Coaches Code of Conduct

Every person who participates as a coach of Team Nitro LI (TNLI) is expected to follow a code of conduct that promotes safety, healthy competition, sportsmanship, accountability, and overall good citizenship as you are a representative of TNLI. To fulfill this expectation, you are required to agree to the following basic principles:

1. Setting a proper example

The coach's example is powerful. If a coach insists on fair play, concentrates on players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and supports the umpire, players and parents will notice.

- Coaches, in contact with players, parents, umpires and coaches, should strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Before, during, and after the game, they should be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before games, coaches should meet and exchange greetings to set the proper tone for the game. After games, the teams and coaches should meet and congratulate each other in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Coaches should ensure that their players' experience is one of fun and enjoyment, and improvement in skill. Players should never be yelled at, lectured or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game. Coaches should be generous with praise when it is deserved.
- Coaches should avoid any contact (physical or electronically) with players which could be construed as excessive, unprofessional or out of the normal.
- Coaches should avoid any conduct which could be construed as physically or verbally abusive or unprofessional.
- Coaches should completely refrain from verbal dissent during a game with opposing coaches, players or spectators. No abusive or foul language should ever be used.
- There should be no alcohol and/or no smoking before or during practice and games.

2. Keeping players safe

Coaches should have the safety of the players in mind as their first priority at all times. Coaches should be familiar with the facilities and fields on which their teams practice and play, and be mindful of the levels of fitness and skill of each one of their players. Coaches should also be familiar with the Laws of the Game, current with principles of age-appropriate coaching, aware of applicable existing rules and regulations.

- Coaches should check players' equipment and playing facilities frequently. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of players.
- Coaches should follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again. During a game, and in an absence of medical advice, coaches should err on the side of caution in permitting an injured player to return to play.
- Coaches are responsible for players on the field during practice and game times only. Parents are responsible for their players all other times even when a coach is present.

3. Interacting with Officials and Umpires

Coaches should demonstrate respect for all umpires and his/her role. Coaches can help umpires improve by letting them concentrate on the game, accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes, and offering constructive post-game comments.

- Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the umpires. During the game, they should always address the umpires in an appropriate manner. After the game, they should thank the umpires and ask players to do the same.
- Any disagreement should be discussed with the umpires calmly during or after the game. Coaches must refrain from shouting or being outwardly demonstrative in their actions when in disagreement. For major complaints, or if the umpire appeared to be unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report opinions to the either the head of officials, tournament director or president of TNLI.

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4. Creating a positive experience

Ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for the children and adults involved. A softball game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

- Coaches should require all players and spectators to adhere to the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. During the game, the coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players. If a player is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, the coach should remove the player from the game.

5. Confidentiality

Coaches also hereby expressly acknowledge that they will be exposed to certain information, documentation, instructions and procedures created, developed and/or established by TNLI which is confidential in nature and/or is proprietary in nature, such that its disclosure and/or use in any capacity outside of the TNLI Organization, may cause undue and irreparable damage to TNLI, its organization and/or its participants.

Accordingly, each Coach, by signing below, agrees not to use, distribute, share, sell, assign, adapt, or imitate any such information or procedure to any extent outside of TNLI and agree to be responsible for damages to TNLI and/or its organizers and participants, in law and in equity, for any breach of this Confidentiality Agreement.

Coaches also agree not to solicit any players, prospective players, coaches or other personnel from TNLI during and/or subsequent to Coach's affiliation with TNLI.

The foregoing principles outline only the minimal requirements expected from each coach. Keep in mind that the highest level of integrity, sportsmanship and professionalism will be required. Each coach understands that he or she can be relieved of all responsibilities and terminated or suspended at any time and for any reason whatsoever.

Coaches hereby agree to defend, indemnify and hold TNLI harmless from any and all liability arising directly or indirectly from such Coach's acts and/or omissions to the full extent permitted by law.

6. Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy

Coaches are required to read, understand and adhere to the TNLI Electronic Media and Social Media Policy. This policy has been put in place to safeguard against any actions that might be misinterpreted by any other Parent, Player or non TNLI personnel with regards to Electronic Communications.

7. Acknowledgement

I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide to the TNLI Coaches Code of Conduct. I understand that the consequences if I do not abide to them can be up to and including game suspensions or termination from TNLI with complete forfeit of fees, titles and responsibilities.

Coaches' Name:_____ Date: _____

Coaches' Signature: _____

Team Nitro Name: _____