

## VERONA LITTLE LEAGUE 2017 COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

“FUN is the #1 FACTOR in all aspects of Baseball. Fun is what brings your players out and brings them back. It keeps them pumped up and motivated and sets the stage for growth and development. It causes players to try new things, builds teamwork and spirit, develops each player’s self-esteem and of course leads to success in practice and games. Fun is the foundation for everything that is positive in baseball and what coaching in Verona Little League is all about... just ask your players and their parents. Your goal should be to “Plan the Little League Way” and make sure every practice is fun, efficient and improvement focused all season long.”

To Coach in the Verona Little League (VLL) is both an Honor and a Privilege and we hope that each VLL coach feels the same way about it. The primary indication as to how well a coach does in this league is not based on wins or losses. But on the smile on every player’s face on their team and the number of players that want to come back again next year.

The VLL has implemented the following Coaches Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of coaches in the VLL and what is expected of them by players, parents and officials. It is the responsibility of every coach/assistant coach to understand and abide by the Coaches Code of Conduct. Coaches shall be supportive of VLL’s commitment to the ideals of good sportsmanship, team play, fairness, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority. Likewise, coaches shall be sensitive to the physical and emotional well being of the players on his/her team. In order to adhere to these principles, every coach pledges as follows:

- 1) Make every effort to attend all scheduled League coaches meetings, clinics, draft night and all of your team’s games and practices. Actively support and encourage participation in all VLL sponsored activities. Dress suitably and groom properly.
- 2) Read and understand the VLL Managers manual (when issued) regarding local league rules, procedures and clarifications.
- 3) Participate in the Double Goal Coach on-line training.

4) Demonstrate that you have an appreciation of the Philosophy of Little League, and cooperate with others in making the program of mutual benefit to all the players. Demonstrate understanding & patience and the ability to work with children. Be sensitive to the range of physical and mental development of the children of Little League age and recognize that the game is a vehicle of training and enjoyment, not an end in itself.

5) Hold an informative pre-season meeting and communicate expectations to player's parents. Effectively communicate VLL philosophy on playing time, choice of positions, batting order and parental expectations. Recruit a Team Parent to assist with team communication and participation in VLL activities.

6) Keep practices well organized, fun and keep players active. Keep quantity and length of practices acceptable for the team's age level. Make coming to practices and games enjoyable. Instill a desire in the players to always do their best and strive to improve. Impart as much baseball knowledge as possible to each player.

7) Be knowledgeable of the sport. Be effective in teaching fundamental skills & game strategy.

8) Know the rules and be able to interpret them correctly. Play by the rules and adhere to their intent to help instill in the players a respect for the rules of the game.

9) Interact well with players and be positive while correcting errors. Continually encourage players. Display pleasantness, a sense of humor, even temper, courtesy, sympathy and enthusiasm.

10) Display friendliness and courtesy to parents and show consideration for their opinions and feelings. Seek their cooperation and understanding in trying to achieve the goals of the Little League program. Be open to discuss problems and answer questions and be sincere & truthful.

11) Follow VLL philosophy of participation by treating all players fairly and show neither favoritism nor undue preference. Develop player skills at various positions & rotate positions regularly. Try to divide playing time as evenly as possible among players. Providing equal playing time for each player will help team moral as well as improve the self-image of each player.

12) Act as a positive role model both on and off the field. Exercise the leadership role adequately and leave the game in the hands of the players and umpires. Young players will imitate the coach's attitude and actions. Set a good example for the players and spectators, use proper language and stay "under control" at all times. Abusive language and/or conduct by managers/coaches and players will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and dismissal from coaching duties.

13) Demonstrate and encourage good sportsmanship when dealing with game situations, umpires, VLL officials and opposing coaches. Be instrumental in shaping acceptable behavior patterns whether the team wins or loses. Accept defeat gracefully and victory humbly. Encourage all players in the league at every opportunity. Congratulate opponents after every game.

14) Treat umpires, players, parents, other teams and coaches with respect. Display courtesy to the umpires at all times. Show by example that you respect the judgment and the position of authority of the umpire. Respect their decisions and accept them gracefully. Avoid bickering and "umpire baiting". Assist the umpire in controlling un-sportsmanlike activities shown by parents and spectators. Instill in your players a respect for the authority of adult leaders in the league.

15) Clearly explain additional post-season options to your players regarding Tournament Teams and Extended Season.

16) Ensure that all players wear protective equipment at all times during practice, pre-game warm-ups and during the course of the game. Look out for the safety and well being of all players. Have knowledge of First Aid & Safety. Attend a Little League Emergency Management Seminar.

17) Be responsible for your team's equipment. Make every effort to collect all VLL equipment and return them to the league in clean condition on the date established by the league. Instruct your team's players that there will be no throwing of batting helmets, bats, etc. Encourage the proper care and use of each player's jersey and hat so that they can last the season.

18) Remember you are a representative of the Verona Little League and your actions are a reflection on the league. You are the main point of contact with the players and the families.

My signature below certifies that I am agreeable to the above listed Coaching Code of Conduct and will strive to meet these expectations to the best of my abilities.

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Signature (Required)

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Date

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Print Name Legibly

This document is available on the VLL website: [www.veronalittleleague.org](http://www.veronalittleleague.org).

Additional coaching resources are available at: [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org)