

Coaches Code of Conduct

The Methuen West Little League was founded on the principle of 'Every Child Plays'. With that in mind, you are asked, as a Coach within the league, to abide by the following Code of Conduct. We ask that you read and sign this form and return it to your League Director.

For 2007 we are implementing 2 new rules for coaches to stress the code of conduct:

1. Any Coach found not following the **mandatory playing time and positional play** as appropriate to their division will be suspended for one game. After the second violation, the Board will determine the resolution.
2. There is a Zero Tolerance Policy in **confrontation with umpires**. This is especially applicable at the lower levels in Little League with our youth umpires. No complaints will be tolerated during a game. If there are issues – they are to be raised to the League Director or Umpire co-ordinator.

1. I will place the **emotional and physical well being of my players** ahead of a personal desire to win.
2. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the **game is for our youth and not for adults**
3. I will do my best to provide a **safe playing situation** for my players and raise any concerns I have with league officials.
4. I will do my best to **organize practices** that are fun and challenging for all players
5. I will provide a sports environment for my team that is **free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and profanity** and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events
6. I recognize that a child's desire to stay with the game of baseball is one that I will influence by the **attention that I give, the care that I show, and the balance that I use** in putting players on the field with equal time in different positions in both games and practices so that every player is engaged and learning.
7. I will avoid overplaying the talented players in playing time and position. The **"just average" players need and deserve equal time**. At this age, children learn quickly and develop quickly with the right attention and coaching. To raise the skill level of all players is a challenge I accept.
8. I will **help teach life skills** that include, giving your best effort at all times and reinforcing that making mistakes is OK as it is part of the learning process.
9. I will **install confidence** in the players by constructively correcting their play through teaching different techniques and not humiliate them in front of their peers or their family.
10. I will **encourage the parents and players to be committed to their teammates** by making every effort to attend all practices and games and will ask them to inform you if they are not able to be at a session.
11. I will do my best to **support the league and its fund raisers**
12. I will lead by example in **demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship** to all my players
13. I accept that Umpires, just as coaches and players, are attempting their best. With that, **I will not openly challenge or embarrass them and demonstrate good sportsmanship** and ensure that my team does as well.
14. If I see a parent or a fan demeaning an umpire, coach or player, I will either address the situation directly or will inform league directors to **help enforce the Sport Parent Code of Conduct**
15. I will remember that **our youth need a coach they can respect**. Be generous with your praise and encouragement – it will go a long way in a their development and love for the game.

I pledge to abide by this Code of Conduct: _____

"To play the game is great. To love the game is greater!"