

Sport Parent's Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

In accordance with the Methuen Sports Commission, an organization representing all organized youth sports in our city, the following policy will be strictly enforced.

Methuen West Little League and Senior League are here to support the youth of our city. As such, the focus is on their growth and enjoyment of the sport. As we are all aware of publicized incidents, inappropriate behavior by some parents and spectators has become a distraction in this endeavor. The Methuen West Little League Board will enforce a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY to protect PLAYERS, OFFICIALS and our VOLUNTEERS.

Please review and these policies and take them to heart so that all may have an enjoyable season.

I understand and agree to the following:

Parent and Child:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that our children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will teach my child to play by the rules and or resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
4. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
5. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
6. I will praise my child for competing fairly and giving their best effort and will make my child feel like a winner every time.
7. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.

Coach/League:

8. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
9. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
10. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.

Behavior:

11. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; using profane language or gestures.
12. I recognize the coaches' responsibility and will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices.
13. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

Zero Tolerance Policy:

All parents and guardians of Methuen West Little League (which includes Junior League and Senior League) players are subject to the Zero Tolerance Physical Abuse Policy:

1. Any parent/guardian that attempts to cause physical injury or makes the threat thereof to any individual associated with the league shall be subject and his/her children shall be subject to immediate suspension from MWLL play and/or other league involvement, for up to one year at the sole discretion of the MWLL board.
2. A second instance of an attempt to threaten or cause physical injury shall result in up to a three year suspension for the player(s) and the parent/guardian from any involvement with MWLL.

All individuals associated with MWLL are expected to uphold the values of honesty, respect and good sportsmanship for the integrity of team participation and team play within MWLL and other related sports organizations.

Game Impact for Fan/Coach Interference/Direction:

The game will be stopped by our umpires or MWLL administration if and when parents, guardians, spectators or coaches display inappropriate or disruptive behavior interfering with the flow of the game. This involves direction or negative comments (or worse) directed at any game official including patched umpires, youth umpires, managers or coaches. Umpires or MWLL officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents or spectators from the viewing and game area. Play will only resume when the violator is removed. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by MWLL or local civil and criminal statutes. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior listed above shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time
2. Taunting players, coaches, umpires or other officials or spectators by means of baiting, ridicule, threats of violence, or actual violence.
3. Throwing any object in the spectators viewing area, players area or playing fields, parking areas, directed in any manner in order to intimidate or harm another person or create a safety hazard.
4. Directing umpires, coaches or players in a loud manner from the spectators area.

Parent/Guardian Signature