

# **BELLEVUE THUNDERBIRD LITTLE LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT**

**“In Baseball like in Life, Perfection exists, but it is incredibly rare and fleeting.  
You can’t ever expect it, but you should appreciate it when it happens.”**

**These are Kids  
This is a game  
We are all Volunteers**

## **Our Goal**

Our Goal as Thunderbird Little League is to grow perfect children into great people. We do that through Baseball and Softball by teaching hard work, fair play, and respect for Self, each other, Team and the Game. In Bellevue Thunderbird Little League, we emphasize Sportsmanship, Development, and Community.

## **Sportsmanship**

Sportsmanship is about character, values, fairness, respect for rules, personal responsibility, learning how to win (and how to lose) graciously, and how to control frustration and anger.

Bellevue Thunderbird Little League expects all participants, Coaches, Parents, and Players alike, to strive for the highest standards and conduct, both on and off the field. True sportsmanship develops from a spirit of respect: respect for the game, respect for oneself, respect for coaches, respect for officials, respect for teammates, respect for opponents, and respect for the rules.

All Managers/Coaches, Parents and Players are required to adhere to the BTLL Sportsmanship Code of Conduct and to encourage good sportsmanship at all Bellevue Thunderbird games and events.

## **Development**

Bellevue Thunderbird Little League expects its Coaches to work hard to develop their team and each individual player. You must, without exception comply with our local rules for minimum play. During the regular season a coach that is working to develop every player should, at a minimum, do the following:

- Allow every player to play every position that it is safe for him/her to play.
- Rotate positions regularly. Players should play both infield and outfield in every game.
- Pitch (at kid pitch levels) every player on a team at least twice during the regular season.
- Rotate the batting order during the regular season to allow a fair allotment of at bats for everyone.

## **Community**

Bellevue Thunderbird Little League is all about Community. It is important to foster relationships not just in your dugout, but outside it as well. Your conduct on the field reflects Thunderbird Little League as well as our Community as a whole. Your team and fan/Parent conduct in the stands reflects our community as well. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of EVERYONE from Thunderbird Little League at a game. Without exception the Thunderbird Community will not:

- Act or allow any community member to act in a manner that is contrary to our Rules or Code of Conduct.
- Disrespect the field or property of a School, Park, or Little League.
- Speak to an opposing player, fan or umpire in a disrespectful or hurtful way.

# Sportsmanship Code of Conduct

## Manager/Coaches Code

### I agree to:

- Exhibit respectful and ethical behavior and leadership and act with an awareness that young people learn best by example.
- Know the rules. Abide by and teach the rules of the game. Respect and follow the League policies and local rules. *The spirit of good sportsmanship depends not only on conformance to the letter of a given rule, but also that rule's intent.*
- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual player.
- Be a positive role model and example for players and spectators to follow-refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators. Refrain from disparaging other coaches, players, or officials with words and actions.
- Develop team respect and appreciation for the ability of opponents and for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.
- Ensure that my players' baseball experience is one of fun and enjoyment. *Winning is only part of it. Players should never be yelled at or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.*
- Follow mandatory play requirements
  - No player shall sit out defensively for two consecutive innings or for more than two innings in a game. No player shall sit out two innings in two consecutive games unless the player is injured or sick. (This is for the regular season only.)
- Set a good example and be generous with my praise when it is deserved. *Players need a coach they can respect.*
- Enlist the support of my team's parents in my efforts to instill the proper attitudes and values in the players and to make sportsmanship the number one priority.
- Win and lose graciously and never blame a player or game officials for a loss. Losing graciously is one of the greatest lessons we can teach.
- Encourage good sportsmanship at all times. *Good sportsmanship requires as much work as any play or skill you will teach a player during the season.*
- Comply with the Bellevue Thunderbird Little League Code of Conduct and its goals, and understand that failure to comply may be grounds for suspension or revocation of coaching privileges.

## Parents Code

### **I/we agree to:**

- Remember that children participate to have fun and the game is for youth, not adults.
- Learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- 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 fans.
- Not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike behavior with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profanity or obscene gestures.
- Teach my child to always play by the rules.
- Teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how this benefits my child over winning. Deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Never ridicule or yell at my child or other player for making a mistake or for losing a game.
- Promote the physical and emotional well-being of all players ahead of any personal desire I have for my child to win.
- Respect the league officials during games and never question, discuss, or confront coaches or umpires at the game field ; take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place to address concerns.
- Demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and refrain from their use at all events.
- Refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

*To retain perspective, I understand there are no major league scouts in the stands.*

## Player's Code

### I agree to:

- Attend practices and games and notify the coach if I am unable to do so.
- Play by BTLL rules and learn the rules of the game and discuss them with coaches, parents and other players.
- Never argue with or complain about umpire calls or decisions.
- Concentrate on playing baseball or softball, and on affecting the outcome of the game with my best effort. Work equally hard for my team as for myself.
- Control my temper on and off the field.
- Never bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Practice good sportsmanship by cheering all good plays, whether it is my team or an opposing team.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following a victory or defeat.
- Treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- Encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- Encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship at all times.

I agree to abide by these conduct guidelines and behavior expectations:

Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Player: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_