

Northwest Leon Little League's Gold Medal Standards of Sportsmanship

“Pursuing Victory with Honor”

Purpose

Little League is much more than just the act of participating in baseball and softball. It has become, over the years, a leadership program for both children and adults, with the aim of helping children to become good and decent citizens. Through the application of Little League Rules, Regulations and Policies, developed over decades of experience, Little League has become a beacon throughout the world. Children learn the positive values of good sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork — values they can use throughout their lives. Adults involved as volunteers in a local league gain a sense of belonging in a community, and can convey their leadership qualities to today's children so they will grow to be tomorrow's leaders.

Code of Conduct for Student-Athletes And Parents/Guardians of Student-Athletes

This Code of Conduct applies to everyone involved in Northwest Leon Little League Baseball and Softball athletics. The Code has been adopted by Northwest Leon Little League.

Athletic competition of school age student-athletes should be fun and should also be a significant part of a sound educational program, embodying high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while developing good character and other important life skills. Essential elements of character building are intrinsic in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the “Six Pillars of CharacterSM”). The highest potential of sports is achieved when learning from the T.E.A.M. concept (Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model these values) and by committing to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our programs and the well-being of all teammates.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

- *Trustworthiness* — Be worthy of trust in all you do.
- *Integrity* — Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor. Do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.
- *Honesty* — Live and compete honorably. Don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct. Cheating is not acceptable.
- *Reliability* — Fulfill commitments. Do what you say you will do. Be on time to practices and games.
- *Loyalty* — Be loyal to your team. Put the team above personal glory.

RESPECT

- *Respect* — treat all people, including the coach, with respect at all times. Demonstrate appropriate behavior that reflects self-control and a firm commitment to fair play.
- *Class* — Live and play with class. Be a good sport. Be courteous in victory and accept defeat with dignity. Help fallen opponents, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

- *Disrespectful Conduct* — Don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that belittle individuals or the sport.
- *Respect for Officials* — Treat game officials with respect. Don't complain about or argue with calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

RESPONSIBILITY

- *Importance of Education* — The primary responsibility of a student-athlete is academic achievement. Be a student first, and commit to getting the best education you can.
- *Role Modeling* — Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right, and that you are expected to represent your team, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model.
- *Self-Control* — Exercise self-control. Don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration. Have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
- *Healthy Lifestyle* — Safeguard your health. Don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances. Be informed about the health risks involved in the use of recreational and performance-enhancing drugs, tobacco and alcohol, as well as in eating disorders.
- *Integrity of the Game* — Protect the honor and goodness of the game.

FAIRNESS

- *Fairness and Openness* — Live up to high standards of fair play. Be open-minded, always be willing to listen and learn.

CARING

- *Concern for Others* — Demonstrate concern for others. Never intentionally injure any player or behave in a reckless way that might cause injury to yourself or others.
- *Teammates* — Help promote the well-being of teammates through positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

CITIZENSHIP

- *Playing by the Rules* — Have a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules. Demonstrate and demand integrity.
- *Spirit of Rules* — Honor, observe and enforce the spirit and the letter of rules. Do not engage in or allow any conduct designed to evade the rules governing fair competition.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CODE OF CONDUCT

The essential elements of character 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 youth sports is achieved when competition reflects all of these “SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER.”

I therefore agree that I will model the six core principles and teach them to my student-athlete and:

1. I will not force my 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 learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
4. 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 and other Spectators at every game and practice.
5. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any Official, Manager, Coach, Umpire, Player, or Parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
6. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or others.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that 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.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a game.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches or umpires at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches and/or umpires at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined or removed from the league if I violate any of its provisions.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

I have read and/or reviewed with my parent/guardian the Northwest Leon Little League Code of Conduct. I agree to abide by the following rules:

1. I will not lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the field.
2. I will be on time to all practices and games.
3. I will practice good sportsmanship. I will be courteous in victory and defeat. I will help others on both teams, I will congratulate good performance and be respectful of others pre-game or post-game activities.
4. I will not be disrespectful to my teammates, my coaches, the officials, or my parents by using profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks or engaging in boastful talk or behavior.
5. I will strive to do my best in school.
6. I will not fight or exhibit extreme displays of anger on or off the field. I will not be disruptive in the dugout during any game or practice session. I will not engage in any behavior that may be hurtful to me or others.
7. I will play by the rules of the game and abide by the rules of this league.

I understand that I may be disciplined or removed from a team if I violate any of the above rules.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date