

COACHES HANDBOOK

FOR

SANTA MONICA
PONY LEAGUE



PHILOSOPHY

The primary objective of Santa Monica Pony League is to provide program for young people which will enhance their fitness and skill levels and promote the development of favorable psychological, emotional and social traits.

To be more specific, the athletes will improve not only at the skills of baseball, but, more importantly as outstanding young men and women. The lessons coaches teach athletes go far beyond winning and losing. It would be most inconsistent with the philosophy of our organization if any coaches ever became more concerned with their win-lost record than with the character development of young people.

Through the participation in our program, young people should develop an understanding of commitment, sportsmanship, hard work and responsibility. Young people should also experience teamwork, the need for concentration and the respect for discipline in a way that is found nowhere else in the learning environment. Coaches have a great deal to offer athletes beyond individual and team accomplishments and, as a staff, coaches should never lose sight of this.

Coaches owe it to themselves, their players, the parents, and league to be concerned first with the development of outstanding young men and women.

COACHING GUIDELINES:

The special relationship between coaches and athletes, as well as the rich experience garnered in games and practices, nurtures character, coping skills and commitment.

Coaches have a responsibility to create situations in their practices and games by which an athlete's success can be reasonably measured. The manner in which practices are run and game situations handled expresses the importance of cooperation, organization, hard work and sportsmanship. In defining sportsmanship, the league stresses the qualities of winning and losing with dignity as well as respect for officials and the opposing team. The example, which the coach sets along with the consistency in actions, encourages the athletes to exhibit sportsmanship and to be their best. The primary responsibility of the coach is to the athlete. This responsibility includes serving as an adult role model who is dedicated to athletic performance and personal excellence. It also includes exhibiting the highest ethical standards and moral behavior while treating each athlete with respect and dignity. Personal integrity, excellence and maturity are promoted when coaches:

- 1) Act honorably.
- 2) Teach and expect winning and losing with dignity.

- 3) Explain clearly the expectations and requirements for team participation, including, but not limited to, the Athletic Code.
- 4) Encourage, expect and require full participation and commitment of the athletes at practice and during games, whether the athletes are part of the first team or serves a supporting role. One goal of competition is winning but not at the expense of sacrificing fair play or the intent of the rules; the primary goal is for the athletes to strive to do their best as members of a team.
- 5) Encourage athletes to realize that they maintain a good balance between their academic and athletic responsibilities. At the same time, coaches' sensitivity to the needs of athletes as they learn to budget their time appropriately and meet academic and athletic commitments nurtures coping skills and the importance of commitment and responsibility.
- 6) Determine the best athletes as they fit into the team structure for that particular season.
- 7) Inform the parents at the beginning of the season about practice times and places as well as the complete schedule for practices and league games.

COACHES' RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Check out equipment and keep the maintenance and accountability of the equipment.
- 2) You are responsible for the safety and the behavior of the athletes at all times while they are under your supervision.
- 3) Receive the medical emergency form on or before the first day of practice. Keep the form with you at all times throughout the season.
- 4) Pass out game schedules for the season. Also have schedules for practices.
- 5) Find a team parent to help you. (e.g. snack schedule; picture day)
- 6) Carry some type of first aid kit with you.
- 7) Help set-up the field before games. Also make sure we pick-up trash after practices and games.
- 8) Make sure that all athletes are picked up before you leave practice or a game.
- 9) Be sure each member and his/her parents have read, understood and signed the Athletic Code and Parent Code of Conduct.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS

Establishing good rapport and communication with parents prior to and during the season is essential to the success of a program. Informing parents about practice schedules, game times and dates, and locations as well as their role in supporting coaches and their child enhances parents' respect for a coach. Los Amigos expects coaches to assume these responsibilities as seriously as they approach their athletes and competition.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of parents attending their games as well as the conduct of their teams. While 99 percent of the Los Amigos parents are respectful of officials, opposing players and fans, there are occasions when intervention is timely and appropriate.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The league expects all participants in the baseball program to conduct themselves in a well-behaved, sportsmanlike manner at all times. This requirement applies to all coaches, players, managers, scorekeepers, parents, friends, and anyone else attending practices and games.

Coaches must set an example of sportsmanlike behavior and demand that their players follow suit. This department will not tolerate any demonstrative arguing with officials or disrespectful behavior toward opposing players, fans, or property.

SAFETY

The health and safety of our players is a major concern.

- Be aware of potential danger or hazards.
- Never leave a player unattended

In case of a life threatening or “serious” injury:

- Always stay with the injured child
- Stay calm
- Call 911
- Never transport a child to a hospital
- Keep parents informed

After a game or practice:

- A coach must stay around until the final student is picked up.