

Danvers National Little League Code of Conduct

Baseball, by the very nature of the game, is a very physical and competitive sport. It is sometimes inevitable that tempers will flare and poor judgment will occur. As parents and coaches, it is our responsibility to encourage our children and players to play by the rules. We must remember, however, that children learn best by example. We must applaud the good plays from both teams and avoid yelling at players, coaches, officials, or spectators. Positive attitudes displayed by all will benefit everyone involved.

Danvers National Little League, in an effort to address any unfortunate displays of poor judgement, has determined that the following guidelines must be followed. Disciplinary action will be taken in the event that, during any sanctioned Danvers National Little League event, any manager, coach, parent, or official displays unsportsmanlike conduct unbecoming to himself and/or Danvers National Little League.

- 1 Abuse or harassment of an official, coach, player, or spectator, whether it be verbal or physical, including but not limited to, swearing and/or obscene gestures which are reported to Danvers National Little League will not be tolerated.
- 2 There are to be no issues raised with an official during the course of an inning in play.
- 3 Only the Team Manager may initiate a discussion with an official. Any discussion with officials must occur between innings or following the game. This discussion will be in the presence of the opposing manager and official.
- 4 If there is a question on a specific call, the Manager may, from the dugout or Third Base Coaching position, ask the umpire to explain the call. Even if an appeal is made, once explanation from the official is received, further discussion must wait until in between innings.
- 5 All questions and discussions held with umpires, managers, coaches, or parents will be held in conversational tones only.
- 6 If a parent, spectator, or coach is disruptive or demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct, the umpire or league officials may ask the parent, spectator, or coach, to leave the ballpark. Following such occurrence, the President and Umpire in Chief will be notified of this violation.

In the event the League is notified of a violation of the above guidelines, an investigation will occur. Following the investigation of the facts, a determination will be made by the President and Umpire in Chief. The penalty for a first violation of the above procedures will be a warning. Subsequent violations could result in a minimum of one week suspension up to, and including, expulsion from the program for the remainder of the season. In the event the President and Umpire in Chief deem the circumstances more severe, and requiring further action, a vote of the Board of Directors will be taken and discipline imposed.

Any issues/concerns regarding the actions of a specific official should be brought to the attention of the Umpire in Chief and the President. They will discuss the situation and decide whether further action must be taken. In the event the investigation of the facts concludes disciplinary action is necessary, the above procedures will be followed. Any aggrieved coach, manager, parent, or official, who has received a suspension of more than one week, can petition, in writing, for an appeal within three days of the suspension. A hearing with the Board of Directors,

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including the Umpire in Chief, will be scheduled as quickly as possible. An appeal hearing, which will include the aggrieved party, other parties involved as deemed appropriate by the President, and the Board of Directors, will be held, and the decision rendered, within one week of the written appeal request.

It is not the intention of Danvers National Little League to limit the growth or development of any player, coach, or official within our program. It is with this in mind that we feel firm guidelines, on which our managers, coaches, officials, players and parents can rely, will encourage an attitude of good sportsmanship and mutual respect that will serve them well in this area and other areas of their lives.

Let's encourage the positive in youth sport. Applaud good efforts in both victory and defeat. Let's work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse present in youth sport. Communicate positively and provide support – keeping the game fun. Let us work together to make sure that this firm set of guidelines is just that. With all of your help these disciplinary actions will never need to be imposed.

THE DANVERS NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I have read, and understand, the Danvers National Little League Code of Conduct.

Signature of Parent, Manager, Coach or Official

Date ____/____/____