

## NELL CODE of CONDUCT

One of the goals of NELL is to prepare young people for life experiences by stressing good sportsmanship and teamwork, learning to respecting others and themselves, being tolerant of those with differences, and looking out for the safety of others and striving for excellence. In order to do so, the adults in the organization must also value and exhibit these traits. NELL has established and published the following code of conduct as part of our Safety Plan.

### ALL BOARD MEMBERS, MANAGERS, COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS & SPECTATORS

1. NO ONE will lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike or threaten to strike anyone within the NELL program including but not limited to officials, managers, coaches, players, parents, spectators or board members.
2. NO ONE will use verbal abuse toward any official for any belief of wrong decision or judgment.
3. NO ONE will throw gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls or demonstrate any unsportsmanlike behavior.
4. NO ONE will use unnecessary rough tactics against an opposing team.
5. NO ONE will use profane, obscene or vulgar language or gestures at practices, games, etc.
6. NO ONE will be on the NELL complex while intoxicated, taking unprescribed drugs, or consuming alcohol at any time.
7. NO ONE will smoke within the fenced area or designated field of play or dugouts at any time.
8. NO ONE will speak to or at a spectator in a derogatory or abusive manner.
9. NO ONE will speak disrespectfully to another manager or coach including officials and board representatives of NELL.
10. NO ONE will tamper or manipulate any league roster, schedule, draft positions/selection, official score books and ranking.
11. NO ONE will challenge an umpire's authority. The umpire does have the right to eject you from the game.

## **Respect Each Other and Yourselfes.**

### As Managers and Coaches, help our players:

- 1 - Realize the importance of honesty and integrity ON and OFF the field.
- 2 - Learn coping skills to deal with stress.
- 3 - Learn to balance school, social activity, Little League & family.
- 4 - Develop a sense of independence & responsibility for actions as an individual & as a competitor.
- 5 - Develop a sense of team commitment.
- 6 - Appreciate the benefits of our community and be willing to give back as well as participate.

### Learn from Mistakes

Finally, do not expect the majority of children playing Little League baseball to have strong skills. We hear all our lives that we learn from our mistakes. Let's allow them to make their mistakes, but always be there with positive support to lift their spirits

### **Are your "expectations" reasonable and consistent?**

The following describe the expectations of coaches, managers, players and guests of the players at NELL.

#### **As a Coach/Mgr - What Do I Expect From My Players?**

- To be on time for all practices and games.
- To always do their best whether in the field or on the bench.
- To be cooperative at all times and share team duties.
- To respect not only others, but themselves as well.
- To be positive with teammates at all times.
- To try not to become upset at their own mistakes or those of others. We will all make our share of mistakes this year and we must support one another.
- To understand that winning is only important if you can accept losing, as both are important parts of any sport.

#### **As a Parent/Player - What You and Your Child can Expect from Managers and Coaches?**

- To be on time for all practices and games.
- To be as fair as possible in giving playing time for all players.
- To do my best to teach the fundamentals of the game.
- To be positive and respect each child as an individual.
- To set reasonable expectations for each child and the season.
- To teach the players the value of winning and losing.
- To be open to ideas, suggestions, or help.
- To never holler at any member of my team, the opposing teams, or umpires. Any confrontation will be handled in a respectful, quiet, and individual manner.

#### **As a Coach/Mgr - What Do I Expect From You as Parents and Family?**

- To come out and enjoy the game. Cheer to make all players feel important.
- To allow me to coach and run the team.
- To try not to question my leadership. All players will make mistakes and so will I.
- Do not holler at the players, the umpires, or me. We are all responsible for setting examples for our children. We must be the role models in society today. If we eliminate negative comments, the children will have an opportunity to play without any unnecessary pressures and will learn the value of sportsmanship.
- If you wish to question my strategies or leadership, please do not do so in front of the players or fans. My phone number will be available for you to call me at any time if you have a concern. It will also be available if you wish to offer your services at practice. A helping hand is always welcome.
- Stay outside of playing area during games and practice.

**Feel free to use this letter or portions from this letter at your team meeting. We felt it conveyed the proper message, was consistent with NELL mission, and could be useful to you!**

**A Coach's Letter to Parents  
By : Darrell J. Burnett, Ph.D.**

Dear Parents,

Here are some hints on how to make this a fun season, with lots of positive memories for your kids and your family.

- Make sure your kids know that, WIN or LOSE, you love them. Be the person in their life they can always look to for support.
- Try to be completely HONEST with yourself about your kids' athletic capability, their competitive attitude, their sportsmanship, and their level of skills.
- Be helpful, but don't coach your kids on the way to the game or at the breakfast table. Think how tough it must be on them to be continually inundated with advice, pep talks, and criticism.
- Teach your kids to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be out there trying & to be constantly working to improve their skills. Don't tell them that winning doesn't count because it does, and they know it! Instead, help them develop a healthy competitive attitude, a "feel for competing, for trying hard & for having a good time."
- Try not to live your life through your kids. Sure they're an extension of you, but don't assume they feel the same way you did, want the same things, or have the same attitude.
- Don't push them in the direction that gives you the most satisfaction. Don't compete with your kids' coaches. Try to help them understand the necessity for discipline, rules and regulations.
- Don't compare your kids with other players on their team - at least not within their hearing - but don't lie to them about their capabilities as a player.
- Get to know your kids' coaches. Make sure you approve of each coach's attitude and ethics. Coaches can be influential, and you should know the values of each coach so that you can decide whether or not you want them passed on to your kids.
- Teach your kids the meaning of COURAGE. Courage isn't the absence of fear. Courage is learning to perform in spite of fear. Courage isn't getting rid of fear - It is OVERCOMING it!
- Winning is an important goal - Winning at all costs is stupidity.
- Remember that officials are necessary. Don't overreact to their calls. They have rules & guidelines to follow representing authority during the game. Teach you kids to respect authority and to play by the rules.
- Finally, REMEMBER... if the kids aren't having fun, we are missing the whole point of youth sports.

### The Coach

Dr. Darrell Burnett is a clinical psychologist and certified sport psychologist specializing in youth sports. He has been in private practice in Laguna Niguel, California for over 25 years. He is a member of Little League International Board of Directors. He was listed among the "Top 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America" by the Institute for International Sport. You can find more information on his website : [www.djburnett.com](http://www.djburnett.com).