players.
- I will respect the decisions of the umpires.
- I will praise a good effort despite the outcome of the game.

Please note:

- In the judgment of the Umpire or any League Official, play may be suspended with all participants directed to their respective dugouts, or other place as necessary, until individuals are removed or offending behavior has ceased.
- The following represent the **minimum** consequences for various infractions. ***In no case, shall penalties be reduced.***
- The NNLL Disciplinary Committee (DC) reviews each incident and reserves the right to **increase** disciplinary action up to, and including, lifetime suspension from NNLL based on the (a) severity of specific incident, (b) past actions (during current or prior seasons) by the individual, and/or (c) other egregious behavior by the individual.
- The DC may suspend indefinitely any individual pending review by the DC. While the DC will not unreasonably delay a review, scheduling delays may result in the individual banned at any NNLL event until review.

1. PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND SPECTATORS

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCE
A. Repeated inappropriate or abusive language; B. Inappropriate or abusive language directed toward a player, coach, umpire, official or spectator; C. Demonstrated language, behaviors, etc creating a negative or hostile environment. D. Encouraging or inciting NEGATIVE interaction between or among game spectators and participants. <i>[Includes jeering, booing, hissing, taunting, or any other form of negative fan interaction]</i>	1st. Time a. With or without request from umpire, verbal warning from League Official. If no official is available, umpire may request team’s Manager to stop negative behavior. b. Ejection from game surroundings and ban from next physically played game for team. 2nd. Time Ejection from the game surroundings and ban from future NNLL events for the remainder of <u>calendar</u> year. NOTE: League Officials reserve the right to eject the individual at any time.
Threatening or inappropriate gesture directed toward a player, coach, umpire, official or spectator.	1st. Time Ejection from game surroundings and ban from next physically played game for team. 2nd. Time Ejection from the game surroundings and ban from Future NNLL events for the remainder of <u>calendar</u> year.
(a) Use, (b) Possession, or (c) Being under the influence, of alcohol or other illegal substances within the complex during games, practices or league events where players are present.	1st. Time Ejection from game surroundings & ban from next physically played game for team. 2nd. Time Ejection from the game surroundings and ban from future NNLL events for the remainder of calendar year.
Striking or bodily assault of any player, coach, umpire, official or spectator by a parent/guardian or spectator.	1st. Time Ejection from game premises; ban from future NNLL events including attendance to any NNLL event as spectator; AND notification to Sacramento Police Depart.



2. PLAYERS, COACHES, UMPIRES, & OFFICIALS

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCE
<p>A. Repeated inappropriate or abusive language directed generally toward a player, coach, umpire, official or spectator.</p> <p>B. Repeated comments intended to disparage or belittle any player, coach, umpire, official or spectator.</p> <p>C. Abusive language <u>directed toward</u> an umpire, or official.</p> <p>D. Allowing or encouraging such language by team's players, coaches or fans consistent with A. B. or C. above.</p>	<p>1st. Time Ejection and 1-game suspension.</p> <p>2nd. Time Ejection and 3-game suspension.</p> <p>3rd. Time Ejection and suspension for the remainder of the season.</p> <p>NOTE: Umpire is not required to verbally warn the individual prior to ejection.</p> <p><i>[Includes jeering, booing, hissing, taunting, or other forms of negative interaction]</i></p>
<p>PLEASE NOTE: If behaviors are directed at a YOUTH umpire (under 18 years of age), the following alternate consequences replace those shown above:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>IMPORTANT: There is <u>ZERO</u> tolerance for abuse of Youth Umpires in Little League and the NNLL program.</p> </div>	<p>1st. Time Ejection and 3-game suspension.</p> <p>2nd. Time Ejection and suspension for the remainder of the season.</p> <p>NOTE: If, in the opinion of the League Official present, unacceptable behavior went unreported by game umpires, the League shall apply appropriate consequences on behalf of the umpire crew (up to and including lifetime suspension).</p>
<p>Coach knowingly allowing a player to play while having a serious injury or creating unsafe play conditions.</p>	<p>1st. Time Suspension for the remainder of the season.</p>
<p>Coach knowingly allowing an unapproved volunteer to participate in league activity.</p>	<p>1st. Time Team Manager will be given a written and/or verbal warning.</p> <p>2nd. Time Team Manager receives a 1-game suspension (next game).</p> <p>3rd. Time Team Manager receives a season suspension.</p>
<p>Threatening or inappropriate gesture directed toward a player, coach, umpire, official or spectator.</p>	<p>1st. Time Ejection and 2-game suspension.</p> <p>2nd. Time Ejection and 5-game suspension.</p> <p>3rd. Time Ejection and season suspension.</p>



(a) Use, (b) Possession, or (c) Being under the influence, of alcohol or other illegal substances within the complex during games, practices or league events where players are present.

1st. Time Ejection and 3-game suspension.

2nd. Time Ejection, season suspension including ban to any NNLL event as spectator.

Striking or bodily assault of any player, coach, umpire, official or spectator.

1st. Time If offense by a:

Coach: Ejection, season suspension, and notification to Sacramento Police Department.

Player: Ejection and 1-year suspension.

Official: Ejection, season suspension, and notification to Sacramento Police Department.

Adult Umpire: Ejection, season suspension, and notification to Sacramento Police Department.

Youth Umpire: Season suspension including attendance to any NNLL event as spectator.

2nd. Time Lifetime Ban from NNLL Events ***

*** Note: Represents a 2nd LIFETIME infraction.

Ejection from game or practice for any reason other than those stated here.

1st. Time Ejection from the game and 1-game suspension.

2nd. Time Ejection from the game and 3-game suspension.

3rd. Time Ejection from the game and suspension for the remainder of the season.



Section III. League Field Maintenance Responsibility

On December 3, 2013, NNLN adopted a “three strikes and you’re out” policy for managers who do not abide by the rules outlined regarding field maintenance.

NOTE: This policy applies to all NNLN fields. Please contact the NNLN Fields Coordinator for additional information or maintenance training and expectation.

Home Team Responsibilities	Visitor Team Responsibilities
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PRIOR TO GAME:

- Setup Field (chalk baseline & batter’s box, setup bases and fence/cones).
- Remove mound cover and set outside dugout, covers must be placed beyond the fence & may not be left within the playing area (fair/foul areas).
- Water infield grass and base paths.
- Ensure all loose hoses, covers, etc. are in place or off the field beyond the fence.

AFTER THE GAME:

- Clean out and SWEEP dugout.
- Ensure all field fences and gates are locked (Regional Field only).
- Notify league of missing or broken equipment.
- Notify League of any damage to the field (broken locks, vandalism, graffiti, etc.).
- Notify Fields Coordinator if supplies need replenishment (chalk, clay, etc.).

AFTER THE GAME:

- Field Tear down (Bases and fence/cones).
- Drag field.
- Rebuild pitcher’s mound including filling new holes/ tamping.
- Properly cover mound with mound cover.
- Fill holes at home plate.
- Sweep dirt off all infield/outfield grass lines.
- Water infield grass and base paths.
- Clean out and SWEEP dugout after game.
- Put away gear and LOCK equipment box.
- Umpire Box: Verify checklist is complete and LOCK box.
- Ensure all field fences and gates are locked (Regional Field only).
- Notify league of missing or broken equipment.
- Notify League of any damage to the field (broken locks, vandalism, graffiti, etc.).
- Notify Fields Coordinator if supplies need replenishment (chalk, clay, etc.).

CONSEQUENCES

- 1st. Time** Team Manager will be given a written and/or verbal warning.
- 2nd. Time** Team Manager will be given a 1 game (next game) suspension.
- 3rd. Time** Ejection from the game and suspension for the remainder of the season.