

BEAR COUNTRY LITTLE LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

Bear Country Little League is a community youth baseball/softball activity with the goal of providing our children an opportunity to develop life skills through team play, sportsmanship, competition, and hard work. Our mission is to provide our youth the opportunity to play baseball/softball in a recreational league commensurate with their individual ability, potential, and interest. An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our league's mission. To better achieve that mission, we provide the following Codes of Conduct for all Bear Country Little League players, parents, and coaches.

These Codes of Conduct are an understanding between Bear Country Little League players, parents, managers, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These Codes express our values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed.

The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles: (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude; (2) Setting a good example; and (3) Maintaining good relationships with all Little League participants - including officials, umpires, opponents, and our own teams' players, parents, managers, coaches, and board members.

1. Demonstrating a positive attitude

Players, parents, managers, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for umpires, opponents, managers, coaches, parents, spectators, and board members undermine the purpose of the sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of Bear Country Little League.

2. Setting a good example

Each person associated with Bear Country Little League is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, managers, coaches, and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to lead by and set good examples.

Bear Country Little League will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes: Vulgarly profanity or obscene gestures by league officials, board members, managers, coaches, players, parents, or spectators; harassment or belittling of umpires, managers, coaches, parents, or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, managers, coaches and parents. We require this thorough self-restraint by all participants - both players and adults. Team managers, coaches, and league officials must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.

3. Maintaining good relationships

Officials - The umpire's job is a difficult one. All umpires are human and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified umpire should speak to their team manager after the game. Team managers should inform the appropriate league officials about blatant umpiring problems. Managers should make reports through appropriate channels, including email (bearcountryll@gmail.com). Verbal abuse toward an umpire can result in an ejection for the player, manager, coach, parent, and spectator pursuant to Little League rules.

Opponents – Players, managers, and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, managers, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of baseball/softball, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score.

Our Team - In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the managers' and coaches' authority. As in most cases, parental example is all-important.

Players' Code

As a Bear Country Little League player, I will:

1. Play the game for the game's sake, and not just to please my parents or coach.
 2. Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
 3. Respect the game of baseball/softball and its rules, and play the game fairly.
 4. Work for the good of my team and give my best effort at all times.
 5. Show respect for the authority of the umpire, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.
 6. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games and practices. I understand that baseball/softball is a game, and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
 7. Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated.
 8. Control my temper and not retaliate, even if I believe I have been wronged.
 9. I agree not to use vulgar language or make obscene gestures including profanity at any Little League function including practices and games.
 10. Not use or possess tobacco, electronic cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal or performance-enhancing drugs.
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Parents' Code

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your child and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

1. Support your child

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

2. Always be positive

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model, and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement.

3. Don't be a sideline coach or umpire

Refrain from coaching or umpiring from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The managers and coaches should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Umpires are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - Do not openly question their judgment or honesty.

4. Demonstrate a positive attitude toward your opponents and their families

Opponents are not enemies. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents, managers, coaches, or players. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

5. Remember that your child wants to have fun

Your child is the one playing baseball/softball, not you. Children must establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

As parents or guardians, we also agree to adhere to the following:

- 1 We will give only positive feedback to players.
- 2 We will not criticize the umpires openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be directed to the team manager in a respectful manner after the game and out of sight and sound of any players or participants.
- 3 We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome. We will be mindful in "lopsided" games where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood.
- 4 We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.
- 5 We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship before, during, and after each game and help our child remember to thank the umpire after the game without regard to the result.
- 6 We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every practice and game including being on time.
- 7 We shall support the learning efforts of the players, managers, coaches, and the umpires by demonstrating our patience.
- 8 We shall leave the coaching to the managers and coaches during the game.
- 9 We understand that the league can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude, offensive or otherwise violates the Bear Country Little League's Codes of Conduct.
- 10 We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.
- 11 We agree not to use vulgar language or obscene gestures including profanity at any Little League function including practices and games.
- 12 We understand that the league is made up of volunteers and that as parents, we understand that we may have to volunteer in the concession stand for a game during the season in an effort to bring in funds that help support our fields, equipment and other Little League expenses to keep registration costs down.
- 13 We agree not to use or display tobacco, electronic cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs at any Little League function.

Managers' and Coaches' Code

The Bear Country Little League Manager's and Coach's Code enumerates basic requirements, organized under four principles. They are: Leading by and setting a good example; keeping players safe; ensuring that all participants in Bear Country Little League have a positive experience; and relating to game umpires in an exemplary manner and encouraging players and parents to do the same.

1. Leading by and setting a good example

The managers' and coaches' example is powerful. If a manager and coach insists on fair play, concentrates on players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long-term development, and supports the umpire, players and parents will notice. If a manager and coach discourages (or allows) players to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about the results, and/or criticize the umpire or opposing managers and coaches, players and parents will also notice. Above all, children deserve managers and coaches they can respect.

- Managers and coaches, in all contact with Bear Country Little League players, parents, officials and coaches, should strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Before, during, and after the game, they should be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before games, opposing managers and coaches should meet and exchange greetings to set the proper tone for the game. After games, the teams, managers, and coaches should meet and congratulate each other in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Managers and coaches should ensure that their players' baseball/softball experience is one of fun and enjoyment, and improvement in skill (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at, lectured or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game. Managers and coaches should be generous with praise when it is deserved.
- Managers and coaches should avoid any conduct which could be construed as physically or verbally abusive.
- Managers and coaches should completely refrain from verbal dissent during a game with an opposing manager or coach.
- Managers and coaches should honor all professional relationships with colleagues, associations, umpires, and the public. Conflicts of interest and exploitation of these relationships must be avoided.

2. Keeping players safe

Managers and coaches should have the safety of the players in their charge as their priority at all times. Managers and coaches should be familiar with the facility(ies) and fields on which their teams practice and play, and be mindful of the levels of fitness and skill of each one of their players. Managers and coaches should also be familiar with the rules of the game, current with principles of age-appropriate coaching, aware of applicable existing rules and regulations, and informed of the affairs of Bear Country Little League.

- Managers and coaches should check players' equipment and playing facilities frequently. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of players.
- Managers and coaches should follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again. During a game, and in an absence of medical advice, managers and coaches should err on the side of caution in permitting an injured player to return to play.

3. Creating a positive experience

Bear Country Little League wishes to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for the children and adults involved. A baseball/softball game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, managers, coaches, umpires, parents, and spectators.

- Managers and coaches should require all players and spectators to adhere to the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. During the game, the managers and coaches are responsible for the sportsmanship of the players. If a player is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, the manager or coach should remove the player from the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down. Managers and coaches should explain acceptable behavior to players and parents at a preseason meeting. Encourage parents to make positive comments about good play by either team. Prohibit them from yelling at players and the umpire.

4. Relating to officials

Managers and coaches should demonstrate respect for the umpire and his/her role. Managers and coaches can help umpires improve by letting them concentrate on the game, accepting their inevitable occasional mistakes, and offering constructive post-game comments.

- Before a game, managers and coaches should introduce themselves to the umpire. During the game, the manager or acting manager should address the umpire only as needed to continue play. After the game, managers and coaches should thank the umpire and ask players to do the same.
- A small disagreement should be discussed with the umpire calmly after the game. For major complaints, or if the umpire appeared to be unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report opinions to league officials via telephone, in person, or via email at "bearcountryll@gmail.com"

As a manager or coach, I will also adhere to the following:

1. Respect the game of baseball/softball and its rules, and manage the game fairly.
2. Show respect for the authority of the umpire, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.
3. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games and practices. I understand that baseball/softball is a game, and that the players, managers and coaches on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
4. Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat others as I would like to be treated.
5. will not criticize the umpires openly or directly, during or after games.
6. I shall show the quality of my sportsmanship before, during, and after each game and have our team thank the umpire and shake hands with the opposing team after the game without regard to the result.
7. I shall support the learning efforts of the players, other coaches, and the umpires by demonstrating my patience.
8. I understand that the league can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to manage, coach or be present at any Bear Country Little League function should I behave in a manner that violates the Bear Country Little League's Code of Conduct.
9. I agree not to use vulgar language or obscene gestures including profanity at any Little League activity including practices and games.
10. I agree not to use or display tobacco, electronic cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs while at any Little League function.

Violations of the Code of Conduct

A violation of the Bear Country Little League Code of Conduct may result in a disciplinary hearing held by the Bear Country Little League board of directors or disciplinary comity. Any board of director, board member, manager, coach, player, parent/guardian, or spectator that is found to have violates the Bear Country Little League Code of Conduct shall be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions decided by the Little League Board of Directors or disciplinary comity.

1. Verbal or written warning from the league
2. One or more game suspension
3. Revocation or demotion of role on the team
4. Suspension of being a manager, coach or parent helper for an indefinite amount of time.
5. Permanent ban from Bear Country Little League