

# Marlboro Little League Code of Conduct

Submitted by the Marlboro Little League Executive Board September 2008<sub>1</sub>

The intent of this document is to expand upon prior commitments made by the Marlboro Little League to protect and promote child safety, good sportsmanship and the integrity of the games. While the overwhelming majority of the Managers, Coaches and Parents respect the rules of the game as well as the existing code of conduct policies, there have been infractions and incidents that have made it increasingly difficult on those that enforce the policies of the Marlboro Little League. Furthermore, it has also resulted in stressful and difficult situations for our league umpires (both adults and teens) where they have had to switch their focus from officiating a game and attend to behavioral issues .

As a result of these increased problems the following guidelines have been put in place where compliance is mandatory by all board members, managers, coaches, parents and players. These guidelines are not intended to replace established or existing rules or codes of conduct, rather it should be considered an addendum. Prior to the start of each spring and fall season it is the responsibility of each Commissioner to ensure that this document has been shared and reviewed by all Managers and Coaches within the Marlboro Little League.

## 1.0 Disciplinary Committee

- 1.1 Effective immediately a new disciplinary committee will be formed. At the recommendation of the Executive Board this committee will be comprised of board members that are not currently coaching or managing within the Marlboro Little League or Travel Club. While that might not always be possible since most board members are also coaches it is a best practice that should be adhered to when possible.

1.2 The new disciplinary committee will be comprised of the following board members:

- Barry Lubin
- Bruce Canell
- Joan McManus
- Joe Specchio
- Rich Amberger

1.3 The primary responsibility and charter of this new committee will be to review and rule upon any rule infractions or code of conduct violations that is brought to the attention of the Marlboro Little League Board of Directors.

1.4 If called upon to review an infraction or complaint the disciplinary committee will provide the recommended course of action including the issuance of suspensions, if necessary. The recommended actions will be determined by reviewing existing policies as well as those set forth within this document.

## 2.0 Code of Conduct

2.1 **It has** been noted that within recent years there has been an increase in the number of verbal disagreements between the umpiring crews and coaches. As such a “zero tolerance” policy will be put in place effective immediately. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the immediate suspension (possibly long term) of any coach or manager that is found to be in violation.

- 2.2 Arguing or disputing judgment calls is not permitted, especially balls and strikes. Any person doing so will be issued one warning by the umpire. Upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction during a game that person will be immediately ejected .
- 2.3 Questioning or commenting of an umpires strike zone during the course of a game is strictly prohibited. Manager's and Coaches are responsible to comply and help enforce this with those sitting on the sidelines as well.
- 2.4 Any coach that has been ejected during a game will be automatically suspended for the following played game. If a coach is ejected for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time within the same season then a 2 game suspension will automatically follow. Any further ejections will be reviewed by the disciplinary committee for possible permanent dismissal.
- 2.5 Questioning or comments in-between innings or during a game including wanting to know "where the pitch was" will be considered questioning of the strike zone. As such it can result in a warning or ejection.
- 2.6 Any coach displaying aggressive behavior such as charging towards an umpire and yelling will be subject to a warning or ejection.

- 2.7 Coaches need to be mindful of the fact that many umpires within the Marlboro Little League are minors , this is especially true for those working the younger divisions. These umpires can become easily intimidated by an adult that is questioning their judgment. As a result many times calls are often reversed when there have been no grounds to protest it in the first place. While it is important that the correct call be applied coaches are not permitted to try and dissuade judgment calls. Asking for a discussion unless it is initiated by an umpire is not permitted. Any adult, be it a coach or spectator that is deemed to be giving an umpire a hard time or approaches a minor in an intimidating manner will be immediately ejected from the complex .
- 2.8 All Coaches are responsible to understand the rules. This includes assistant coaches that are filling in for a Manager that might be absent from a game. For those that coach in both the Little League and Travel program it is their responsibility to fully understand the rules of both programs.
- 2.9 Any coach that violates a pitching rest or consecutive game rule, be it inadvertent or not, will automatically be suspended for one game. A second violation will result in a two game suspension. Any further violations will result in a review by the disciplinary committee and a possible permanent dismissal from the program. In addition, any coach that is in violation of the pitching rule will automatically forfeit the game by a score of 6-0.
- 2.10 All coaches are responsible to ensure that the pitching logs are filled out after each game. Failure to do so can result in a suspension. Games played on Fields E or H is not an excuse for failing to fill out the log. Coaches are responsible to check the pitching log prior to each game to see who from their opponent is eligible to pitch.

- 2.11 All Coaches are reminded that the players and parents have signed code of conduct forms prior to **the beginning of the season. It is not acceptable for these documents to be signed and ignored.** Managers are responsible to ensure that the players and team parents abide by them throughout the season. Managers are obligated to report poor sportsmanship or conduct of a any player or parent to the League's Board of Directors.
- 2.12 Coaches are to remind their players that good sportsmanship is essential. Any child that displays rude behavior towards their teammates, opponents, umpires, coaches or any league official will be subject to a suspension.
- 2.13 Managers are to remind their team parents that cheering in an appropriate manner for both their team as well as their opponents is the only acceptable form of shouting from the stands. Parents need to be aware of what appropriate cheering is about, it certainly does not occur when a child on the other team makes an error . Any parent that is caught giving a coach or umpire a hard time will be warned once. On the second occurrence they will be asked to leave the complex. Booing of an opposing team or coach is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
- 2.14 Under no circumstances are coaches permitted to alter existing rules in order to accommodate the needs of their own team. Failure to comply will result in an immediate suspension. Coaches are encouraged to join and attend board meetings in order to share ideas as to how the Little League experience can be improved for the children. Unilateral decisions made by individual coaches in order to benefit their own team without regards to established rules is not permitted.

## 3.0 Board Members

- 3.1 Effective immediately Board Member Gene Napolitano has the responsibility of tracking and reporting into the Executive Board any team or individual that has missed OD assignments. Failure to cover an OD slot can result in an individual not being considered for a future coaching position. The primary OD is responsible to sign in the other OD's for the evening .
- 3.1 Board Members and Managers are required to fulfill their OD assignments. Team OD slots can be assigned to any assistant coach or team parents. Ultimately, it is the Manager's responsibility to ensure that the assigned slot is covered.
- 3.2 Board Member assigned slots can only be swapped with other Board Members.
- 3.3 Board Members with one year of membership or longer are expected to be familiar with the complex so they can fully open and close it, including the registers, on their own.
- 3.4 Board Members will be held to higher standards and are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. It is essential that board members become positive role models for all coaches and parents that participate in the program.
- 3.5 Board Member must maintain a status of "good standing" throughout the year. Unexcused absences from board meetings should be the exception and not the norm. In addition, all board members are expected to volunteer for events throughout the season. Simply fulfilling your assigned OD slots will not be considered when selections for District Managers occur at the end of a season. All board members are encouraged to volunteer for as many events as possible, such as registration night, picture day, the awards dinner, equipment returns, etc.
- 3.6 Board Members are reminded of their responsibility to their fellow board members as well as the parents and children that participate in the program. All e-mails and discussions should be considered confidential and privileged. As board members it's imperative that we respect the privacy of others and only share information on a need to know basis.