

Lakeview Code of Conduct and Discipline Plan for Players, Coaches, Parents and Spectators

This Code of Conduct and Discipline Plan applies to all Lakeview players, coaches, parents and spectators.

1. Purpose

The Code of Conduct is intended to place a renewed emphasis on parents, players, and coaches abiding by the rules and regulations of the game. It is expected that everyone will maintain a cooperative attitude while upholding the ideals of sportsmanship and promoting a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for youth sports participants. Always remember that this is a youth sports organization and that the game is for children and not for adults.

This Code of Conduct also includes a discipline plan which outlines behavioral expectations and consequences for players, coaches, and parents. This policy supports positive development, accountability, and community standards.

2. Core Expectations

Six Pillars of Character:

- Trustworthiness

- Respect

- Responsibility

- Fairness

- Caring

- Good Citizenship

For Players:

- Demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials.

- Refrain from using profanity, taunting, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

- Attend practices and games consistently.

- Accept decisions by officials without protest.

- Always follow team and league rules.

- Not use any form of intimidation or bullying against another player, coach or umpire.

For Coaches:

- Model good sportsmanship always.
- Encourage effort, teamwork, and discipline over winning at all costs.
- Refrain from yelling at players, officials, or opponents.
- Communicate constructively with parents and league staff.
- Never physically or verbally abuse players or referees.
- Only the head coach may approach an official to question a call.
- Coaches have tremendous influence, for either positive or negative on the education of the player and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parents play an essential role in supporting their children in sports. To create a safe, positive, and family-friendly environment, all parents must follow this Code of Conduct.

Expectations:

- Remember that youth sports are for children to learn and have fun — not for adult competition.
- Be a positive role model by showing respect for players, coaches, officials, and spectators always.
- Encourage sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play.
- Never use profanity, taunt, or show unsportsmanlike conduct toward officials, coaches, players, or other parents.
- Support coaches and referees; do not confront or question them during games. Concerns should be discussed calmly later.
- Help ensure a safe environment by keeping the fields and stands free of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and litter.
- Respect league rules, including equipment use, dugout/field restrictions, and helmet requirements.
- Teach children to play by the rules, respect others, and handle mistakes with maturity.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child — yours or others — for mistakes or losses.
- Emphasize effort, skill development, and fun over winning.

3. Discipline Framework

Important Rule Regarding Officials:

- Only the head coach is permitted to question a referee's decision.
- Any assistant coach, player, parent, or spectator who argues a call may be ejected.
- Excessive arguing by the head coach may result in ejection, even on the first offense.
- A second offense of arguing by the head coach is an automatic ejection.
- Once ejected, a parent, coach, or player must leave the park immediately. Failure to comply may result in additional disciplinary action or suspension from future events.
- All offenses will be documented and kept on file. Offenses are cumulative per season, not per game.

Rule Violations:

Multiple or repeated rule violations may be considered offenses under this plan.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Use of illegal bats or equipment.
- Batting out of order.
- Improper fielder placement or disregard of league fielding rules.

League officials will use discretion in determining whether such rule violations count as warnings, minor offenses, or more serious consequences.

First Offense (Minor Infraction):

- Examples: Disrespectful behavior, inappropriate language, unsportsmanlike conduct, or certain rule violations, as outlined above
- Response: Verbal warning by league or park official, documented in the behavior log, and parent(s) notified (for players).

Second Offense:

- Response:
 - Players: Suspension for 1 game.
 - Coaches: Suspension for 1 game.
 - Parents: Removal from the next scheduled game.
 - Formal meeting with player/coach/parent, and league official.
- Formal written warning signed by a board member and offender.

Third Offense:

- Response: 2–3 game suspension or temporary removal from coaching responsibilities, probation for the remainder of the season.

Fourth Offense or Severe Violation:

- Response: Immediate suspension from league activities, review by disciplinary committee, and possible expulsion from the season or league.

4. Automatic Disqualifiers

The following actions may result in immediate ejection from the game and may constitute a severe violation, resulting in immediate suspension from league activities for the remainder of the season, or ejection from the league.

- Fighting or physical assault.
- Threats or intimidation toward officials or others.
- Use of discriminatory language.
- Possession or influence of drugs/alcohol at events.
- Arguing a referee's call by anyone other than the head coach.
- Failure to leave the park immediately after ejection

5. Appeals Process

Individuals may submit a written appeal to the league's discipline committee within 5 days of receiving a suspension. The committee will review within 7 days and issue a final decision.

6. League Responsibilities

- Train all coaches on this plan before each season.
- Ensure all players, parents, and coaches sign a Code of Conduct.
- Maintain fair and consistent enforcement.
- Keep detailed documentation of all incidents and resolutions.

7. Board Discretion

The Board of Directors reserves the right to impose more serious or immediate consequences for any offense, regardless of progression through the steps listed above, depending on the nature and severity of the conduct.

Reminders:

- Do not block driveways or exits.
- Keep the park clean and dispose of trash properly.
- Only coaches, dugout parents, league directors, and umpires are allowed in the dugouts or on the field of play.
- Batting helmets must be worn in cages and on the field when hitting.

9. Acknowledgment

All players, parents/guardians, and coaches must sign an acknowledgment form confirming receipt and understanding of this plan, including the Parent Code of Conduct, prior to participation.