

Fort Des Moines Little League – Coach Behavior Policy Contract

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all coaches create a safe, positive, and development-focused environment for every player. Coaches are representatives of Fort Des Moines Little League and are expected to model the highest standards of sportsmanship, respect, and professionalism.

2. Standards of Conduct

2.1 Language and Communication

Coaches must:

- Use positive, age-appropriate language at all times
- Refrain from profanity, yelling in anger, or degrading comments
- Communicate respectfully with players, parents, umpires, and other volunteers

Profanity or hostile communication in the dugout, on the field, or around players is strictly prohibited.

2.2 Player Treatment

Coaches must:

- Treat all players with respect and dignity
- Provide instruction without intimidation, humiliation, or aggression
- Prioritize player safety, development, and emotional well-being

Any form of verbal, emotional, or physical misconduct is prohibited.

2.3 Interactions With Volunteers and Parents

Coaches must:

- Maintain professional, respectful interactions with assistant coaches, team parents, and league officials

- Support a collaborative environment
- Avoid confrontational or hostile behavior

Behavior that drives away volunteers or creates a hostile environment violates league expectations.

2.4 Role Modeling

Coaches must:

- Demonstrate sportsmanship at all times
- Respect umpires' decisions
- Promote teamwork, effort, and fair play

Coaches are expected to be the example players follow.

3. Complaint and Investigation Process

Fort Des Moines Little League will:

- Take all complaints seriously
- Document each report
- Interview witnesses when necessary
- Review any prior incidents or warnings

Failure to investigate or address misconduct contradicts Little League International's Child Protection Program.

4. Disciplinary Actions

The league uses a progressive discipline model, but may escalate immediately for serious misconduct.

4.1 Verbal Warning

A documented conversation outlining the concern and required changes.

4.2 Written Warning

A formal notice placed in the coach's file.

4.3 Suspension

Temporary removal from practices and/or games.

4.4 Removal

Permanent removal from coaching duties for the season or longer.

The Board of Directors reserves full authority to remove any coach whose behavior violates league standards or jeopardizes the safety and well-being of players or volunteers.

5. Non-Negotiable Expectations

The following behaviors will result in immediate review and potential suspension or removal:

- Profanity in the dugout or around players
- Aggressive or hostile behavior toward players, parents, umpires, or volunteers
- Conduct that causes other coaches to resign
- Repeated parent complaints
- Any action that compromises player safety

6. Acknowledgment

All coaches must sign this policy before participating in any league activity. Signing indicates understanding and agreement to follow all expectations.

Name (Print)

Date: _____

Sign