



**LONDON METS
2022 COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

Coaching a London Mets team at any level is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a manager or coach, appointed by the London Mets Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of baseball and softball players in London and in the success of our club and all its teams. The London Mets, as an organisation, strives to encourage and teach all its players the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play, and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives.

Baseball and softball each embody the discipline of teamwork. They challenge players towards perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball and softball also teach that while every player eventually strikes out or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game.

With this in mind, the London Mets expects and requires each manager and coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

A. SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Baseball and softball are games and are meant to be fun. Accordingly, I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good baseball skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I realize, accept, and will practice the principle that a team’s reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and good manners. Each team’s reputation also affects the reputation of the London Mets as an organisation and all its other teams.
3. I understand that physical or verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated. Any offender may be permanently or temporarily removed from the field or the team, whether player, manager, coach, or parent at the discretion of an umpire or a London Mets board member. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, obscene, racist, national origin, sexist, homophobic, religious, and hateful remarks of any quality that any reasonable person would find offensive.
4. I understand that the London Mets is an inclusive organization and will seek to find every baseball or softball player a place within the organization.
5. I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about actual or perceived bad calls by umpires to players and fans.
6. I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones in a civil manner.
7. I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at any London Mets facility, game, practice or other event.
8. I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of tobacco, “e-cigarette” devices and all illegal drugs are prohibited at all London Mets facilities, games, practices or other events.

B. RULES AND POLICIES

1. I will know and understand the rules and abide by them (whether local or national). I will instruct my team members in the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
2. I will adhere to all safety guidelines

3. I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All coaches must ensure that each player get minimum opportunities to bat and play the field in each game, where applicable. I understand that there are rules that protect pitchers from being injured and I will be sure to be aware of these rules and adhere to them to put the safety of players above all else.
4. I will fully comply with the Club's Player/Parents Codes of Conduct.
5. I will review the London Mets website (www.londonmets.org) on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all updated rules and policies.
6. London Mets Baseball Club uniforms, jerseys, cap, hoodies, jackets, wool caps, polos and t shirts along with their colours, logos and fonts are the intellectual property of the club. They may not be used in organized or unorganized team activities of any kind outside the sanctioned auspices of the London Mets Board.

C. THE UMPIRES AND OTHER RESOURCES

1. I recognize some rules of baseball can occasionally be up for interpretation, and as a result, disputes will occur from time to time. However, it is important that players learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the umpire will be handled in a civil manner. I understand only managers may initiate such discussions with an umpire. The managers/coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the managers will make no further field protest. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Board of Directors.
2. I understand that many of the umpires are "in training". I recognise that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position within the game requires.
3. I will be responsible in all aspects for caring for equipment, keys delegated for my use, care of fields prior to games and cleaning up fields, dugouts and stands after games. I will make sure that all London Mets-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

D. PARENTS AND FANS

1. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents (if applicable). I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous manner.
2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and codes of conduct of the London Mets (*i.e.*, the London Mets is meant for the enjoyment of all the players).
3. I will ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games. Managers will use discretion with respect to personnel permitted in their dugouts during a game.
4. I will support (through participation and organisation of parents (if applicable)) the London Mets in fundraising efforts and concession duty.

E. THE TEAM

1. I will conduct practices in an organised manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
2. I will focus on providing instruction commensurate with players' abilities, so that all players on my team have the opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further baseball/softball competition.

3. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
4. I understand that managers are responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team in communications with the umpires, opposing teams and the relevant league. If a manager leaves the field, he shall designate a coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the manager's duties.

F. NON-GAME DUTIES OF MANAGERS

Each manager has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games. Accordingly, if I am a Manager, I will adhere to the following, as well:

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
2. I will attend all required coaches meetings, safety and umpiring clinics unless I am out of town or have a significant previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.
3. I will complete, obtain and submit in a timely manner all required paperwork, whether to the London Mets, the relevant league or tournament organisers.
4. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and London Mets officials. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.
5. I will ensure that I abide by all policies of the London Mets organisation, including, without limitation, with respect to scheduling. Prior to making any change to any organisational policy, I will seek approval from the Board of the London Mets or an appropriate official. I will only implement any such change with approval.

G. RULES APPLICABLE TO COACHES OF NBL, AAA, AA, A, AND B4B TEAMS

1. I understand that a primary purpose of the AAA, AA, A and B4B teams is to develop players to eventually play for the London Mets' NBL team or teams.
2. If I am coaching an AAA, AA, A or B4B team, I will promptly comply with all requests from managers in charge of higher-level teams or the Board of Directors regarding the movement of players up and down in the London Mets organisation, and I will support all such requests.

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The London Mets has a **zero-tolerance** policy for any aggressive or inappropriate physical contact with any player, coach, umpire, parent, fan or other person.

Zero tolerance for any disparaging remarks within the club (fields, clubhouse, winter training, practice nights, game days) toward teams, players, coaches, teammates, on social media platforms or anywhere in the fourth estate.

Zero tolerance for any conduct deemed detrimental to the club, board, players, coaches, and teammates.

Any breach of these rules or a continued and wilful breach of any other rule is grounds for immediate action, including suspension, expulsion or removal from the position of Coach or Manager.

By signing this Coach's Code of Conduct, I agree to adhere to all the rules set out above.

Please sign, take a photo or make a copy, and return to Chairman via email to Chair@londonmets.org.

Each copy will be countersigned by a member of the London Mets Board of Directors, and one copy will be returned to you for your records.

Coach's Name: _____

Coach's Signature _____

Team Name: _____

Division/League: _____

Season: ___2022___

Date: _____

Board Member: _____

Updated January 2022