



## Tulsa Little League Baseball – Core Values

There are many reasons we believe Tulsa Little League Baseball (TLLB) is THE place for kids to play spring and summer baseball in the Tulsa area. We believe these core values set us apart from the other leagues in the Tulsa area.

### 1. Everyone is to HAVE FUN!

- a. **Play with friends** – players may sign up to play with their friends
- b. **Teach Positive reinforcement** – rewards rather than yelling, teach coaches to laugh with their players, it is not about you – it is about the kids.
- c. **PHRT** – Pitch/Hit/Run/Throw mid-season competition – everyone has a chance to get a trophy and show off their skills.
- d. **Borrow players** – When we have teams that are low on players, teams can borrow players from other teams. This keeps us from having forfeits and all of our players learn to appreciate players on the other teams. Again, this helps everyone to have fun and play with respect with the opposing team.
- e. **Players do as much as possible** – Coaches don't need to do jobs that the players can do – this is why we require players to warm up pitchers and when possible, coach 1<sup>st</sup> base.
- f. **Minimum play requirements** – Each player in Little League is required to play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs (or basically two innings) and we bat the bench – we want our youth to play, not ride the bench. TLLB encourages the coaches to teach all of their players to play all of the positions. Regular season games do not determine trophies or final team standings. Only the end of season tournament determines trophies. Those coaches who focus on player development typically do much better in our end of season tournaments than those who “do whatever it takes” to win every game.

### 2. Have a shot at the big time - Little League World Series

- a. **Play baseball on national television!** – Only Little League Baseball has a true World Series with representatives from every area of the world playing before a national audience. All Star teams selected from our spring 10u and 12u divisions have a chance to play in state/regional and World Series tournaments. Regional finals and all World Series games are televised by ESPN and ABC Sports.

### 3. Teach Fundamentals of Baseball (and LIFE)!

- a. **Coaching coordinator to help coaches** – TLLB has a “coaching coordinator” who assists new coaches in planning fun & effective practices. They are assisted with implementing a fair and even playing time rotation and the best ways to teach baseball skills like fielding a ground ball and throwing the ball, to those players new to the game.
- b. **Coach training in fundamentals** – TLLB offers several FREE coaches clinics throughout the year. These have been taught by local baseball professionals, some of whom are actually scouts and instructors for major league teams like the Texas Rangers and Chicago White Sox.
- c. **Video/written training aids available** – TLLB maintains an extensive library of training aids like books, DVD’s, video tapes and more. All of these items are available for coaches to check out to improve their skills and understanding of the game.
- d. **Emphasize player development** – Coaches are encouraged to play everyone in different positions and no one should sit out for more than 2 innings per game. Regular season games are designed to allow coaches to teach all of their players and to prepare their teams for the end of season tournament.
- e. **Instructional for Baseball and Life** – Little League Baseball is about more than playing baseball. It’s also about teaching our youth life skills and important personal traits like character, courage and loyalty.

### 4. Safety

- a. **ASAP** – Little League maintains their ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program) to ensure EVERY child’s Little League experience is a safe one.
- b. **Background Checks** - Little League was the first national youth sports organization to mandate background checks on managers, coaches and other key volunteers. Last year TLLB performed over 350 background checks.
- c. **All coaches get a First Aid Kit** – Another Little League policy to ensure your child is cared for at all league activities.
- d. **Protective Equipment** – Little League is the ONLY local league to provide Little League approved safety equipment, such as full catcher’s gear and batting helmets with protective wire cages.

## 5. Sportsmanship

- a. **No out-of-control players/coaches/fans** – TLLB encourages parents and other fans to cheer for their son/daughter, etc. and cheer LOUD, but it takes the issue of obnoxious and disruptive fans very seriously. Fans (or coaches for that matter) who exhibit obnoxious and disruptive behavior will be ejected from the field. This will help maintain a family-safe environment for players and their families alike.
- b. **No EROC's – EROC's** (End Result Oriented Coaches) are everywhere these days. They're the ones who cheer when the other team makes an error...or yell at one of their players when they miss a ground ball...or scream at an umpire when he makes a call that goes against the coach's team. For EROC's, the only thing that matters is whether you get the out or score a run. Doing it right doesn't matter. EROC's teach bad habits and bad behavior. TLLB coaches are taught to teach the "process" (fundamentals) over the "results."
- c. **Teach life lessons from baseball** – At TLLB, our philosophy is simple...we teach the game of life...through the game of baseball. What parent wouldn't want their son or daughter to learn character traits like: determination, a solid work ethic, accountability, responsibility, teamwork, compassion, integrity, etc.? We teach that giving yourself to something bigger than yourself prepares you for life.

## 6. Cost Effective

- a. **No fund-raising** – When you register your child to play TLLB, you pay ONE fee, up front, that covers everything – uniform, field rental & maintenance fees, umpire costs, equipment fees, etc. – and you don't have to pay a penny for the rest of the season!
- b. **Uniforms provided by league** – The cost of your child's uniform is included in the player registration fee, so you don't have to shell out another \$150-\$300 to buy a uniform...and your child even gets to keep the ENTIRE uniform at the end of the season! We purchase in bulk so that you get a great uniform at a reasonable price.
- c. **Low cost per game** – Because Little League Baseball is a registered 501-c-3 non-profit organization, we're not in it to make money...just to provide the BEST baseball experience of your child's life. That helps keep our registration fees the lowest in the area.

## 7. The More Players the Better

- a. **Little League Environment is the Best** – We want as many of Tulsa's youth as possible to experience Tulsa Little League Baseball as we believe it is the best environment to play baseball and learn about life. We believe this environment needs to be expanded in as many ways as possible. Help us to get the word out that Tulsa Little League is a great place to play baseball.