

## **Belmont Little League** **Zero Tolerance Policy**

### **Managers, Coaches, Umpires, League Officials:**

Any Manager, Coach, Umpire or League Representative who is involved in a verbal and or physical altercation or an incident of unsportsmanlike behavior is subject to disciplinary action by the Belmont Board of Directors.

### **Players, Parents, and Spectators:**

The game will be stopped by the umpire when players, parents and spectators display unsportsmanlike or disruptive behavior and the behavior interferes with the progress of the game, other spectators or participants in the game. The offending player, parent or spectator will be identified to the manager of the respective team who will request the behavior to stop IMMEDIATELY if the behavior continues, there will be disciplinary action to follow.

### **Disciplinary Action Policy:**

Any Manager, Coach, Player, Parent, or Spectator ejected from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct must leave the field of play before game can continue and serve a mandatory next game suspension. Depending on the severity and frequency of the unsportsmanlike conduct, the offending Manager, Coach, Player, Parent, or Spectator may be required to come before the Belmont Board of Directors before reinstatement or for expulsion from the League.

### **Unsportsmanlike or Disruptive Behavior:**

Unsportsmanlike or disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to:

- Verbal and or physical abuse of an Umpire, Player, Opposing Manager/Coach, other Parents or Spectators and League Representatives.
- Inciting or Encouraging Abusive and Dangerous Actions by the Players both on and off the fields.
- Baiting and ridiculing and or threatening another player or person.
- Abuse of playing equipment and/or facilities.
- Use of offensive language (language that does not offend some people may offend others.)
- No manager, coach, player or spectator shall, at any time: Lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official or physically attack any board member, official, manager, coach, player or spectator.

# Code of Conduct

## Introduction

Belmont Little League is a community organization that sponsors youth baseball activity emphasizing fun, fair play and sportsmanship. The mission of our programs is to enhance every participant's enjoyment of their baseball experience. To better achieve this goal, we are outlining a Code of Conduct for all parents and players involved in organization. The Code of Conduct is a written contract between the parents and players to abide by the rules and regulations of the game as well as maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. This contract is more than just paper; it is the essence of our goals and objectives and thus, adherence to it is of primary importance. Children who wish to play and parents who want their children to play on teams sanctioned by Belmont Little League are required to agree to and to sign this Code of Conduct.

## PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

### All players Will ...

- Display good sportsmanship and team play at all times.
- Follow the direction of the Coaching Staff.
- Show respect for all opponents, coaches, players, umpires, league officials and spectators.
- Make every attempt to be on time and ready to play for all games and practices.
- Inform coaching staff in a timely manner when unable to attend practice or games.

### All Players Will Not ...

- Use abusive or profane language
- Taunt or humiliate any other player
- Abuse, mistreat or mishandle any Belmont Little League equipment or property (eg. throwing batting helmets)
- Threaten or fight any person while at any Belmont Little League game or practice

## **PARENTS & SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Parents/Guardians and Spectators will support the players, coaches, umpires, opponents and league or tournament officials. Parents/Guardians and Spectators won't "coach" or "officiate".

### **All Parents and Spectators Will ...**

- Conduct themselves in a manner that displays the principals of good sportsmanship and team play.
- Show respect for all opponents, coaches, players, umpires, league officials and spectators.
- Inform the Coaching Staff of any disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child.
- Comply with the decisions of league officials and observe all rules, policies and procedures as established or endorsed by Belmont Little League.
- Make arrangements to ensure that the players are punctual in arrival at and departure from all Belmont Little League athletic events.
- Be drug and alcohol free while at any and all Belmont Little League athletic event.

### **All Parents and Spectators Will Not ...**

- Ridicule, demean, threaten or engage in a confrontation with players, coaches, other spectators or umpires.

## **Conclusion**

The Belmont Little League Board of Directors reserves the right to impose penalties, including, without limitation, game suspensions, dismissal from the team, suspension or revocation of Belmont Little League membership for serious or repeated violation of this Code of Conduct or other conduct deemed to be harmful to our organization. We agree to abide by the rules and regulations stated herein, and we are bound to all decisions and impositions of these rules. It is with the spirit of cooperation, for the betterment of baseball and our family that we willingly abide by this contract. Our signatures and that of our child is our written approval of this contract.

# Consequences for infractions of Code of Conduct

If a person is in violation of the code of conduct, Belmont Little League has a range of possible actions that may be taken:

1. WARNING
2. PROBATION
3. SUSPENSION
4. REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM

Any person may have the opportunity to come to a Belmont Little League board meeting to discuss incidents that may involve the code of conduct. Everyone has the opportunity to be heard. A person in violation may also be asked to come to a Belmont Little League Board meeting.

We encourage the handshake ritual after all youth games. This demonstration of sportsmanship and high standards of ethics is important in the development of good character. Building character through sports is a vital way of helping our youth today and tomorrow.

## Infractions

Any infraction or alleged infractions of the Code of Conduct should be reported immediately to the Division Representative, Coaching Coordinator, VP of the League, or the President of the Board. Regardless of the disposition of the infraction, whether or not it occurred at a game, the President of the Board shall be notified immediately by the League Official receiving the report. Infractions will either be major or minor depending on the frequency and severity during the game(s).

### The President will:

- For a Major Infraction:
  - 1) Call an emergency meeting of the Board to discuss and vote on a response to the infraction. A vote may be taken and will be binding without a quorum of the Board, subject to final approval by a quorum of the Board. The quorum may reverse the emergency meeting's vote but reversal will not be retroactive.
  - 2) If time permits, present the problem at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board for resolution. Normal rules apply.

## Consequences for infractions of Code of Conduct Continued

3) Penalties must be imposed by the Board as follows, if it makes a finding of a Major Infraction, and may be in addition to any penalty imposed at the game(s). Minimum penalties must be assessed by the Board unless waived. (Waiver = No section, in whole or in part, of these rules may be waived for a Board member unless a quorum for the entire Board approves the waiver by a simple majority.)

4) Maximum penalties are recommendations only. Depending on the severity and/or frequency of the infraction(s), the Board may at its sole discretion, by simple majority vote, impose a greater penalty up to and including suspension or removal from the league. Penalties will be assessed on the Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator.

Infraction	Severity	Penalty
1st	Minimum	Written warning and copies to Board
	Maximum	One game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager
2nd	Minimum	One game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager
	Maximum	Three game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager
3rd	Minimum	Two game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager
	Maximum	Season game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager

- **For a Minor Infraction:**

1) Any response listed in Section above.

2) Determine a resolution at his or her sole discretion. Such resolution must be reported and opened for discussion at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

3) Penalties must be imposed by the Board as follows, if it makes a finding of a Minor Infraction, and may be in addition to any penalty imposed at the game(s). The Board must assess minimum penalties unless waived per Section above.

4) Maximum penalties are recommendations only. Depending on the severity and/or frequency of the infraction(s), the Board may at its sole discretion, by simple majority vote, impose a greater penalty up to and including suspension or removal from the league. Penalties will be assessed on the Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator.

## Consequences for infractions of Code of Conduct Continued

Infraction	Severity	Penalty
1st	Minimum	Verbal Warning, Board advised at next scheduled Board meeting.
	Maximum	Written warning and copies to Board and opposing manager.
2nd	Minimum	Verbal Warning, Board advised at next scheduled Board meeting.
	Maximum	One game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager.
3rd	Minimum	Written Warning and copies to Board and opposing manager.
	Maximum	One game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager.
4th	N/A	Treated as a Major Infraction. See Major Infraction section.

### **Compliance**

All parents, players, spectators, coaches, and managers are expected to comply with the outcome of any disciplinary action rendered by the Board. A team whose parents, players, spectators, coaches, or managers ignores a suspension penalty imposed by an umpire or the Board will forfeit each game the offender ignores the suspension.