

CODE OF CONDUCT

PURPOSE

This document highlights certain rules and regulations concerning member conduct and discipline. The below disciplinary steps are not the exclusive means for dealing with offenders; nor does this document include all League or Little League Baseball, Inc. rules and regulations for which offenders may be disciplined. The rules and regulations concerning member conduct are found in several sources; the Little League Rule Book; the Evergreen Little League Handbook; and the Evergreen Little League Constitution and Bylaws.

Before the start of each season, all managers and coaches are required to sign off that they have read and fully understand Evergreen Little league code of conduct policy. Managers and coaches will not be able to coach in league play until this requirement is satisfied.

6.1 SPECIFIC CONDUCT CASES

This section is a guide for the disciplining of Evergreen Little League members for violations of certain rules and regulations. The objective is to maintain objectivity in disciplining members. However, since the below offenses may be of varying degree, first or second offenses of a serious nature may be dealt with under *Article 3, Section 4 of the League's Constitution and Bylaws*.

Note: Members include players, parents, Managers or any other volunteers, or league official.

6.1.1 Physical Abuse

Physical abuse by any league member toward any other member or spectator will not be tolerated. The offender's penalty shall be immediate removal from the area under Evergreen Little League jurisdiction including both playing fields and practice fields. A subsequent hearing for discipline will be held pursuant to Article 3, Section 4.

6.1.2 Use of Profanity

Members shall not use profanity directed to or overheard by other members or spectators. Such misconduct, when confirmed by the Board of Directors, will result in the following penalties for the offender:

First Offense:	Written warning by the League.
Second Offense:	One week suspension from all League activities.
Third Offense:	Subsequent hearing for discipline under Article 3, Section 4.

6.1.3 Umpire Abuse

Umpire abuse as defined by (1) repeated or uncontrolled questioning of an umpire's ruling, or (2) repeated heckling of the umpire during play. The umpire shall remove the offender from the game and report the incident to the Board of Directors for action. Such misconduct will result in the following penalties for the offender:

First Offense:	Any Manager, coach or player ejected from a game shall leave the field and take no further part in that game. He/she may not sit in the stands or in any area adjacent to the field or stands and may not be recalled.
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Any Manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for the next physically played game (LL Rule 4.07 effective 2001).

Second Offense: One week suspension from all League activities in addition to application of Rule 4.07.

Third Offense: Subsequent hearing for discipline under Article 3, Section 4.

Umpire abuse by fans or other non-participants as defined by (1) repeated or uncontrolled questioning of an umpire's ruling, or (2) repeated heckling of the umpire during play shall be subject to removal from the complex and other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Board.

6.1.4 Equipment Abuse

Umpires are instructed to immediately remove any member who throws a helmet, glove, baseball, or other potentially dangerous item in an apparent act of frustration or protest. In addition, the following penalties apply when the matter is brought to the attention of the Board of Directors:

First Offense: Any Manager, coach or player ejected from a game shall leave the field and take no further part in that game. He/she may not sit in the stands or in any area adjacent to the field or stands and may not be recalled. Any Manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for the next physically played game (LL Rule 4.07 effective 2001). Ejection from the game is NOT an "Out". Safe/Out is determined based on the play or plays made (LL Rule 6.05).

Second Offense: One week suspension from all League activities in addition to application of rule 4.07.

Third Offense: Subsequent hearing for discipline under Article 3, Section 4.

6.1.5 Practice Abuse

All Divisions (except T-Ball) **must hold a minimum of two practices weekly during pre-season and one practice weekly during the season (unless 3 games are scheduled for that week). Practices are not to exceed a two-hour limit during the week (weekends are not subject to this limit).** Any meeting of three or more team members for instruction of any kind with the Manager or coach constitutes a practice.

Managers shall not make Sunday practice attendance mandatory. Players shall not be penalized solely upon failure to participate in Sunday practices. The offender's penalty will be as follows:

First Offense: Written warning by the League.

Second Offense: One week suspension from all League activities.

Third Offense: Subsequent hearing for discipline under Article 3, Section 4.

6.1.6 Failure to Provide Pitching Affidavit

Each Manager in the Farm, Minors, Majors, Juniors, Seniors, Softball and Big League Divisions are required to have an accurate current pitching record. This pitching record is to be kept for the entire season and any post season play. The pitching record is to be presented to the Umpire, Official Scorekeeper, and Opposing Manager before the start of each game. The offender's penalty will be as follows:

First Offense: Written warning by the League.

Second Offense: a suspension for the next scheduled game.

Third Offense: Subsequent hearing for discipline under Article 3, Section 4.

6.1.7 Failure to Report Loss of Player

A Team Manager must report to the Player Agent within seven days –

- The losses of any player(s) on the roster after draft night through the end of the current season through illness, injury, change of address, or other justifiable reasons.
- A player that has not attended three consecutive practices or games.

Such misconduct will result in the following penalties for the offender:

First Offense:	Written warning by the League.
Second Offense:	a suspension for the next scheduled game.
Third Offense:	Subsequent hearing for discipline under Article 3, Section 4.

6.1.8 Failure to Play Minimum

Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of 9 defensive outs and bat at least one time. Such misconduct will result in the following penalties for the offending Manager:

First Offense:	Written warning by the League.
Second Offense:	a suspension for the next scheduled game.
Third Offense:	Subsequent hearing for discipline under Article 3, Section 4.

6.1.9 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

LL Rule 4.06 – No Manager, Coach, or player shall at anytime, whether from the bench or the playing field or elsewhere –

- incite, or try to incite, by word or sign, a demonstration by spectators;
- use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, Manager, Coach, an umpire or spectators;
- make any move calculated to cause the pitcher to commit an illegal pitch (**a balk in Junior/Senior/Big League**);
- take a position in the batter's line of vision, with the deliberate intent to distract the batter.
- "Chatter" will be limited to positive encouragement for your own team: (i.e. "Hey Batter-Batter" or "Hey Pitcher-Pitcher", etc. is not allowed).
- Chatter must stop when the pitcher assumes the "set" position.

LL Rule 4.07 - When a Manager, Coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. Any Manager, Coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team's next physically played game.

LL Rule 4.08 – When the occupants of a player's bench show violent disapproval of an umpire's decision, the umpire shall first give warning that such disapproval shall cease. If such action continues - **PENALTY:** The umpire shall order the offender out of the game and away from the spectators' area. If the umpire is unable to detect the offender or offenders, the bench may be cleared of all players. The Manager of the offending team shall have the privilege of recalling to the playing field only those players needed for substitution in the game.

LL Rule 9.05 (c) – After receiving the umpire's report that a Manager, coach or player has been disqualified, the League President shall require such Manager, Coach or player to appear before at least three members of the Board of Directors to explain their conduct. In the case of a player, the Manager shall appear with the player in the capacity of an advisor. The members of the Board present at the meeting shall impose such penalty as they feel is justified.

6.2 OTHER CONDUCT ISSUES

Any other complaints of misconduct by members, which are brought to the attention of the Board of Directors, will be interpreted for action based on the regulations noted in Section V, below. (i.e. - Article 3, Section 4 of the League's Constitution and Bylaws).

6.2.1 General Abuse

If a Volunteer fails to abide by the spirit of Little League, in the view of the majority of Executive Board Members, such misconduct will result in the following penalties for the offending volunteer

First Offense:	Written warning by the League.
Second Offense:	A suspension for the next scheduled game.
Third Offense:	Subsequent hearing for discipline under Article 3, Section 4

Examples of General Abuse include, among others, excessive gamesmanship, bullying of League volunteers, manipulation of the spirit of our rules, or creating/maintaining an environment which does not model the positive environment for which Little League strives.

6.2.2 Amendments

This document may be amended by a majority of vote of the Board of Directors.

6.2.3 Applicable League Regulations

The following is an excerpt from the current League Constitution and Bylaws that are approved by Little League Baseball, Inc. prior to granting our League Charter:

6.2.4 Article 3, Section 4. Suspension or Termination.

1. Membership may be terminated by resignation or by action of the Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of the Directors present at any duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend or terminate the membership of any member of any class when the conduct of the member is found by the Board of Directors to have been detrimental to the best interests of the League and/or Little League Baseball.
3. The member involved shall be notified of the meeting, informed of the general nature of the charges, and be given an opportunity to appear at the meeting to answer the charges.
4. In the case of a player member, the Board of Directors shall notify the player's team Manager. As an advisor, the Manager shall appear with the player before a duly appointed committee of the Board of Directors. This committee shall have full power to discipline, suspend or revoke the player's participation in the League.

Evergreen Little League has further agreed to immediately notify the parents of a player member of any conduct issue before the Board of Directors and of any Board hearing for review of that issue.

In addition, Little League Baseball, Inc. Regulation XIV, (a) states:

"The actions of players, Managers, coaches, umpires and League officials shall be above reproach."