



CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES FOR BEHAVIOR

We, the Abington Little League, have implemented the following Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents should read, understand and sign this form prior so their children participating in our league.

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

Preamble

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
- 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 to have fun and that the game is for youths, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will 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, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting 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 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 competition.

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 wellbeing 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 at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches 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.



It is the desire of the Abington Little League Board of Directors, to allow for all players, parents, coaches, managers, umpires, and other participants to be able to enjoy the sport of baseball in a safe, clean, and positive environment. To this end, the following policies are adopted to establish guidelines as to what actions constitute unacceptable behavior and the recommended consequences of such actions.

I. **Scope:** This policy shall be adhered to by all players, managers, coaches, parents, and other spectators involved with the league and shall be followed before, during, and after a game, practice, or league event. The punishments recommended here are to be considered as guidelines that the Abington Little League Board of Directors may choose to follow. The Abington Little League Board of Directors reserve the right to implement any such consequence to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its members. If the Abington Little League Board of Directors implements a termination of membership, probation, or a suspension of any such length for a player, manager, coach, parent or other spectator, those so penalized shall lose all privileges of participating in any Abington Little League activity or serving the league in any capacity during the period of the termination, probation, or suspension.

II. **Procedure and Notification:** Any player, manager, coach, parent, umpire, or other spectator may bring a complaint against another party. The complaint shall be in written form and shall be directed to the President of the Abington Little League. The President shall instruct the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee to investigate and provide due diligence for the complaint, and bring the findings to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.

The President may choose at his own discretion, to call a meeting of the Board of Directors in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting, to review and act upon a complaint should the need arise. This meeting date and time is at the discretion of the President and are closed to the public.

Upon determination of the validity of the complaint, proper notification will be given to the persons involved in the complaint, notifying them of such complaint and any actions that may be taken going forward.

III. **Social Media:** Any player, manager, coach, parent, umpire, or other spectator who is involved in a verbal altercation, making disparaging, threatening, offensive, retaliatory, or otherwise inappropriate comments about Abington Little League, any board member, parent, or player on Facebook, Twitter, or any other social media format shall be subject to disciplinary actions, including suspension or termination.



IV. Specific Infractions and Consequences

a. **Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach**

1. Aggressively challenging an umpire's decision, either by raising their voice, making inappropriate gestures, or clearly demonstrating dissent.
 - **First Offense** – Written warning from the Disciplinary Committee Chair.
 - **Second Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Third Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.
2. Physical contact with an umpire, to include but not limited to, bumping, shoving, striking, or by use of direct foul language.
 - **First Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Possible legal action pursuant to the Pennsylvania penal code.
3. Confronting any parent, spectator, or other adult by raising their voice, making inappropriate gestures, or clearly demonstrating dissent, including foul language, whether the incident occurs face to face or via social media.
 - **First Offense** – Written warning from the Disciplinary Committee Chair.
 - **Second Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Third Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
4. Physical contact with any parent, spectator, or other adult to include but not limited to bumping, shoving, striking, or by use of direct foul language.
 - **First Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Possible legal action pursuant to the Pennsylvania penal code.
5. Verbal abuse, or clear verbal attack of a player or other minor within the league or on the team, whether the incident occurs face to face or via social media.
 - **First Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Second Offense** – Removal from the team as manager, coach, or assistant coach for the remainder of the season.
6. Physical contact with any player or other minor within the league or on the team.
 - **First Offense** – Immediate termination from the league.
Possible legal action pursuant to the Pennsylvania penal code.



b. **Players and other minor participants within the league**

1. Aggressively challenging an umpire's decision, either by raising their voice, making inappropriate gestures, or clearly demonstrating dissent.
 - **First Offense** – Written warning from the manager or coach.
 - **Second Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Third Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly schedule games.
2. Physical contact with an umpire, to include but not limited to, bumping, shoving, striking, or by use of direct foul language.
 - **First Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.
 - **Second Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Possible legal action pursuant to the Pennsylvania penal code.
3. Confronting any parent, spectator, or other adult by raising their voice, making inappropriate gestures, or clearly demonstrating dissent, including foul language whether the incident occurs face to face or via social media.
 - **First Offense** – Written warning from manager or coach.
 - **Second Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Third Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
4. Physical contact with any parent, spectator, or other adult, to include but not limited, to bumping, shoving, striking, spitting, or by use of direct foul language.
 - **First Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.
 - **Second Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Possible legal action pursuant to the Pennsylvania penal code.
5. Verbal abuse, foul language, or clear verbal attack of another player or minor within the league, with a teammate, or opponent, whether the incident occurs face to face or via social media.
 - **First Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Second Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.
 - **Third Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
6. Physical contact with another player or other minor within the league, with a teammate, or opponent. To include, but not limited to, hitting,



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pushing, tackling, spitting, or other form of contact with malicious intent.

- **First Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Second Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.
 - **Third Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
7. Poor sportsmanship to include misuse of equipment, by throwing or slamming, or showing clear dissent for the game or its participants.
- **First Offense** – Written warning by the manager or coach.
 - **Second Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Third Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.

c. Parents, player's relatives, and other spectators

1. Aggressively challenging an umpire's decision, either by raising their voice, making inappropriate gestures, or clearly demonstrating dissent.
 - **First Offense** – Written warning from the Disciplinary Committee Chair.
 - **Second Offense** – 1 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.
 - **Third Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.
2. Physical contact with an umpire, to include but not limited to, bumping, shoving, striking, or by use of direct foul language.
 - **First Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Possible legal action pursuant to the Pennsylvania penal code.
3. Confronting any parent, spectator, or other adult by raising their voice, making inappropriate gestures, or clearly demonstrating dissent, including foul language, whether the incident occurs face to face or via social media.
 - **First Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.
 - **Second Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
4. Physical contact with any parent, spectator, or other adult, to include but not limited, to bumping, shoving, striking, spitting, or by use of direct foul language.
 - **First Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Possible legal action pursuant to the Pennsylvania penal code.



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5. Confronting any player or other minor within the league by raising their voice, making inappropriate gestures, or clearly demonstrating dissent, including foul language, whether the incident occurs face to face or via social media.
- **First Offense** – 3 game suspension for the next regularly scheduled games.
 - **Second Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
6. Physical contact with any player or other minor within the league, to include but not limited, bumping, shoving, striking, spitting, or by use of direct foul language.
- **First Offense** – Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Possible legal action pursuant to the Pennsylvania penal code.

By signing below, I acknowledge I have read, or have been read, and accept this Code of Conduct set forth by the Abington Little League. I agree to abide by the above listed policies for the entire season for both games and practices, and during any other league activities. This policy shall be in full force and effect for the current season only. Refusing to accept these policies will preclude participation in the Abington Little League. I also understand, the Abington Little League Board of Directors may exercise at their own discretion, other consequences to ensure the safety of its participants. I also understand this list is not all inclusive of every situation that may arise throughout the season.

Player's Name: _____

Player's Signature: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Season in which these policies are in effect: **Spring 2022**

Today's Date: _____