

Park City Avalanche Baseball

Player Code of Conduct and Parent Expectations

Statement from Park City Baseball:

Park City Baseball (PCB) is an inclusive, community-based organization. All of our community's youth who are interested in expanding their baseball skills, development, and play are welcomed to try out and then engage in the program. PCB offers teams by age/grade as defined by Utah Select, Rocky Mountain School of Baseball leagues, and the Utah State High School Athletic Association guidelines. PCB does not currently organize girls' softball within Park City but does permit young women to participate in its baseball program. PCB welcomes youth of all national origin, race, religion and economic means. PCB, within its means, will make provisions for children who love baseball yet find the cost a challenge.

It shall be the policy of PCB to conduct its activities so that the physical and moral welfare of the young people for whose benefit it exists shall be paramount in all matters of policy decisions.

Our first and most important goal each season is to provide each young man and young woman that enters our program with a safe, fun, and competitive experience. In doing that, we do expect a certain level of time and dedication from both the players and parents. On top of those things, we ask that each parent explain the following program guidelines to their player, as well as reading and understanding the parent expectation section.

Avalanche Player Code of Conduct:

I. Absences

- a. All absences (for both practices or games) should be reported to the coach at least 48 hours in advance. This gives the coach an adequate amount of time to plan around your players' absence. We understand if the absence is an emergency, but all other absences should be reported to the coaching staff in advance. If a player wishes to play consistently, they must practice consistently. Each player will be held to this standard.
- b. Any absence that is a non-emergency will be treated as an "unexcused absence" and may result in the player missing playing time in the next game(s).

II. Punctuality

- a. Players are expected to be at the practice field 10 minutes before the start time, and at their game field at the coaches predetermined time, typically 1 hour prior to game time.
- b. Players may be moved out of the starting lineup if they are continually late to games or practices. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure the kid is at a practice/game on time, but in an effort to teach promptness, players will ultimately be held responsible.

III. On Field Conduct

- a. All players will be asked to practice, train, and play as hard as they can. Lack of mental and physical effort will directly effect the playing time that each player receives.
- b. Players will treat all adults and peers with respect during all Avalanche activities. This includes coaches, players, parents, and umpires. Players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner of good sportsmanship at all time. Any disrespect of these individuals will result in immediate loss of playing time.
- c. Profanity will not be tolerated during any Avalanche activities. This will also result in an immediate loss of playing time.
- d. Any loss of emotion will result in an immediate loss of playing time. This includes mistreatment or throwing of player or program owned equipment, excessive crying, or "tantrums". These actions are not part of sports, and become a distraction and detriment to teammates and the game.

Parent/Player Discussion Points

Compare your answers to those of your player. If your expectations are similar, that's great! If not, then parents need to accept those of your kid. If your differences are large, the resultant pressures that arise will not help the players performance or make the season enjoyable for anyone involved; including the player, parents, coaches, and team.

Preseason Questions for Parents

1. Do I want them to play? Why?
2. What will be a successful season for me?
3. What are my goals for my son/daughter?
4. What do I anticipate my player's role being?
5. What do I hope they gain from the experience?

Preseason Questions for Athletes

1. Why are you playing baseball?
2. What is a successful season for me?
3. What goals do I have for the season?
4. What will your role be on the team?

Parent Expectations

I. Positive Parent Contributions at a Game

- a. Model appropriate behavior with poise and confidence.
- b. Focus on the team and your team's goals. Support everyone, including the player who may be playing in front of your child.
- c. Allow coaches to be the one and only instructional voice.
- d. Have absolutely no interaction with the umpires.
- e. Post game – give your child time, space, and only positive feedback.

II. Parent Red Flags

- a. Living out your personal dreams through your player's career.
- b. Sharing credit when your kid plays well, or feeling ashamed when they don't.
- c. Trying to solve each athletic-related problem for your player.
- d. Yelling to try to coach your player during the games.
- e. Taking mental or physical notes/stats and reviews with the player.
- f. Becomes verbally critical of the coaches or umpires.

III. Parent Complaints

- a. All parent complaints should be discussed with the coach or coaching staff at an appropriate time and place.
- b. All Avalanche parents are expected to follow our "24 HOUR RULE", which is no coach/parent contact or discussions within 24 hours of the last game of the day. This rule allows the coaches time to analyze their decisions and for both parties to have time to cool off. Most coaches are competitive people, and emotions run high during games, which usually lead to heated conversations. Please give your coach the respect he deserves and have these conversations away from the playing field and other players.
- c. If you are not satisfied with the result of your conversation, with your coach please email PCB's Director of Player and Coaches, Lou Green (dwaingreen@hotmail.com), with further complaints or questions. At this point he will facilitate a time and place to meet with both parties together and resolve the problem.

IV. Appropriate Conversations vs. Inappropriate Conversations

- a. **Appropriate Conversations**
 - i. Concerns about your player's behaviors and efforts
 - ii. Family or personal concerns that may effect player
 - iii. Ways you can help your player improve away from practice
- b. **Inappropriate Conversations**
 - i. Strategies being used by coaches during games
 - ii. Another team members performances or abilities
 - iii. Where your son/daughter is playing in the field or his spot in the hitting lineup
 - iv. Your players limited playing time and how it is unfair (unless the problem persists over a long period (more than 2 games) with no explanation to player.

Final Thoughts:

We try to be the best at every aspect of the game and as an organization. We try to provide outstanding facilities, equipment, uniforms, and coaching to enable our kids to play at the highest level that their abilities will allow. We ask the kids to be disciplined, respectful, and punctual, and to work hard each day. We ask them to do things our way, which may not always be the best for each individual, but it is always the best for the team. Our job as coaches is to SERVE the all players on our team as a whole. Sometimes decisions we make are not popular and are tough to make, but they're always with the kid's best interests in mind. Teams that are highly successful always yield a ton of individual honors as well. Please be mindful of this, and understand that our goals are TEAM FIRST. Our goal is to have players max-out their effort and attention level on a daily basis. This requires some reinforcement of the coach's decisions at home. Please help us steer your player in the right direction!

Message to Parents

You are a vital piece of the puzzle in terms of the success of our team and the quality of our program. Your kid having a positive experience through baseball has much to do with how positive you make it for them. Be mindful and respectful of how talented and privileged your child is to play sports in such a wonderful community! We need your help to continue making Avalanche Baseball a model program. Our program is set up to be an "all hands on deck", group effort, with everyone sharing the workload and successes. We strive to create as much of a close-knit, family type of feel within our teams and with the parents. Please allow the coaches to help your son or daughter become the best person and athlete they can be. Teach them to be responsible for their actions and hold them accountable. Don't enable them to continue making the same mistakes and getting the same results. Leave the coaching and playing time issues to be resolved by the coaches and players. Support your team through the good and bad games as we all strive to compete at a championship level.