

Midlothian Amateur Baseball Association, Inc.

Coaches Code of Conduct

Baseball embodies the discipline of teamwork. It challenges players towards perfection of physical skills and brings into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball teaches that while every player eventually strikes out, or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, the Midlothian Amateur Baseball Association, Inc. (MABA) expects each manager and coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Sportsmanship

1. I will promote good sportsmanship on and off the field, teach good baseball skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I will not (in word or deed) overemphasize the value and importance of winning.
3. I will respect the coaches, players and spectators of the opposing team before, during and after the game, win or lose.
4. I will maintain control of my emotions and avoid actions, language and gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating.
5. I realize, accept and will practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy and manner.

Rules and Policies

1. I will know and understand the rules and abide by them (whether local or national). I will instruct my team members in the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
2. I will adhere to all Little League safety guidelines from the LL handbook and the MABA Safety Manual, including being sure there is a first aid kit at all games and practices and participating in training by the MABA Safety Officer.
3. I will adhere to a tobacco-free environment at games and practices, including all tobacco for managers, coaches, parents and fans. The City of Midlothian and MABA has a no tobacco policy (includes chewing tobacco) at Jaycee Park that must be followed.
4. I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All coaches must ensure that each player gets minimum opportunities to bat and play the field in each game. I also understand that specific rules are also in place to limit the number and frequency of innings pitched by a particular player.
5. I have read, signed and will fully comply with the Parents Code of Conduct.
6. I will review the MABA website (www.midlothianbaseball.com) on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all MABA rules and policies.

The Umpires and Other Resources

1. I recognize the umpire is the sole judge on the field of play. The questioning of his/her decisions by managers, coaches, players or spectators in a disrespectful or abusive manner will not be tolerated.
2. I will be responsible in caring for equipment, for lock combinations delegated for my use, for care of fields prior to games and for cleaning up fields, dugouts and stands after games in accordance with policies that MABA may establish from time to time. I will make sure that all league-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

The Parents and the League

1. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous manner.
2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of MABA, (i.e. MABA is organized as a recreational league, meant for the enjoyment of all the players.) I will approach coaching at practices and games accordingly.
3. I will ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at games and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.
4. Players, managers and coaches of participating teams may not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged.
5. I will not leave the field of play for any reason other than an emergency. I will notify the umpire of my departure and appoint a coach to be my replacement.
6. I will make sure that coaches, players and the team parent (if any) are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game.
7. In the event the need arises, I will properly follow MABA's Dispute Resolution Policy.
8. I will support (through participation and organization of parents) MABA in all fundraising efforts, field improvement efforts and concessionaire assignments along with other duties that may be assigned to teams from time to time.

The Team

1. I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
2. I will focus on providing instruction that commensurate with players abilities so all players have the opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further baseball competition.
3. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
4. I understand that managers are appointed by the league to be responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team in communications with the umpires, opposing teams and league. If a manager leaves the field, he shall designate a coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the manager's duties.

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Non-Game Duties of Managers

Each manager has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games. Accordingly, if I am a Manager, I will adhere to the following as well:

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
2. I will effectively communicate with the other managers in my division as well as the league, which I understand will require me to check my email on a daily basis during the season.
3. I will coordinate with parents to make sure that my team has the requisite number of volunteers present for MABA events, which may include events such as field improvement days, picture days, and opening day. Part of that coordination will require timely and effective communication regarding the importance of such events.
4. I understand that T-Ball umpires are coaches or an approved parent. I understand that it is my responsibility as a Coach Pitch Manager to either umpire the game myself or find a qualified umpire (such as an approved volunteer parent) for assigned games throughout the season if the League can not obtain an umpire.
5. I will attend all required coaches, safety and umpiring clinics unless I am out of town or have a significant previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf. I understand that Managers Interviews may be mandatory and that if I cannot attend for any reason, I may not be eligible to manage a team this season.
6. I will complete, obtain and submit to the League all required paperwork, which will include Volunteer Applications and Parent Code of Conduct forms.
7. I will make sure that I maintain a notebook containing the League Safety Manual, the MABA Local Rules (if applicable) and a copy of the national Little League rule book and make sure it is present at each team practice and game.
8. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and MABA officials. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.

I, the undersigned, agree to follow the Code of Conduct and comply with all League rules, policies and procedures. I understand that I am a representative of MABA and that my conduct on and off the field affects this organization. I understand that if my conduct, whether participating in an MABA activity or not, is in violation of this Code, MABA By-Laws or Constitution will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action that could include a warning, game suspension or season suspension, as well as impact my opportunity to coach in future seasons. I further acknowledge the authority of the Board of Directors of MABA Little League and understand that if permitted to coach or manage I serve solely at the pleasure of the Board, which permission may be revoked at any time. My failure to honor the authority of the Board and its members or to show them proper respect will be deemed to be a violation of this Code of Conduct. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to speak to some or all of the Board at any time and that if called my failure to attend could result in an immediate suspension. I understand that if I am suspended I will not be permitted to attend any league functions (practices, games, etc.).

Signature

Date

Name (printed)