

## Lenape Valley Youth Baseball and Softball League Coach, Umpire, Parent, Player and Volunteer Code of Conduct

Lenape Valley Youth Baseball and Softball (LVYBS) is the overarching organization supporting youth baseball and softball in the greater Byram and Lenape Valley areas. LVYBS coaches, umpires, players, parents and volunteers span across several towns, hundreds of kids, parents, players, and field locations, and everything that gets accomplished are by people like you: **volunteers**. We are not managed or supported by any township government or supported by any school budget; we are a separate, all-volunteer force, each with our own families, jobs, and other life responsibilities; but we all come together in some way, shape, or form for **the kids**.

As a Coach, or Volunteer, you sign up for a great task: to help make things better for the kids, the organization, and the experience. In doing so, because of all the moving pieces, you are going to encounter situations in which you may have to diffuse, de-escalate, problem-solve, or act. These situations can be frustrating, but it is important to remember that you are now a representative and extension of the entire organization. The children, parents, and other coaches will view you as an example of how we operate collectively. Despite how passionate the situation may become, it's important to remember that all eyes are on you.

Coaches also have to make tough decisions about the game, practices, and how things are handled. We will support our coaches/ volunteers' decisions so long as they are reasonable. A coach's decision and discretion can factor a variety of things such as but not limited to: players available, types of personalities involved, weather, fields, opponents, capabilities, player's rate of participation (we recommend 80% or better attendance for players to get a fair shot at everything a coach can offer), on-hand support, future games/ practices, and their own style/ methods of instruction and support.

### Although every situation may be unique, here are some things to remember

- Remain calm, breathe.
- Resolve disputes and conflicts by speaking privately and asking the other person(s) to step aside for a quick conversation, unless the situation is emergent (e.g., safety issue). Out of audible range of others, preferably.
- If the situation cannot be resolved between the parties present, contact a baseball or softball board member for support.
- The 24 Hour Rule: for instances that become contentious and entail a dispute about how things are done "moving forward", it is best to wait 24 hours prior to addressing the situation (e.g., A parent who believes their child is not playing enough at a particular position).

### Unruly Disruptive Behavior (Coaches, Parents, Umpires, Volunteers)

Unruly parents / spectators / volunteers should be addressed by the Head Coach. If unruly behavior persists, and an umpire is available, the umpire will intervene. Continued unruly behavior will result in removal from the field complex for that game. Multiple infraction can result in being banned from attendance. Any/all instances of a person being asked to vacate the field complex must be reported to the Board of Directors, and a written report provided to the Executive Board of Directors.

Situations involving a coach's behavior should be addressed with the coach first. If the situation cannot be resolved, it should be elevated to a league/board representative from baseball or softball. If the situation requires further support and cannot be addressed, a written report of instance(s) should be forwarded to the executive board of directors.

Players who become disruptive will be addressed by the coaches first. The coach should also speak to the players' parents/guardian. If a player's disruptive behavior becomes an issue or a pattern that requires further support, it should be forwarded to a league representative (either baseball or softball), and a report forwarded to the executive board for further assessment.

Umpires are difficult to come by and the more difficult they are to book, the more expensive they get. The more we pay for umpires, the less we have to spend on other things for our kids. There will always be bad calls, please address them in an amicable fashion directly to the umpire. If the umpire becomes unruly, or is continually disruptive, it must be reported to the board. If an umpire's behavior is unacceptable, the coach(es) will address it directly with the umpire in private. Continued unacceptable behavior should be reported to a baseball or softball league representative (board member) and a report forwarded to the executive board to determine further action.

#### Conflict with facility, field, or area usage

There are times when either specific equipment or a field may be problematic, or double-booked. As with other situations, the parties involved should seek to rectify the issue privately and amicably. Generally, the older division takes priority over a younger division. A game takes priority over a practice. A game with a team traveling to us takes priority over a game with two "in house" teams. If the coaches cannot resolve the issue between themselves, a call should be made to a league representative or executive board member to assist.

#### Accountability

Being mindful and accountable for the equipment, fields, storage locations, and other items we utilize are paramount. It is our responsibility to ensure that all equipment is clean, operational, and secure. You are responsible for ensuring that everything is returned and locked in the container from which it is drawn. If the items were already out on the field, make note of it, and report it to a board member at a later time. When you're done using the items, they must be secured. When using any items, care must be taken to ensure they're not roughly handled or misused. If anything is broken or not functioning correctly, you must report it to the board. If there is a recommendation for a better or alternative item/equipment, method of storage, maintenance program, please let someone from the board know so we can work toward improvement. If no one is handling the task, we would welcome your support to take ownership of the task.

#### Developing Our Youth

Our roles are to teach, mentor, and groom the players into being coachable team players, who can perform under winning or losing conditions, and handle themselves with confidence and humility at the same time. We do our best to help train them, but remember, it is also up to the parents for additional instruction. An all-volunteer force with limited funding cannot devote everything to off season training, although we do provide some opportunities, and again, those opportunities differ between age groups and between baseball and softball, contingent upon a wide variety of factors. Parents are urged to continue to help develop their players in the off season, if they desire their player to become competitive at the higher levels.

#### Responsible Parties

By registering your player to participate, selecting any of the volunteer roles offered in the registration process, taking on support roles, positions, or umpiring, you are responsible for reading and understanding the Code of Conduct. Please also note, that selection of a volunteer role during the registration process does not guarantee the position, it delivers your expressed interest to the board. All roles and assignments are subject to assessment based upon seniority, participation, conflict/disciplinary issues, and board member assessment. Decisions that require final resolution and cannot be resolved among respective league representatives will be decided by Executive Board vote.

Have a great season, have FUN, and be SAFE!

*LENAPE VALLEY YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUES*

# **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

We, the Lenape Valley Youth Baseball and Softball Leagues (LVYBSL), have implemented the following Parent Code of Conduct for the important message that it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting the youth of our community and their child in sports.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are the foundations of sportsmanship and are demonstrated by the core principles of respect, responsibility, fairness, and good citizenship.

As a LVYBSL Parent, I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for each child participating in LLL by adhering to the following code of conduct:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support at all times.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun, and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games.
- I will not confront coaches or managers at any time during games.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the LVYBSL Executive Board of Directors or their appointed Code of Conduct Committee that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal Warning
- Written Warning
- Parental suspension for games
- Parental season suspension
- Parental removal from all league activities

The LVYBSL Executive Board of Directors retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.

# COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social, and emotional development of children. As Head Coaches and assistant coaches in LUYBSL you should be models of good sportsmanship and behavior for your child and all children in the community including participants and spectators alike.

The LUYBSL Board of Directors ask that you pledge to be responsible for your words and actions while coaching, officiating, and participating in League events, and that you conform your behavior to the following Code of Conduct:

- Place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of personal desire to win.
- Treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- Do your best to provide a safe playing environment for all players.
- Do your best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players.
- Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
- Teach the rules of the game to all players, officials, and parents.
- Remember that you are a youth sports coach and that the game is for children and not adults.
- Do not abuse other coaches, umpires, parents, or players.
- Promote fun, fairness, and sportsmanship over winning.
- Do not engage in the use of profanity or other offensive language.
- Encourage all team members to treat all players, teammates, coaches, officials, and parents with respect.
- Emphasize and foster a team atmosphere and not individual achievements.
- Be responsible for league policies.
- Return all equipment and player evaluations per league policies.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the LUYBSL Executive Board of Directors or their appointed Code of Conduct Committee that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Manager/coaches suspension for games
- Manager/coaches season suspension
- Manager/coach removal from all league activities

The LUYBSL Executive Board of Directors retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.

## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

Player responsibilities are simple; be respectful of others, be responsible, play fair, always do your best, and always exhibit good sportsmanship.

As a LVYBSL participant, I hereby pledge that I will:

- Encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents.
- Be a team player and support my teammates.
- Be on time and attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coaches if I cannot.
- Work hard to improve my skills.
- Do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- Encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity.
- Congratulate the other team after each game as a demonstration of sportsmanship.
- Refrain from using violence, unfriendly language, or insults to others.
- Be generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
- Obey the rules of the game and always work for the good of the team.
- Accept the decisions of the officials with grace and never challenge or question calls. Refrain from challenging or questioning on-field calls by officials and/or managers and coaches.
- Conduct myself with honor and dignity.
- Applaud the efforts of my teammates and opponents.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the LVYBSL Executive Board of Directors or their appointed Code of Conduct Committee that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Player suspension for games
- Player suspension for season including postseason (All Stars, Tournaments, Special Events, etc.)
- Player being expelled from the league

The LVYBSL Executive Board of Directors retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.



## **Pledge**

I trust in God  
I love my country  
And will respect its laws  
I will play fair  
And strive to win  
But win or lose  
I will always do my best

## **LENAPE VALLEY YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

Lenape Valley Youth Baseball and Softball Leagues (Both baseball and softball) aspires to be an outstanding educational-athletic organization that provides a high-quality experience to our participants in which every athlete wishing to play in our league:

1. Is coached with a positive, encouraging attitude, by the best talent we can provide and where good sportsmanship is fundamental principal.
2. Has a safe atmosphere, playing grounds and experience.
3. Has fun playing the game.
4. Is part of the team regardless of performance and where teamwork is recognized as a primary goal of the season.
5. Learns baseball/softball, the skills, tactics and strategies of the game and improves as a player.
6. Learns other "life lessons" that have value beyond the playing field.
7. Is encouraged to return to play next year for an even better LL experience.
8. Is led by the LL Pledge as guidance.

We are committed to creating a culture in which coaches, volunteers, parents, fans, umpires and athletes work together to achieve our mission and have a place to return to next year that will provide the same goals and environment.