

## **Rancho Niguel Little League Managers & Coaches Code of Conduct**

Baseball embodies the discipline of teamwork. The game challenges players towards perfection of physical skills and brings into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball also teach that while every player eventually strikes out, or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success during the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, Rancho Niguel Little League (“RNLL”) expects each Manager and Coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

### **Sportsmanship**

1. I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good baseball skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I will not (in word or deed) overemphasize the value and importance of winning.
3. I will respect the coaches, players and spectators of the opposing team before, during and after the game; win or lose.
4. I will maintain control of my emotions and avoid actions, language and gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating.
5. I realize, accept and will practice the principle that a team’s reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy and manner.
6. I will respect the decisions of the Umpires through my actions and communication with the Umpire. I will always remember that all of the players on the field and the parents in the stands are watching how I interact and communicate with the Umpire.
7. If I observe unsportsmanlike conduct that has not been corrected, I will report it to the RNLL Board of Directors.

### **Rules and Policies**

1. I will know and understand all Little League rules will and abide by them (whether local or national). I will instruct my team members in the spirit of the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
2. I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All Managers and Coaches must ensure that all players get their opportunities to bat and play the field in each game. I also understand that specific rules are also in place to limit the number and frequency of innings pitched by a particular player and agree to abide by these rules.
3. I will NOT work out nor accept any “*Gentlemen Agreements*” that are designed to alter and/or ignore the rules of the game as outlined by Little League and/or RNLL.
4. I will fully comply with RNLL’s Zero Tolerance Policy.
5. I will review the RNLL website ([www.rnllbaseball.org](http://www.rnllbaseball.org)) on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all RNLL rules and policies.

### **The Parents and the League**

1. I will have a parent team meeting prior to the first practice to set goals and expectations for everyone involved with the team. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous yet straight forward manner.
2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of RNLL (i.e. RNLL is organized as a recreational and instructional baseball league, meant for the enjoyment of all the players). I will approach coaching at practices and games accordingly.

### **The Team**

1. I will be a role model for my players and will exemplify the highest moral and ethical character.
2. I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
3. I will focus on providing instruction commensurate with players abilities so “all players” have the opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further baseball competition.
4. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
5. I understand that Managers and Coaches are appointed by the league to be responsible for the team’s actions on the field and to represent the team in communications with the umpires,

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opposing teams and the league. If a Manager leaves the field for any reason, he shall designate a Coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the Manager's duties.

6. I will always look out for the health, welfare and safety of my players.

### **Player Safety**

1. Managers will take the utmost care to protect their players including not pitching a player complaining of arm pain, not violating the pitch count regulations and not allowing players to stand in the doorway of the dugout during play.
2. Managers will follow the RNLL policy of always unlocking and opening the door of the shed at Crown Valley field or the equipment door at La Paz field before the start of practice or a game at all practices and games so that the AED device is readily available to anyone in cardiac arrest. If I, as the manager, am not available for a practice or game, I will instruct one of my coaches to perform this function.

### **Non-Game Duties of Managers**

*Each manager has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games. Accordingly, if I am a Manager, I will adhere to the following as well:*

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
2. I will effectively communicate with the other managers in my division as well as the league, which I understand will require me to check my email on a regular basis during the season.
3. I will coordinate with parents to make sure that my team has the requisite number of people to fill all volunteer positions including Team Mom, Snack Bar, Picture Day, etc... I understand that it is not acceptable for me to inform the RNLL that no one was willing to participate.
4. I understand that Majors, AAA and AA teams are required to provide qualified umpires for assigned games throughout the season. I understand that it is my responsibility to either umpire the game myself or find a qualified umpire such as a volunteer parent or another coach.
5. I will attend all required coaches, safety and umpiring clinics. If I cannot attend for any reason, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf. I understand that if I fail to attend certain mandatory events or meetings such as the AI & AI clinic, then I will not be eligible to manage or coach for tournament play.
6. I will make sure that I maintain a notebook containing the League Safety Manual, the Player Medical Release Forms, the Local RNLL Rules and a copy of the national Little League rule book and make sure it is present at each team practice and game.
7. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and RNLL officials.
8. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.
9. I, the undersigned, agree to follow the Code of Conduct and comply with all Little League and RNLL rules, policies and procedures. I understand the violation of the Code will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action that could include a warning, game suspension or season suspension, as well as impact my opportunity to Manage or Coach in future seasons. I further acknowledge the authority of the Board of Directors of Rancho Niguel Little League and understand that if permitted to coach or manage, I serve solely at the pleasure of the Board, which permission may be revoked at any time. My failure to honor the authority of the Board and its members or to show them proper respect will be deemed to be a violation of this Code of Conduct. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to speak to some or all of the Board at any time and that if called my failure to attend could result in an immediate suspension. I understand that if I am suspended, I will not be permitted to attend any league functions (practices, games, etc.).

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Signature

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Date

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Name (printed)