

We, the North Caldwell Recreation Department and the Cal Ripken League, have implemented the following Codes of Conduct for the important message that it holds about the proper role of parents, participants, volunteers, and coaches in supporting the youth of our community and their child in sports.

### **PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

As parents, it is absolutely essential that we give our players, volunteers, and coaches the respect and authority they deserve to run our sports programs. We expect our parents to demonstrate good sportsmanship during all practices, competitions and team activities. We expect our parents to promote good sportsmanship by setting an example and by helping others to do likewise. We expect our parents to celebrate wins gracefully, lose graciously, and congratulate opponents either way.

As a Cal Ripken League Parent, I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for each child participating in the Cal Ripken League by adhering to the following Code of Conduct:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support at all times.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun, and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will encourage the voluntary participation of my child and not force them to participate.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will ensure that my child will be on time for and attend all practices and games. When not possible I will provide adequate notification to the manager.
- I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, player, coach, or parent such as booing, yelling, taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the League. I will support the umpires and officials in their enforcement, teach my child to play by the rules, and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will respect the officials and their authority before, during, and after games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to calmly speak with coaches at an agreed-upon time and place.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games.
- I will be an example to my child and others. I will appreciate good performances by all participants.
- I will respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability, ethnicity, cultural background or religion and demand that my child do the same.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the Cal Ripken Little League and the North Caldwell Recreation Department that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Written Warning
- Parental suspension for games with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved.
- Game forfeit
- Parental and/or child season suspension

The North Caldwell Recreation Department retains the sole authority to determine what, if any disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

I have read the PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT and understand that as part of my acceptance of the roster position being offered on the team, I will follow these guidelines. Failure to abide by one or more of these principles of the Cal Ripken League Code of Conduct may result in suspension or expulsion of the player and/or parent from practices, games and/or the League.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent 1 Signature  
Name:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent 2 Signature  
Name:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Representative  
Name:

Date:

## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

As players, our responsibilities are simple: be respectful of others, be responsible, play fair, always do your best, and always exhibit good sportsmanship.

As a Cal Ripken Little League participant I hereby pledge:

- I will learn and follow the rules of the Cal Ripken League at all times.
- I will make every team practice, meet, and activity an opportunity to learn.
- I will follow directions, show respect, common courtesies and good sportsmanship at all times to team members, coaches, staff, competitors, volunteers, parents and for all facilities and other property used during practices, competitions and team activities. Disrespect or failure to obey instructions will not be tolerated from any athlete.
- Players should be punctual and arrive on time for all practices and meets and team events.
- I will give my best at all times.
- I will never argue with an official. I will use appropriate rules and guidelines to resolve a dispute.
- I will control my temper. Verbal and/or physical abuse is not acceptable.
- I will work equally hard for myself and the team.
- I will be a good sport. I will applaud good performances whether they are made by my team or the opposition.
- I will treat all participants as I would like to be treated. I will not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- I will respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability, ethnicity, cultural background or religion.
- I will cooperate with all coaches, teammates, opponents, management, event staff and officials.
- I understand that dishonesty, theft and/or vandalism will not be tolerated.
- I understand that all players are expected to respect each other. Fighting, bullying, intentional touching or striking another athlete will subject the player to the most severe discipline.
- When I wear League branded garments, I am expected to represent myself according to the Code of Conduct. I am an ambassador of this organization.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the Cal Ripken Little League and the North Caldwell Recreation Department that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Player will need to be accompanied by a parent at practice for a time to be determined by the coach.
- Player suspension from games/practice for a time to be determined by the coach.
- Player will be permanently removed from the team.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

I have read the PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT and understand that as part of my acceptance of the roster position being offered on the team, I will follow these guidelines. Failure to abide by one or more of these principles of the Cal Ripken League Code of Conduct may result in suspension or expulsion of the player and/or parent from practices, games and/or the League.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player Signature  
Name:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Representative  
Name:

Date:

## **COACH CODE OF CONDUCT**

Coaching a youth sport program such as Cal Ripken League is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As Manager or coach, appointed by the North Caldwell Recreation Department, you have an important role in the development of the young children in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. Baseball and softball embody the discipline of teamwork. They challenge players towards perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball and softball also teach that while every player eventually strikes out or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, Cal Ripken League expects each manager and coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

### **Sportsmanship**

- I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good baseball skills, and have fun in the process.
- 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.
- I understand that physical or verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the fields at the discretion of an umpire, official, head coach, and/or head of league organization.
- I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
- I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player yell at an umpire. The lone exception to this rule is when a coach or player shouts to another coach or teammate during the course of a play as part of that play.
- I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at the Little League complex.
- I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all games, including events outside the Little League complex.
- I understand that use of tobacco and vapor products on the fields and in the dugouts is prohibited.

### **Rules and Policies**

- I will know and understand the rules and abide by them (whether local or national). I will instruct my team members in the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
- I will adhere to all Cal Ripken League safety guidelines from the handbook.
- I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All coaches must ensure that each player get minimum 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.

- I will fully comply with the Player/Parents' Code of Conduct.
- I will review the Cal Ripken League website on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all updated rules and policies.

### **Umpires and Other Resources**

- I recognize baseball is a game of interpretations, and as a result, disputes will occur from time to time. However, it is important that players learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the umpire will be handled in a civil manner. I understand only managers may initiate such discussions with an umpire. The manager's coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the managers will make no further field protest. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Recreation Department/Board of Directors.
- I understand most of the umpires are "in training" as are the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position within the game deserves.
- I will be responsible in caring for equipment, for keys delegated for my use, for care of fields prior to games and for cleaning up the fields, dugouts, and stands after games. I will make sure that all league-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

### **Parents and the League**

- 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 manner.
- I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, rules, and Codes of Conduct to the players, parents, officials, and volunteers.
- I will ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games. I will make sure that coaches and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game.
- I will support, through participation and organization of parents), the Cal Ripken League in fundraising efforts and concession duty.

### **The Team**

- I will conduct practices in organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
- 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.
- I understand that managers 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,

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

### **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:

- I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games, and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
- I will attend all required coaches meetings, safety and umpiring clinics unless I am out of town or have a significantly previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.
- I will complete, obtain and submit to the League all required paperwork, which will include Volunteer Applications.
- I will make sure that I maintain a notebook containing the League Rules and copy of the national League rule book and make sure it is present at each team practice and game.
- I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and League officials. 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.

The Cal Ripken League has a "zero tolerance" policy for any aggressive or inappropriate physical contact with any player, coach, umpire, parent, fan, or other person and any breach of this rule is grounds for immediate action

### **ACCEPTANCE OF COACH CODE OF CONDUCT**

I have read the COACH CODE OF CONDUCT and understand that as part of my acceptance of the position of coach, I will follow these guidelines. Failure to abide by one or more of these principles of the Cal Ripken League Code of Conduct may result in suspension or expulsion of the coach from practices, games and/or the League.

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Coach Signature  
Name:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Representative  
Name:

Date:

