

METUCHEN BASEBALL & SOFTBALL SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGE PARENTS

We respectfully ask you, as a condition of your child's participation in the Metuchen Baseball & Softball program, to please read and acknowledge your agreement by signing the following parental sportsmanship pledge.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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1. I support that the game is for the children. I won't let my natural competitive spirit and normal desire for glory turn into angry yelling at the children when they don't fulfill expectations. Sometimes my expectations may be unrealistic. I will be satisfied if the children are having **FUN** and they are gaining confidence by learning skills from a coach who is teaching and mentoring without anger.

2. I understand that winning is one goal in the Major Leagues, but only one of many goals. Only half the teams competing win their games on any given day and as studies have consistently indicated, children play mainly for the **FUN** of it. Children almost unanimously rate the **FUN** they have during the game much higher than the score at that single moment when the game is over. I agree that as long as children try their best, they are winners on another level even when they lose the game.

3. I recognize that it is often difficult for parents to see their children in situations where they are being evaluated, especially at a very young age. I will not spend my time worrying too much about how they're doing and miss what should be a wonderful experience for us as well as them. If my child is not a great player, I will love them anyway for who they are, and I will find reasons to praise them for their accomplishments on the field, big or small, and know that they will be great at other things.

4. I agree that Coaches and Umpires deserve **RESPECT**. I understand that they make mistakes, as we all do, but whether they're great at what they're doing or not, we have a responsibility to set a good example to help teach **RESPECT** to our children. I agree that yelling criticism at umpires, coaches or players is inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Sometimes we don't even realize how angry we sound because our children don't always talk about their feelings. Children often reveal that they are embarrassed when their parents shout out criticism.

5. I will keep the game in proper perspective; I realize that children usually have **FUN** as long as we support their effort. Putting them under pressure by being overly critical is not a good idea. If they become anxious about their performance, they may be hesitant to try new skills. As a result, the children may not reach their potential and their interest in the game may decline.

6. The experience of watching children play youth sports is over all too soon. I will relax and have **FUN** simply knowing that the **children are having FUN and we're having a good time together.**

League play is supposed to be safe, instructional and most of all, FUN! Help us keep it that way!