

Fort Gratiot Little League



Coach's Code of Conduct

Coaching a youth sport program such as Little League Baseball is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a coach, appointed by Fort Gratiot Little League (FGLL) Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children in the community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of good sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. In order to ensure each coach is acting in the best interest of the children and Little League Baseball, the FGLL Board has developed a Coaches Code of Conduct for interactions with players, parents, fans, coaches, and umpires.

1. As a coach you understand and can recognize the signs of a concussion. By signing below, you understand and agree that a concussion can be serious. You understand that if not handled properly concussion can lead to permanent brain injury or death.
 - a. I pledge that if I recognize signs of a concussion in an athlete, or if concern for concussion is brought to my attention by a teammate, coach or athletic trainer, I will remove the athlete from play immediately.
 - b. I pledge to report a suspected concussion to the parent/guardian and FGL Safety Officer immediately.
 - c. I pledge to NOT allow the athlete to play again until a doctor provides a written approval along with the parent/guardian signing a waiver form (see FGLL Safety Officer).
2. Players – When there are interactions with players, appropriate language and behavior is expected.
 - a. Language - At no time is cursing or yelling at a player acceptable. As a coach you are a mentor and should focus on the positive. A coach should always be looking for opportunities to praise and encourage the players.
 - b. Discipline – At no time is physical discipline of a player acceptable. At the beginning of the season, coaches are encouraged to establish and communicate rules of acceptable behavior to players and parents, and the consequences if not followed. Coaches have a variety of discipline measures at their disposal including restriction to the dugout, dismissal from practice or games, and, with approval of the FGLL Board of Directors, dismissal from the team. (Coaches are responsible for supervision of the child until the parents arrive at the field.) If a coach wishes to discipline his own child, he is expected to pull the player aside for corrective action.
3. Parents / Fans – Coaches are expected to interact with parents in a professional manner. Appropriate language and behavior is expected. At no time should a coach respond to comments from fans during a game.
4. Coaches – Coaches are expected to interact with opposing coaches in a professional manner. At no time should a coach yell from one dugout to another at an opposing coach. Coaches are to address other coaches between innings and with the umpire present. If the need arises to address an opposing coach before the end of the half inning, the coach should ask the umpire to call timeout to address the opposing coach at home plate.
5. Umpires – Coaches are expected to interact with umpires in a professional manner. At no time should a coach yell from the dugout, 1st base coach's box, or 3rd base coach's box to an umpire. Coaches are to address the umpires between innings with the umpire's permission. If the need arises to address an umpire before the end of the half inning, the coach should call a timeout and request permission to address the umpire at home plate. If a coach asks for the umpire's permission to discuss a call, the umpire will be more willing to listen. Umpires are generally unpaid volunteers. Some are high school students. Adult coaches should be mindful of this when interacting with them.
6. Drugs, Alcohol, & Tobacco – A coach determined to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave the field immediately. An infraction of this type will (with approval from the FGLL Board of Directors), result in a termination of coaching privileges. In addition, the use of tobacco (in any form) while coaching is strictly prohibited.

In the event a complaint is received by the FGLL Board of Directors of a coach failing to comply with the above listed code of conduct, the Board may decide to 1) dismiss the case, 2) draft a warning letter or 3) revoke all or part of the coach's privileges. By signing in the space provided below, you are agreeing that you have read and understand the Coaches Code of Conduct for FGLL Baseball.

Name

Signature

Date