

2014 Hopkinton Little League Code of Conduct

Hopkinton Little League welcomes all eligible participants to become part of its baseball and softball programs, where appropriate behavior is key to the success of the program and the enjoyment of all those involved. Accordingly, all interested participants are required to review and sign the following Code of Conduct as a condition of eligibility.

Any individual who fails to abide by these requirements is subject to disciplinary action by the Hopkinton Little League, including suspension and/or a termination of right to participate, without refund of participation or other fees.

In establishing the code, the overall goal is to promote good sportsmanship, responsibility and healthy competition among players, coaches, and fans at all league levels to ensure the best possible playing experience for our children. Accordingly all members must comply with the following provisions:

- I understand that children participate in sports to have fun, build social relationships and become better players and, as such, will strive to focus on building age-appropriate skills and learning the fundamentals of the game over the importance of winning. I will also use my best effort to encourage children to be fully engaged while playing in games or at practice and to seek out, as appropriate, additional opportunities to personally improve throughout the season.
- I will be a positive role model for my child and all other participants by practicing good sportsmanship both on and off the field and promoting a positive, learning environment for everyone involved at practices and games. I will make every effort to provide positive feedback and constructive suggestions recognizing that teams are made up of children of all ages and abilities. Further, I will avoid any derogatory remarks or undue and unnecessary personal comparisons with other members of the team.
- I will teach players on my team that mistakes, errors, tough calls and losses are part of the game and work with them to develop strategies to learn from those events and move forward.
- I will familiarize myself with all of the rules of the game and the leagues in which we participate, and ensure that players understand those rules and the importance of abiding by them. I will neither promote nor engage in any activity designed to avoid or disregard the rules of the game or league, or manipulate any process to obtain a result inconsistent with those rules, including those for selecting teams.
- I will not engage in any unsportsmanlike conduct with any umpire, coach, player, parent or any other person, including - without limitation - booing from the crowd, taunting, or verbally criticizing umpire calls, coaching decisions, plays in the field or game results. Also, I will absolutely refrain from using any profane or abusive language or gestures, as well as any inappropriate physical contact that would endanger the health of others, and will hold our fans to these same guidelines.
- I will be respectful of all players, coaches, umpires, spectators and league members, regardless of race, color, gender, playing ability or any other category. I will further refrain from making any derogatory remarks (including by e-mail or other electronic media) that would have the likely affect of harming another's reputation or standing in the community. I will handle issues or complaints privately, and in a constructive manner, that is appropriate under the circumstances.

- I will respect the calls of the umpires on the field and understand that often, they are either middle or high school students who are learning the umpire’s responsibilities. I will not challenge or demonstrate any objection to a judgment call made by an umpire during a game, and will monitor our fans for this same respectful behavior. I understand and agree that any challenge or argument with a judgment call may result in disciplinary action against me.
- In addition, I will not publicly question, challenge or become confrontational with any coach during a game or practice and will make every effort to constructively resolve the issue with them at a mutually acceptable time and place.
- I will also encourage team members to pick up any trash left behind in the dugout and on the field after games and practices thereby promoting respect and good will among our children. Alcohol and tobacco products are expressly forbidden at any of the HLL playing fields at any time.
- I understand that if I personally observe actions by others that are inconsistent with this Code of Conduct, I may formally report them to league board members by filing an “Incident Report.” I further understand that I may request my identity be kept confidential, but that on a case by case basis, the league may request my involvement to conduct a review and take any necessary action.
- I understand that the Hopkinton Little League Board of Directors may, from time to time, establish a committee and certain processes to review and take action in connection with any violation of this Code of Conduct (or any other action inconsistent with the intentions or spirit outlined here.) Further, I understand that the board also may publish guidelines for disciplinary action associated with violation of this code and its principals, but that any such guidelines are meant to be illustrative and not necessarily binding upon the Hopkinton Little League and its members.
- I also understand that the Hopkinton Little League Board of Directors may, from time to time, amend and modify this Code of Conduct, which will be considered applicable through publishing on the league web site. I understand this is not intended to be an exhaustive recitation of policy for every possible situation, but rather I am expected to comply with the spirit and intent of this code, in addition to the specific requirements.

My signature(s) below acknowledge my acceptance of these conditions of play.

Player

Parent

Date

Date

Players Date of Birth