



AYBA Codes of Conduct

For Players, Coaches and Parents

AYBA has a simple mission: To provide families with the best baseball experience possible. To accomplish this we focus on skills development, sportsmanship, teamwork, and fun!

These Codes of Conduct are an understanding between AYBA players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These Codes express our values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed.

The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles: (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude; (2) Setting a good example; and (3) Maintaining good relationships with all AYBA participants - including umpires, opponents, and our own teams' players, parents, and coaches.

1. Demonstrating a positive attitude

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for umpires, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of AYBA.

2. Setting a good example

Each person associated with AYBA is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples.

AYBA will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes: vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of umpires, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents. We require thorough self-restraint by all participants - both players and adults. Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.

3. Maintaining good relationships

Officials - The umpire's job is a difficult one. All umpires are human and they do make mistakes. Coaches should inform an AYBA Board member about blatant umpiring problems. Verbal abuse toward an umpire can result in an ejection for the player, coach or parent.

Opponents - Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of baseball, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score.

Our Team - In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coaches' authority. As in most cases, parental example is all-important.

Player's Code

As an AYBA player, I will:

1. Play the game for the game's sake, and not just to please my parents or coach.
2. Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
3. Respect the game of baseball and its rules and play the game fairly.
4. Work for the good of my team and give my best effort at all times.
5. Show respect for the authority of the umpire, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.



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6. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. I understand that baseball is a game, and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
7. Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated.
8. Control my temper and not retaliate, even if I believe I have been wronged.
9. Not use profanity of any kind before, during and after the game or practice.
10. Not use or possess tobacco, alcohol, or illegal or performance-enhancing drugs.

Parent's Code

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your child and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

1. Support your child

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

2. Always be positive

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team, as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement. The best thing your child can hear from you is "I love watching you play!"

3. Don't be a sideline coach or umpire

Refrain from coaching or umpiring from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time; the coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Umpires are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - do not openly question their judgment or honesty.

4. Demonstrate a positive attitude toward your opponents and their families

Opponents are not enemies. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

5. Remember that your child wants to have fun

Your child is the one playing baseball, not you. Children must establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

I/we will set following:

- We will not criticize the umpires openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing, sent to my coach and not verbally.
- We will give only positive feedback to players.
- We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome.
- We will be mindful in "lopsided" game where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood.
- We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.



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- We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the umpire after the game without regard to the result.
- We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every game.
- We shall support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the umpires by demonstrating our patience.
- We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game.
- We shall not give our child instructions during the game.
- We will not approach another parent's child to reprimand, correct behavior or belittle in any way.
- We understand that the league can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
- We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.

Coach's Code

The AYBA Coach's Code enumerates basic requirements, organized under four principles. They are: Setting a good example; Keeping players safe; Ensuring that all participants in AYBA have a positive experience; Relating to game umpires in an exemplary manner and encouraging players to do the same.

1. Setting a good example

The coach's example is powerful. If a coach insists on fair play, concentrates on players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long-term development and supports the umpire, players and parents will notice. If a coach discourages (or allows) players to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about the results, and/or criticize the umpire or opposing coach, players and parents will also notice. Above all, children deserve a coach they can respect.

- Coaches, in all contact with AYBA players, parents, officials and coaches, should strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Before, during, and after the game, they should be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before games, opposing coaches should meet at home plate and exchange greetings and cover rules to set the proper tone for the game. After games, the teams and coaches should meet and congratulate each other in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Coaches should ensure that their players' baseball experience is one of fun and enjoyment, and improvement in skill (winning is only part of it). Players shouldn't be yelled at, lectured or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Coaches should be generous with praise when it is deserved.
- Coaches should avoid any conduct which could be construed as physically or verbally abusive (includes foul language).
- Coaches should completely refrain from verbal dissent during a game with an opposing coach, players or fans.
- Coaches should honor all professional relationships with colleagues, associations, umpires, and the public. Conflicts of interest and exploitation of these relationships must be avoided.

2. Keeping players safe

Coaches must have the safety of the players in their charge as their first priority at all times. Coaches should be familiar with the facility(ies) and fields on which their teams' practice and play and be mindful of the levels of fitness and skill of each one of their players. Coaches must also be familiar with the Rules of the Game, current with principles of age-appropriate coaching, aware of applicable existing rules and regulations, and informed of the affairs of AYBA.

- Coaches must check players' equipment and playing facilities frequently. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of players.



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- Coaches must follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again. During a game and in an absence of medical advice, coaches should err on the side of caution in permitting an injured player to return to play.

3. Creating a positive experience

AYBA wishes to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for the children and adults involved. A baseball game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.

- Coaches should require all players and spectators to adhere to the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. During the game, the coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players and parents. If a player is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, the coach should remove the player from the game, at least long enough for him/her to calm down. Coaches should explain acceptable behavior to players and parents at a preseason meeting. Encourage parents to make positive comments about good play by either team. Prohibit them from yelling at players and the umpire.

4. Relating to officials

Coaches should demonstrate respect for the umpire and his/her role. Coaches can help umpires improve by letting them concentrate on the game, accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes, and offering constructive post- game comments.

- Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the umpire. During the game, they should address the umpire only as needed to continue play. After the game, they should thank the umpire and ask players to do the same.
- A small disagreement should be discussed with the umpire at the appropriate time. For major complaints, or if the umpire appeared to be unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report opinions to an AYBA Board member.

Any player, coach, parent, or spectator ejected from a game must leave the field immediately and are not allowed to stay near the field or sit in the stands but must wait in the parking lot if needed.

Physical contact or violence involving a player, coach, or parent will result in automatic ejection from the game, a one game automatic suspension, and possible suspension from the league.

- First ejection – Leave game immediately; suspended from attending/participating in the next scheduled game.
- Second ejection – Same as above, but with 2 game suspension.
- Third ejection – Suspended for rest of season including tournament, no refund of fees are provided.