

Dear Little League parents & guardians,

Thank you for signing up your child for this season!!! In striving to make our teams the best around and to insure that the kids have a positive baseball experience, the Burgoon Little League has come up with a few suggestions and things to keep in mind for the parents and family members of our Little Leaguers.

Practice, practice, practice! Every kid on the team, regardless of skill level, needs work on his or her game at one time or another. The teams are blended by skill level to the best of our ability with as much accommodations to personal requests as possible. This allows the coaches to do the coaching and some less experienced players to participate with and learn from more experienced players. This is Little League, not Major League. At this level we're teaching our children more than just how to win. We're teaching them fundamentals and basic skills, team support and commitment, positive sportsmanship and how to win and lose with poise and grace. Try to set aside a little time--even if it's just a half hour a week--and work with your child between games. If you're not sure what your child needs to work on, ask their Coaches—they're the ones most familiar with your child's strengths and weaknesses.

Coaching is for Coaches. Please resist the urge to coach your child from the stands. It interferes and often contradicts the Coaches instructions during game time. If you'd like to volunteer as a Coach or assist a coach on your child's team, please fill that out on your child's sign up form. Please also remember that **Coaches are not Babysitters**. This is not a tip so much as it is legality. We strongly encourage each player to have 1 responsible parent or guardian in attendance at every game or practice. It is ok if one parent is taking two or more players to the field. But he/she will be responsible for those players in case of injuries that can and do occur on the field.

Please remember to be respectful and kind to each and every umpire. They are volunteering their time and they make the final call in every game. We had quite a few issues and written complaints to the Southwood League Board last year about our Burgoon Parents. We need to avoid this going forward. Please be respectful and do not bully our umpires, other town's umpires, or other parents. Remind yourself that **the kids are there to have fun--this is for the kids, not the parents.** Umpires are human beings too. They will make mistakes and they will not be perfect. They have agreed to call plays to the best of their ability in a fair and respectful manner. If you have an issue with an umpire that you feel is important enough to report, please do not cause a scene. Set a good example! Please contact our Board with a written complaint with as much detail of the situation as possible. If necessary, we will take matters further to the head of our Southwood League Board.

Think Positive! Negative comments towards your child's playing ability or any child's playing ability on the field during game or practice time has NO PLACE in our league. We all want our kids to be great players, but we must remember that **we've signed them up to have fun -- this is for them not us parents.** Never go home criticizing every little mistake your child has made or other team members have made. This will not set a good example for your child or encourage them to strive to be better. Encourage your child with as much positivity as possible! We encourage our players to cheer on every player on their team regardless of skill levels. Boosting children's confidence also plays a major roll on how they perform during practices and games!

Get Involved. We are understaffed, overworked, and all volunteers. Many parents want to become involved, but worry that they don't know enough about Baseball to be helpful. There are plenty of ways to get involved without becoming a Coach or Manager. Just ask any Little League Representative. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU'RE AWARE THAT YOU'RE EXPECTED TO WORK AT LEAST 1 HOME GAME IN THE CONCESSION STAND.** Coaches may need a person or two to assist with certain drills during practice, help in the dug outs during game times (lining kids up to bat, keeping order, etc...) and umpires are always needed. If you know someone that would like to help, please tell your coach or someone from the board. You'd be amazed at how great it feels getting involved with your community. We look forward to a great season with you and your player.

Thank You, Burgoon Little League Coaches and Burgoon Little League Board