

# Lunada Bay Little League Team Guidelines and Code of Conduct

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On behalf of all of our players and their families, the Lunada Bay Little League Board of Directors thanks you for volunteering your time and energy as a Manager/Coach. You play a truly unique role not only in the continued growth and progress of our League, but, more importantly, in the emotional and physical development of each individual child who participates in our league.

In an effort to make our Little League enjoyable for all participants, the following are general Team Guidelines and a Code of Conduct that apply to each of the different levels of play. Managers are expected to follow the guidelines with respect to playing time, positioning and the overall attitude and conduct of their players and their players' parents. There may be exceptions to these Guidelines depending on particular circumstances, and we will work closely with you and the other Managers/Coaches to make accommodations to the Guidelines, as necessary. However, there are certain Guidelines that will not be modified and which apply, without exception, across the board to all divisions. Each Manager will be held responsible for the conduct of his team, which includes himself, the Coaches, the parents and the players. Poor sportsmanship by Managers, Coaches, players or parents will not be tolerated. Also, we will require our Managers and Coaches to instill in the players the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and a respect for the game. This includes a respect for each other, for opposing players, Managers and Coaches, for Umpires, and for the rules of the game. You are expected to lead by example in demonstrating these attributes. Certainly baseball is a competitive game for which there will be "wins" and "losses." We expect you to teach each player to handle both with pride, dignity and respect.

Please remember that our League and the game it promotes exist for the children in our Community – not for you the Manager/Coach, not for the parents, and not for the members of the Board. This is, above all else, the kids' game.

Thank you again for your participation, enjoy the season, and have fun!

## MAJOR DIVISION

- 1) Playing time: Our local rule is and has always been to play every player 4 innings. It has never been any different and this shall continue. Exception: playing time may be reduced due to a player's poor attendance to practices. Please be consistent. This guideline applies to all of your players, including the "stars". Reasons for missing practice do not include attending other extra curricular activities, such as being in a school play or playing on another team or having a runny nose. Severe sickness and real school activities such as a major test would likely qualify. We ask that you lay out your expectations for practice attendance in the parent meeting and let the parents know that you will be strict on this.
- 2) Positions: Players in the Major division will tryout for positions. We like to have as many players on the team as possible get at least one inning in the infield. This is up to the Manager. If players are not getting game time in the infield, we ask that they at least get infield time during practice so as to have an opportunity to earn a spot in the infield at some time during the season. One way to accomplish this is to have a set of drills where the whole team does an infield workout. Bottom Line: Majors is a more competitive environment and with that, the manager's discretion will prevail with regard to positions. Pitching is at the sole discretion of the Manager (subject to all Little League rules on pitching).

- 3) Conduct: Proper conduct may seem obvious, but we are reminding everyone here again that we are dealing with youths and that good sportsmanship is what you will teach and play with. For example, baiting an umpire and questioning every ball or strike, taunting your players or the opposing players is inappropriate and unsportmanlike behavior. Teach your players to adjust to the umpire's strike zone.

We expect our managers, coaches, parents and players to cheer their support, not yell at opposing team's manager, coaches, players or parents and/or the umpire. Instruct your parents to not coach their player during the game. Managers, coaches, parents and players shall support your team with class and dignity. This is important everywhere, but especially at inter-league games when we play at other league's fields. We have had the occasional manager, coach and/or parent get into a shouting match with an umpire or another parent from the other team, and this will not be tolerated. If a Manager, Coach, Parent and/or Player gets out of control (which may include verbal or physical abuse against an umpire, manager, coach, parent and/or player), know that the consequence is suspension from attending games in the future (as determined by the Players/Coaches Committee and/or Board of Directors). Multiple infractions can lead to expulsion for the season or expulsion from the league.

Further, note that it is solely at the discretion of the umpire to call a game due to darkness, poor visibility or unsafe playing conditions. Further note that umpires can and will call a game for parent interference as well.

- 4) Practice Time and Space: Major teams will be assigned two practice times; one on the field and a 2<sup>nd</sup> one in the cage area. We allow for up to two (2) additional non-mandatory practices; Batting (BP) and/or Fielding practice (FP), with the preferred guideline being four mandatory (two games + two practices) functions plus a non-mandatory BP or FP, and with teams working on their own to find field space. At no time do you assume that you may take someone else's scheduled field space. Coaches who wish to work their pitchers and catchers, may have an additional workout with them as well. As we've done in the past, we will be sharing the minor field with PV High School. Thus, field space continues to be very limited, and we want to make sure that all teams have adequate practice time. We will assign the Batting Cages.
- 5) Hitting: Asking hitters to Bunt or Take a pitch is at the sole discretion of the Manger.

## INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

Items (1) through (5) above shall also apply to this level of play with the exception of the following:

- 1) Playing time: Same local rule applies as above.
- 2) Positions: Players in the Intermediate division will tryout for positions as well. We require that all players play at least one inning in the infield during a game. Unless there is a safety issue, and we agree with your assessment of that player's issue, you are expected to work all players into the infield. Pitchers are to be developed as well. No team should have only two pitchers in the intermediate division. As was outlined above, your practices should be set up to allow players to practice and work on infield play and to allow kids a chance at throwing off the mound. Obviously, if a player cannot throw strikes or is clearly not interested in that opportunity, then he should not be forced to do so. Usually, the opposite is true. Give them the opportunity, if only at practices.
- 3) Conduct: Same guidelines apply as in Majors with a bit less intensity.
- 4) Practice Time and Space: Intermediate teams will be assigned one practice time + time in the cage area. Otherwise, we allow for up to one (1) additional non-mandatory practices (BP and/or FP), with the preferred guideline being two games + one practice + BP/FP. At no time do you assume that you may take someone else's scheduled field space. Coaches who wish to work their pitchers and catchers, may have an additional workout with them as well.

- 5) Hitting: Asking hitters to Bunt or Take a pitch is at the sole discretion of the Manager. The expected guideline is that our hitters are hitting. If it is an obvious take situation such as a 3 ball and zero strike count, then it would be appropriate to give the hitter the Take sign. Otherwise, we are hitting. Bunting in the Intermediate division can be taught, but should be applied with discretion. If you simply don't feel confident with a hitter's ability to hit, but think you can get lucky with a bunt, then you should allow the player to hit. If there is an obvious bunting situation, such as a man on 1<sup>st</sup> base and you wish to move the player to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, then a bunt may be appropriate. If you have a proficient hitter at the plate and he is a good bunter, then bunt. We allow for some discretion here.

## MINOR DIVISION

Items (1) through (4) above shall also apply to this level of play with the exception of the following:

- 1) Playing time: Same local rule applies as above, except that we very strictly enforce the requirement for playing in the infield, pitcher and the outfield as described in our Local Minor rules. Every player must play no less than two innings in the infield and must play no less than four innings per game. In addition, every player must either play one inning in the outfield or sit for one inning. No exceptions!
- 2) Positions: Players in the minor division will play an infield position for no less than two innings. If we find that Managers are not complying with this, they will lose their team after this one reminder. Position placement will be strictly enforced! There are no reasons, absent a safety issue, at this age and level to not put a player on the infield. The same request is being made as it pertains to pitching. This is the time to develop potential pitchers for the higher divisions; please plan on having at least five players pitch on your team. Further, every player will have the opportunity to "tryout" for pitcher, meaning you will have each player pitch off the mound in an effort to show you their ability.

Minors is the age where players are learning and developing at a tremendous pace. While it is fun to win, it is not the reason for existing in this division. This committee is fully aware that playing some players in the infield, sitting a particular player or pitching a "non-pitcher" will cost your team a game at some point during the season. Too bad!! If you do not like these particular guidelines, we suggest that you do not Manage or Coach.

- 3) Conduct: Same guidelines apply as in Majors and Intermediates with far less intensity. In addition, since we use "kid umps", complaints about their calls will not be tolerated. The league will do what they can to train these boys, and you will respect them or there will be consequences. Please review this area carefully and ask your parents to apply these standards.
- 4) Practice Time and Space: Minor teams will be assigned one practice time + BP in the cage area. Work your pitchers at this time
- 5) Hitting: No Bunting allowed. A manager may not ask a player to Take. A Manager may teach players when it is appropriate to Take pitches, such as the 3 ball and zero strike count described in the Intermediate Hitting guidelines, but we are otherwise attempting to get all of our players to be hitters not takers.