

Snoqualmie Valley Little League

Respect for the Game: Coaches Code of Conduct and Sportsmanship

Philosophy

"Little League Baseball and Softball is a program of service to youth. It is geared to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership in the atmosphere of wholesome community participation. The movement is dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens. It strives to inspire them with a goal and to enrich their lives toward the day when they must take their places in the world. It establishes for them rudiments of teamwork and fair play." (from Little League International)

Locally, Snoqualmie Valley Little League (SVLL) is committed to providing a positive baseball and softball experience. Every participant in SVLL—the players, managers, coaches, board members, parent helpers and many umpires—is a volunteer. The league spends a tremendous amount of time and money supporting its participants with quality training, improved facilities and the best equipment possible. The fabric of an all-volunteer youth sports league is held together by good sportsmanship and the mutual respect of everyone involved. SVLL believes that every participant deserves to be treated with respect. To this end, the league has developed a **Code of Conduct and Sportsmanship** for all of its coaches.

Coaches should read, understand and sign this form prior to working with children participating in our league. (Coach, throughout this document refers to Managers, Coaches and Assistant Coaches).

Expectations

The essential elements of charter-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring, and
- Good Citizenship

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of charter" I therefore agree:

1. I will not force any child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will read the health history for each child and adjust for physical disabilities or ailments that may affect the safety of the child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game, exhibit full knowledge of the safety manual and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for the children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, Coaches, Officials and spectators at every game, practice or other event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach the children to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

9. I will demand that my children treat other players, Coaches, Officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, gender or ability.
10. I will teach the children that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my children will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or their performance.
11. I will praise the children for competing fairly and trying hard, and make the children feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at the children or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition
13. I will emphasis skill developments over winning. I will also de-emphasis games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the children ahead of any personal desire I may have to win.
15. I will respect the Officials and their authority during games.
16. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will ensure a fully packed first aid kit is in the dugout during every practice and game.
18. I will have a meeting with parents where I review the Parent Code of Conduct, volunteerism and league objectives. I understand that I am responsible to ensure their appropriate behavior at practice and games and ensure that any parent working with players must first complete a background check.
19. I will work diligently with the league, other Coaches and parents to accommodate rescheduling of rain-outs to provide a complete season of games. (If deemed necessary for players to qualify for Tournament Play.)

Consequences

Any Coach guilty of improper conduct at any practice or game will be asked to leave the facility and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or a season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

Manager/Assistant Coach Signature Date

Approved 12/2017