

# 2010 Parent and Player Handbook



## **OLLL Objective**

The objective of OLLL shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well-adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.

To achieve this objective OLLL will provide a supervised program under the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. All Directors, Officers and Members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.

Dear OLLL Families:

Welcome to Olivehurst Linda Little League! Another Little League season is here! On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for participating in our Little League program and let you know how much we appreciate the time and dedication required. We hope that you will consider volunteering your time as a team parent, a fundraising coordinator, or in another capacity. There is always something to be done! This handbook was created to help parents become acquainted with OLLL rules and procedures. It also outlines the, Parent Responsibilities, Parent and Player Codes of Conduct, the Parent and Player Safety Codes, and how to resolve conflicts.

Little League can be an invaluable experience, teaching young people the value of hard work, commitment, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. How players deal with successes and failures on the field can serve as guideposts for how they'll take on challenges the rest of their lives. This handbook provides an overview of the policies and rules OLLL follows. We strongly suggest both players and parents read this carefully before the season begins.

OLLL reserves the right to make changes without notice. Any local rule or league rule change is subject to Board of Director's review.

Lastly, OLLL is a completely non-profit, volunteer organization. Your help in making this season a success is greatly appreciated. If you can give more of your time, please let a board member know so that we can use your services. Or better yet, apply for a Board position next year!

We'll see you at the ballpark!

Kathy Day  
OLLL President

## Parent Responsibilities to OLLL

Our league is run by parent volunteers, so please help us to provide the best possible baseball and softball program to your children! There are many ways to get involved, from coaching to helping on field days to umpiring to becoming a team mom or dad. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Kathy Day @ (530) 742-7949 or [president@playolll.org](mailto:president@playolll.org) , fill out the Volunteer Form (this can be found on [www.playolll.org](http://www.playolll.org)), provide a copy of your valid driver's license or state I'd card and join in on the fun. Please note that background checks are conducted on all volunteers (anything beyond field and snack bar duties) as required by Little League International. All volunteers must also be approved by the Board of Directors of OLLL.

ALL TEAMS will be asked to work in the snack bar a few times during the season. Your team's time and dates will be given to the Team Parent and he/she will distribute a schedule to the rest of the team parents. Profits from the concessions are our main source of funding, so keeping the snack bar open is of the utmost importance! Therefore, it is vital that you accept this responsibility when it is your turn. Managers are authorized to enforce the Little League Baseball, Inc. established “**Mandatory Play – Regulation IV (i)**” when players whose parents refuse to take their turn working in the snack bar.

Some general snack bar guidelines are listed on the following page. More detailed instructions are kept in the snack bar.

Parents are also expected to help prep the fields prior to games and after games. Once again, a schedule will be distributed by your Manager or Team Mom/Dad.

Directions for field prep will be kept in the chalk room under the announcer's booth along with the batter's box liner, bases, and any other equipment that is needed. Equipment is shared with all the other fields. Please put all equipment away for others to use and so it is not a safety hazard. Your manager will greatly appreciate your assistance with this!

OLLL will be conducting a catalog fundraiser this year. All families will be asked to participate! Look for the fundraising packet on opening day! Remember the Board of Directors approved to lower the cost of registration this year to help out the families now we need your help to make this fundraiser a great success!!

One other important note: the managers and coaches of OLLL are volunteers who give much of their time, talent, and energy offering baseball and softball instruction to children. These managers and coaches are not child-care providers! Please be courteous and pick up your child promptly after a practice or game so that your manager and coach can get home to his/her own family.

## **OLLL Snack Bar Guidelines**

The following list of guidelines will help PARENTS run the snack bar safely, efficiently and following good hygiene procedures.

- No one 12 years of age or younger is allowed in the snack bar without a Parent, for any reason. The hot equipment can be dangerous for them, and it is an insurance liability issue for the league.
- Wash your hands often and well, especially when handling money and food. Anti Bacterial Soap (liquid) is on the sink. Please wear gloves when handling food.
- If you have symptoms of an Infectious illness; i.e., temperature, cough or gastrointestinal symptoms, please have another parent on your team work in your place.
- If you have cuts please make sure they covered with appropriate bandages.
- No one should sit or stand on the counters.
- Other than a drink kept over by the sink, please do not eat while working in the snack bar. You can usually take a break to eat your food outside of the snack bar.
- Please do not use the same tongs for handling unheated and cooked hotdogs without washing and sanitizing the tongs in a Clorox solution. Clorox is under the sink.
- The coffee and cocoa are HOT. Please advise the customers of this and request adults to carry these items for their children.
- Please clean up any spills on the floor immediately to avoid having someone slip on the floor.
- It can get very busy, so please walk and be considerate of your fellow volunteers. Remember that just about all your 'customers' have also volunteered their time in the Snack Bar, so they are usually very patient!

## Sport Parent Code of Conduct

We, the \_\_\_\_\_ Little League, have implemented the following Sport Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents should read, understand and sign this form prior to their children participating in our league. Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

1. Trustworthiness,
2. Respect,
3. Responsibility,
4. Fairness,
5. Caring, and
6. Good Citizenship

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. 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.
6. 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; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing 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 demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

## **Little League Pledge**

I trust in God  
I love my country  
And will respect its laws  
I will play fair  
And strive to win  
But win or lose  
I will always do my best

## **Player Code of Conduct**

At OLLL, we emphasize good sportsmanship and trying your best. Players should approach the game with a positive attitude and treat their teammates, coaches, and officials with respect. Ridiculing or taunting other players (on your team or the other team) is not acceptable.

Players are reminded that baseball is a team sport, and we support our teammates at all times, win or lose.

Because baseball is a team sport and my actions reflect on and can impact my entire team, I pledge to do the following:

1. Treat all players-teammates and opponents-with respect.
2. Pay attention to my manager and coaches and not goof off during practices and games.
3. Respect the decisions of my manager and coaches on playing time and positions.
4. Never question or argue with umpire calls, nor show my temper by throwing helmets, bats or gloves.
5. I (or my parents) will always call the manager if I am going to miss or be late to a practice or game.
6. I will not let baseball affect my primary responsibilities in school. I promise to do my homework and strive to get good grades while playing baseball.

I understand that if I break these rules, I will hurt both myself and my team, and that repeated violations may reduce my playing time. I promise to follow these rules to the best of my ability, so that I and everyone on the team can learn and enjoy the game of baseball.

## **Player Discipline**

Manager's have the right to discipline a player so long as it is documented and reported to the division player agent and parent.

If the player continues to have disciplinary issues the case may be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors to handle. Each situation will be handled in a case by case basis.

## **Playing Time Policy – Regulation IV (i)**

Baseball/Softball players love to play the game. Given a choice, most would play every inning of every game. But with 12-13 players on a team, and only 9 positions available at every level except Tee Ball and Coach Pitch, this simply isn't possible. Little League rules specify that each player must play at least two innings (6 consecutive outs) in the field and receive one at-bat every game. Mandatory play does not apply in Big League.

## Insurance

OLLL provides secondary insurance in the event of medical or dental emergency. This insurance is secondary to any other insurance that you carry. In the event of injury, the parent and coach should contact the Safety Officer at [safety@playoill.org](mailto:safety@playoill.org) or 530-742-7949, and file an Accident Notification Form with the insurance division of Little League Baseball, Inc. within 24 hours. Accident Notification Forms can be downloaded and printed out from our website [www.playoill.org](http://www.playoill.org)

## Player Safety Code

Players need to adhere to some important safety rules to avoid injury.

Following is the Player Safety Code. We ask parents to review this list of items with their child several times throughout the season. Children who consistently ignore the safety rules and endanger the health and safety of others may be suspended from future games and practices.

- Players must stay alert! This means knowing where the ball is ALL THE TIME.
- During games, players must stay in the dugout if not in the field or up to bat.
- In the dugout, players must NEVER swing bats, or throw balls or other objects.
- No swinging bats or throwing balls in spectator areas. All pre-game warm-ups should be performed in areas apart from those frequented by spectators.
- Foul balls batted out of playing area will be returned to the umpire or one of the playing team's coaches or managers between at bats or innings. No balls should be thrown over the fence during a game.
- Except when a runner is returning to a base, head first slides are not permitted
- On-deck batters are not permitted (exception: Senior/Big League)
- No shorts are permitted for practices or games (exception -softball)
- Mouth guards are encouraged but not required.
- All male players will wear athletic supporters or cups during games (exception - t-ball). Managers should encourage that cups be worn at practices. Catchers and pitchers must wear a cup at all times.
- Male catchers must wear the metal, fiber or plastic type cup and a long-model chest protector. Female catchers must wear long or short model chest protectors.
- Catchers must wear a catcher's mitt, not an infielder's or outfielder's glove, when catching.
- For warm-ups, games, or practices, all catchers must wear chest protectors with neck collar, "dangling" type throat guard, shin guards and catcher's helmet, all of which must meet Little League specifications and standards.
- Batters must wear Little League approved protective helmets for batting practice and games. Helmets with masks are encouraged, but not required.
- Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are NOT permitted. Only shoes with molded cleats are permissible. Junior/Senior/ Big League players may wear metal spikes.
- Players will not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry or other metallic items during practices or games. (Exception: Medical alert necklaces or bracelets.)
- No climbing fences or dugout roofs.
- No playing in the parking area or driveway.
- All gates to the fields must remain closed at all times, where applicable. After players have entered or left the playing field, gates should be closed and secured.
- No food or drink in the dugouts EXCEPT water/sports drink.

## 2010 Pitch Count Rules for Baseball

Little League International has implemented new pitch count rules for all little leagues. This will affect children 8 years and over who play baseball (softball is excluded). More information can be found on the Little League International website [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org) or ask your Manager for details.

## **Parent/Spectator Safety Code:**

Parents should review and become familiar with the Safety Code. Help us avoid injuries! Protective equipment cannot prevent all injuries a player might receive while participating in Baseball or Softball.

- All players must have a medical release form signed by a parent or LEGAL guardian before they are permitted to play.
- If your child is a pitcher and has pitched in a game on the current day or the day prior with another league, please inform your Manager. Our goal is to reduce the chances of serious shoulder, elbow, or arm injuries to our young pitchers.
- If your child is ill, please inform your Manager. Only parents are permitted to administer medication to their children. Managers and coaches are NOT permitted to give children any medication, including pain relievers such as Tylenol.
- Parents should make sure their child has water at practices and games to keep them hydrated.
- Managers and coaches are not responsible to provide drinking water, and some of our practice fields do not have drinking water available.
- Parents are responsible to watch children not playing in a game or practice at all times and to keep them away from the parking areas and driveways.
- Parent of players who wear glasses are encouraged to provide "safety glasses" for their children as well as mouth guards.
- Spectators must stay alert for foul balls and errant throws.
- There is no running on the bleachers. Parents should supervise young children on the bleachers and encourage them to sit on the lower levels.
- No one is allowed on the complex with open wounds at any time.
- Wounds should be treated and properly bandaged.
- Speed Limit is 5 miles per hour in driveways and parking lots.
- Observe all posted signs.
- No skateboards, scooters, or in-line skates on sidewalks or driveways or parking areas.
- No playing on or around lawn equipment or machinery at any time.
- No smoking, alcohol or drugs allowed on the premises at any time.
- No pets are allowed.

## **Conflict Resolution**

The OLLL Board of Directors would like to emphasize communication as a key component of our program this year. If your child is experiencing difficulties, please **SPEAK TO THE TEAM MANAGER!** Our volunteer managers and coaches are dedicated to ensuring that the children are learning and having fun at the same time. If your child becomes stressed and unhappy, your manager needs to know.

Usually, misunderstandings can be cleared up very easily as long as your manager has the problem brought to his/her attention.

If the issue is not resolved after speaking to the team manager, the division player agent should be consulted. They are to act as mediators between the parties involved and will likely find an equitable solution to whatever problems arise. Conflicts that cannot be resolved by the division player agent will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. In extreme cases, issues may require a decision by the Board of Directors. Should a conflict progress to this level, the manager, player agent, coaching coordinator, and parent will all have an opportunity to express their views before a decision is made.

**PLEASE - DO NOT APPROACH A BOARD MEMBER ABOUT A CONFLICT UNTIL YOU HAVE SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO THE TEAM MANAGER.**

This process of conflict resolution was put into place so that problems are solved as quickly and efficiently as possible. This is best for the players, parents, and other OLLL volunteers.

Want to express your concerns? If so, call OLLL at (530) 742-7949 and leave your name, telephone number, message regarding the nature of your call, and the best time to reach you. The message will be referred to the appropriate Board member. Board member email contacts can be found on our website [www.playolll.org](http://www.playolll.org)

### **Important Dates to Remember:**

Opening Day – March 13<sup>th</sup>

Fundraising Window – March 13<sup>th</sup> – March 27<sup>th</sup>

Picture Day – April 10<sup>th</sup>

We are looking into holding a score keeping clinic please email [president@playolll.org](mailto:president@playolll.org) or call the ballpark at (530) 742-7949 and leave a message that you are interested in the score keeping clinic once there is enough interest a date, time and location will be set up and you will be contacted.

Also, our Umpire In Chief would like to put together a Junior Umpire Group, if you have a child that is interested in learning how to umpire please contact Doug Ridley at [umpire@playolll.org](mailto:umpire@playolll.org) or call the ball park at (530) 742-7949.

Again I would like to thank you for choosing Olivehurst Linda Little League and I hope that you and your child/children have a great season!!