

LGSL Code of Sportsmanship

Conduct and Discipline

A. PURPOSE

To promote sportsmanship in LGSL and to provide a mechanism for dealing with players, coaches, Board members, and spectators, who violate the LGSL Code of Sportsmanship.

LGSL is dedicated to the development of leadership skills, character, and athletic skills for young girls within the Community. As such, LGSL has partnered with and is committed to the principles of the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). We expect our coaches to be Double-Goal Coaches, who strive to win (one goal), while pursuing the more-important goal of teaching life lessons through sports. We expect our parents to be Second-Goal Parents, focused on the goal of using sports to teach life lessons, while leaving the goal of winning to players and coaches. Parents will use positive encouragement to fill the Emotional Tanks of their children, their teammates, and coaches. We expect our players to Honor the Game by having respect for Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates, and one's Self.

The President of LGSL shall be designated as the Sportsmanship Director. The Director will be responsible for promoting sportsmanship within LGSL and for the review of violations of the LGSL Code of Sportsmanship.

Authority To Take Disciplinary Action. In accordance with section C. below, disciplinary action may be taken by a Committee appointed by the Director against any player, spectator, team official, or team, which fails to abide by the LGSL Code of Sportsmanship. The Sportsmanship Director will initiate a Committee review only upon the request of the House or Travel League Directors when the Committee is acting pursuant to section C 2-5 below, a minimum of three (3) members, including the Sportsmanship Director, must be involved. A member of the Committee must be nominated by the House or Travel League Directors from which the alleged violation arose. Any other member(s) of the Committee must be members of the Board of Directors. The Sportsmanship Director shall keep appropriate records of all such actions and those records, along with the LGSL Code of Sportsmanship, may be the basis for future disciplinary actions.

B. LGSL CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Consistent with these objectives, conveying messages of good sportsmanship directly through teaching and indirectly through role models provided by both coaches and parents is critical to our programs.

It is with this in mind that we, as parents, coaches, Board members, and players, commit to encouraging (1) fair play, (2) respect for all participants on both sides of the competition, and (3) respect for the game officials.

Therefore, it shall be a violation of the LGSL Code of Sportsmanship for any coach, team official, player, Board member, or spectator during or immediately following any LGSL competition to:

1. Encourage or engage in abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct directed toward any player, coach, or spectator, including, but not limited to:
 - a. directing profane or obscene comments toward another person;

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- b. physically or psychologically abusing or demeaning any youth;
 - c. any verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm toward another; or actually striking another
2. Encourage or engage in abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct directed toward any game officials with disrespect by:
 - a. directing profane or obscene comments to them;
 - b. repeatedly or persistently expressing disagreement with their officiating;
 - c. any verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to an official or an official's property or equipment; or actually striking an official or damaging an official's property or equipment.

C. DISCRETIONARY SANCTION DEFINITIONS

Anyone witnessing any violation of the LGSL Code of Sportsmanship should report it in writing to the Sportsmanship, House or Travel Directors as soon as possible without regard to whether any automatic sanctions have been imposed by a referee or other game official. House and Travel Directors are required to refer possible violations of the LGSL Code of Sportsmanship to the Sportsmanship Director or vice versa within 48 hours of any violation. The Sportsmanship Director may begin applying the discretionary sanctions, as described below, against an individual player, coach, team official, team, Board Member, or spectator (hereinafter, "an offending party").

1. **Verbal Warning.** The Sportsmanship Director, at his/ her discretion, may issue a verbal warning to an offending party. A written record of such warning shall be made and may be referenced in any future actions against that party. Notice of the verbal warning will be sent to the House or Travel Director and, in the case of a player or parent, to the player's coach.
2. **Written Warning.** Based on a decision of a Committee, the Sportsmanship Director may issue a written warning to an offending party. A copy of the warning shall be sent to the House or Travel Director and, in the case of a player or parent, to the player's coach.
3. **Suspension From Play.** Based on a decision of a Committee, the Sportsmanship Director may suspend an offending party for up to three games specifically identified to that party. Suspensions begin with the next game played after the Committee communicates its decision.
4. **Automatic Suspension.** Anyone who strikes another as described in Section B, will be immediately suspended from further participation in LGSL. The incident shall be reviewed by the Committee. The term of the suspension shall be determined by the Committee.
5. **Ban from Participation.** Upon the recommendation of a Committee and approval of the LGSL Board of Directors, an offending party may be banned from participation in ALL LGSL House and Travel programs for a specified period of time. A banned person may not be present at or participate in any games or activities during that period. A team which does not comply with the ban of a player, coach or other team official may be required by a Committee to forfeit all remaining games in the season or some or all games that have already been played. (See Section D, 2).

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D. DISCRETIONARY SANCTION PROCEDURES

1. **PROTESTS OF GAME RESULTS:** There will be no protests of game results.

2. **PROCEDURE FOR TAKING DISCRETIONARY SANCTIONS:**
 - a. Before the Director takes action against an individual under Section C of this Code, the individual should be notified of the proposed action and the reasons for the proposed action. The individual should be provided an opportunity to respond. After receiving the individual's response, the Director, in accordance with Section C, 1, may decide the case or, in accordance with Section C, 3-5, the Committee shall meet in executive (closed) session to decide the case.

 - b. If the Director or a Committee takes any action against an individual under Section C, 3-5 above, the individual should be advised of his/her right to appeal the action to the LGSL Board of Directors. To file an appeal with the Board of Directors, the individual must post the appeal to the President of LGSL within 48 hours after receiving the written notice of the action. The President may , (1) appoint a committee of Board members to consider the appeal and report to the Board or (2) refer the matter to the Board for review. The review by the committee of Board members or of the Board shall consider the individual's written appeal and any written records from the Sportsmanship Discretionary Sanctions process. The Board should meet in executive (closed) session to decide the case.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Board of Directors, at its discretion, has the option to immediately suspend and/or ban any player, parent, coach, Board Member, or spectator whose behavior is perceived to be an eminent threat to any member of the league. Situations include, but are not limited to:

1. Verbal or written threats to any member of LGSL.
2. Any inappropriate contact, aggressive behavior or harassment toward any member of LGSL.
3. Failure to pass background check as conducted through the National Center of Safety Initiatives, or similar.
4. Any behavior that poses a risk to the personal safety of any member of LGSL.

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LGSL COACHING PHILOSOPHY

COACHING OF PARTICIPANTS WILL BE IN ACCORD WITH LGSL AND THE PCA PHILOSOPHY. WINNING IS AN IMPORTANT GOAL, BUT IT DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PLAYERS' LEARNING PROCESS, HAVING A GOOD TIME AND LEARNING LIFE LESSONS THROUGH SPORTS

1. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING PUT INTO THE HANDS OF THE COACH IS THE PLAYER--NOT THE TEAM.
2. THE IDEAL COACH CARES ABOUT THE CHILD FIRST AS A HUMAN BEING, SECOND AS AN ATHLETE. THE COACH SHOULD HAVE RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR EACH PLAYER ON THE TEAM.
3. EVERY LGSL COACH SHOULD PLACE THE PLAYER FIRST, THE TEAM SECOND, AND HIMSELF THIRD.
4. EACH COACH IS A MODEL FIGURE. THE PLAYER OFTEN TAKES THE ATTITUDE OF THE COACH. FOR, INSTANCE, IF THE COACH SHOWS NO RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS, NEITHER WILL THE PLAYERS.
5. TO THE PLAYER, THE FIRST THING IS BELONGING, THE SECOND IS CONTRIBUTING. IN THE YOUNGER AGE GROUPS, THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ARE TO PLAY AND TO BE A PART OF THE TEAM.
6. EACH PLAYER SHOULD ENJOY THE SPORT. HE OR SHE SHOULD NOT BE SENT HOME WITH THE BURDEN OF GUILT FOR HAVING LOST THE GAME. THE COACH SHOULD ASSUME SOME OF THAT BURDEN.
7. THE COACH MAY WANT TO WIN--THE KIDS JUST WANT TO PLAY.

LGSL COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

COACHES SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE LGSL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SHALL CONDUCT THEMSELVES PROPERLY AT ALL TIMES. COACHES WILL:

1. TAKE ALL REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF EACH PLAYER.
2. TAKE WHATEVER ACTION NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE ACTIONS OF THEIR FANS.
3. BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL LGSL PROPERTY ISSUED. FIELDS, AND BUILDINGS, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT LOCATED ON THE FIELD OR IN THE BUILDING BEING UTILIZED.
4. REPORT ALL INJURIES OR DAMAGE TO SCHOOL OR COUNTY PROPERTY TO THE HOUSE OR TRAVEL DIRECTORS RESPECTIVELY WITHIN 24 HOURS OF SUCH OCCURRENCE.
5. REPORT TO THE HOUSE AND TRAVEL DIRECTORS, OR THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS AS ESTABLISHED, ANY INQUIRY INTO THE POLICY OF THE PROGRAM OR POSSIBLE VIOLATION THEREOF, AS WELL AS WHATEVER ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.
6. ABIDE BY ALL LGSL PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS, INCLUDING ALL COUNTY & TOWN CODES AND REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO PROPERTY.
7. INSURE THE CLEANLINESS OF FACILITIES UPON COMPLETION OF HIS OR HER ACTIVITY.

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UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A COACH:

1. USE PROFANITY TO OR AT ANY PLAYER, PARENT, SPECTATOR OR OFFICIAL AT ANY SANCTIONED LGSL EVENT.
2. PHYSICALLY OR PSYCHOLOGICALLY ABUSE ANY YOUTH ON HIS OR HER TEAM OR ANY OTHER TEAM, EVEN IN JEST.
3. STRIKE, PUSH, OR SHOVE ANY GAME OFFICIAL, ANOTHER COACH, OR A SPECTATOR.
4. DROP ANY PLAYER FROM PARTICIPATION WITHOUT THE ACTION FIRST BEING APPROVED BY THE HOUSE OR TRAVEL DIRECTOR. HOUSE OR TRAVEL DIRECTORS MUST BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY IF ANY PLAYER IS SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS.
5. REPRESENT HIMSELF OR HERSELF AS AN OFFICER OR SPOKESPERSON FOR LGSL TO ANY GROUP, COMMITTEE, OR COUNTY AGENCY WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE LGSL BOARD.
6. PRESSURE ANY PLAYER INTO PARTICIPATION BY INFORMING THE PLAYER THAT IF HE OR SHE DOES NOT PLAY THIS SEASON HE OR SHE WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO PLAY ON THE TEAM NEXT SEASON.
7. OFFER TO ANY OTHER GROUP OR ORGANIZATION USE OF ANY LGSL EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE LGSL PRESIDENT, OR HOUSE OR TRAVEL DIRECTORS.
8. USE OR CONDONE THE USE OF ANY DRUGS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, OR ANY OTHER UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITY DURING ANY LGSL SANCTIONED EVENT WHERE MINORS ARE PRESENT.

VIOLATION OF THE COACH CODE OF CONDUCT OR LGSL CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP BY A COACH:

AS AN APPROVED COACH, EACH COACH HAS AGREED TO ABIDE BY THIS CODE AND THE PENALTIES HEREBY SET FORTH. VIOLATIONS OF ANY PART OF THIS CODE WILL BE HANDLED IN A MANNER DESCRIBED IN THE LGSL BYLAWS AND THE LGSL CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP. A COPY OF THIS CODE SHALL BE GIVEN TO EVERY COACH TO MAKE HIM OR HER AWARE OF HIS OR HER COMMITMENT TO THESE PRINCIPLES.

SPECIAL PROVISION:

HOUSE AND TRAVEL DIRECTORS, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LGSL BOARD, ARE PERMITTED TO SUPPLEMENT OR EXPAND THE ABOVE CODE TO COVER AREAS UNIQUE TO HIS OR HER PROGRAM.