

Northville Baseball Softball Association

Coaches Code of Conduct

Preamble

Thank you for volunteering to coach in the Northville Baseball Softball Association program. We pride ourselves on our program's mission to foster, promote, provide, and advance the cause of baseball and softball for Northville children. To accomplish that goal, we need the cooperation of players, umpires, parents and you, the coach. To ensure that every participant has an enjoyable experience, free from the negative situations that sometimes infect our sport, we ask that each coach a) READ the Code of Conduct below, b) AGREE that acting in opposition to the Code of Conduct is detrimental to the experience of our children, c) ACKNOWLEDGE that violations of the Code of Conduct can result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal of you from the program and prohibiting future participation.

Code of Conduct

To the Program:

- Coaches are for **ALL** the children in the program and not just the ones assigned to a particular team.
- Coaches are responsible for setting an example and an expectation for players and parents by controlling both their own temper and language.
- Coaches must show respect to other coaches and umpires at all times and under all circumstances.
- Coaches will be replaced by NBSA Board of Directors at any time for behavior deemed detrimental to children.
- Baseball and softball are competitive sports. The umpires working each game realize this, and understand your desire to win each game. However, a strong desire to win is, under no circumstances, an acceptable reason to behave in an inappropriate manner.
- Coaches will remember that the game is for our children – not for adults. Coaches will do his/her very best to make youth sports fun for all children in the NBSA program.
- Coaches will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the NBSA.
- Coaches will acknowledge receipt and understanding of the NBSA Coach's Handbook, if applicable.
- Coaches and the team's parents will be a positive role model for the children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or sporting event.
- Coaches and the team's parents will NOT engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any officials, staff, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, incitement to riot or using profane language or gestures.

- Coaches and the team’s parents will ask and expect that all children treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- The head coach is responsible for the behavior and actions of all assistant coaches and parent volunteers.

To the Umpires:

- Coaches are to understand that the availability of umpires is a competitive advantage to the program.
- Part of the coach’s job is to help develop and cultivate quality umpires. This means constructive feedback, at the proper time, in the proper place, and with the proper manner.
- Many of the umpires are young, some as young as 13. Coaches should act accordingly, and help develop the umpires as they develop their own players.
- Coaches will respect the officials and their authority before, during and after the game.
- The following behaviors are unacceptable and will subject coaches to NBSA discipline:
 - Verbal abuse. This includes directly and indirectly. Indirectly refers to talking to other coaches or parents at a voice level audible to the umpire.
 - Physical contact of any kind.
 - “Carrying on”—i.e. talking about a call made some number of innings past.
 - Refusal to stop arguing, and further delaying the game after the umpire has provided a player or manager adequate opportunity to make a point.
 - Arguing of judgment calls (balls/strikes/out/safe).
 - Throwing or kicking equipment.
 - Encouraging parents to behave in an inappropriate manner, or tolerating such behavior when they do.
 - Acting in any manner deemed inappropriate by the umpire(s).
- Coaches will understand that umpires make over one hundred decisions each game. These decisions must be made on a split-second basis. No umpire is out “to get” your team.
- Coaches will understand that coaches and umpires are both human. Coaches make coaching errors and umpires make umpiring errors, and errors are part of the games of baseball and softball.
- In the event that coaches have constructive feedback on the performance of any umpire, that feedback is encouraged to be provided to the League Commissioner or the Umpires Chairperson of the NBSA. It is inappropriate and unconstructive to attempt to provide such feedback during the heat of a game, or shortly thereafter.

- **Coaches ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct are immediately suspended from all baseball and softball activities, and shall remain suspended until receiving the approval of the Umpires Chairperson to continue.**

To the Players:

- Coaches will NOT encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- Coaches will inform the players' parents of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of all children or the safety of others.
- Coaches will realize they are important to the development of players and the program, and will act accordingly to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- Coaches will teach players to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Coaches will teach players that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that players will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his or her performance.
- Coaches will praise players for competing fairly and trying hard, and make players feel like winners every time.
- Coaches will keep winning in perspective. Players usually forgets the outcome of the game; it is the adults that have a tendency to stress the win/loss record.
- Coaches will strive to be a good role model for players and the other children in the program. Coaches will encourage players to learn to lose with dignity and win with grace.
- Head coaches, assistant coaches, and players must remain in the dugout area when not actively participating. Non-participants in a game are not permitted in the dugout area.
- Uniformed players or designated adults may be used as 1st and 3rd base coaches. If uniformed players are used as base coaches, they must wear the designated batting helmets.
- Coaches must have complied with all other NBSA policies and protocols.
- Coaches are expected to help keep all fields clean and free of trash and in a safe and playable manner at all times.
- Each head coach is expected to share this code with parents of his or her team members.
- Each head coach is expected to make his or her assistants aware of this code. It applies to all coaches, not just the one who acknowledged this Code of Conduct.

I have read and understand that violations of this Coaches Code of Conduct can result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the program and prohibiting future participation without warning for any violation.

Coach Signature

Date