

Acton Boxboro Youth Baseball (ABYB) Coach, Caretaker and Player Code of Conduct

January 3, 2005

Coaching and caretaking is a high-visibility role that influences how athletes conduct themselves-during this baseball season, and for their entire lives. It's a big responsibility. When competition gets heated or things are going wrong, we sometimes forget that it's all about the kids having fun and developing their skills and sportsmanship.

Acton Boxboro Youth Baseball (ABYB) strives to assure that the coach/caretaker influence is a positive one that helps to maximize player development - physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Besides knowing how to coach and care for a baseball player effectively, there's another role ABYB requires of you: Role Model.

This year we want every one of our coaches-head coaches, assistant coaches, volunteers, caretakers and players to know going into each season that ABYB expects you to uphold certain high ideals of sportsmanship during practice and games, and whenever representing and participating in ABYB Baseball.

Coaches, caretakers, volunteers and players must:

- Exemplify honesty, integrity and fair play no matter what the impact might be on the outcome of the game
- Honor the spirit and the letter of the rules. Promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship. In other words, winning is not everything
- Not engage in or allow trash talk, taunting, or behaviors that demean players on your team, players or representatives on opposing teams, officials, or the game of baseball
- Not engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures
- Not use physical or psychological intimidation or verbal abuse toward anyone
- Control your emotions. Displaying anger and frustration sends the wrong messages to all and undermines the integrity of baseball

Coaches must:

- Treat all game officials with respect. Don't complain or argue with an umpire's calls. If there's a disagreement, take a time-out and bring it to the umpire's attention in a respectful and calm manner. If you have larger complaints about officiating, direct them to the respective ABYB Division Coordinator or Umpire Coordinator
- Discuss with your team the importance of sportsmanship and good character, and hold them to your expectations of zero tolerance of poor sportsmanship

- Make sure neither players nor caretakers taunt, badger or ridicule an umpire or opposing player. How you deal with game officials and opposing team members sets the tone for how they will. Don't indulge in conduct that may incite players or spectators against umpires or the other team
- Treat your players with respect and dignity and require them to treat each other, opposing players, coaches, umpires and caretakers with respect
- Control the atmosphere of the game. If a caretaker or spectator from your side is taunting an umpire or opposing team coach or player, you have the responsibility to talk to the person. Inform them that they are not doing your team any favors with the exemplified behavior and that they are breaking league rules

Remember the expected standard: Victory with honor, defeat with dignity. Chances are good we'll all win some and lose some this season. Try to do both the right way--for the players' sake. You will likely not need to teach the kids how to win, but they will likely need some help in accepting defeat

The ABYB Board of Directors appreciates all the hard work and long hours our volunteer coaches contribute to our baseball program and to our players. We also appreciate caretaker involvement and enthusiasm, as well as player participation. We endeavor to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to sportsmanship of the highest order, and are relying upon all who participate to ensure we meet our commitment.

IMPORTANT: If you witness or are party to violations of the ABYB Code of Conduct Standards, please contact the respective Division Coordinator or an ABYB Board Member. ABYB will investigate any violations and, depending on severity, case by case, refer them to the ABYB Conduct Review Committee for resolve.

ABYB Coaches' Code of Conduct

I hereby pledge to live up to my responsibilities as an ABYB Coach by following the ABYB Coaches' Code of Conduct, as follows:

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a the desire to win
- I will treat each player as an individual, acknowledging the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players
- I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules for the division I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach

- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults

ABYB Caretakers' Code of Conduct

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my player participating in ABYB Baseball by following this Caretakers' Code of Conduct Pledge.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and umpires at every game, practice, or other youth sports event
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my player ahead of a personal desire to win
- I will insist that my player play in a safe and healthy environment
- I will support coaches and officials working with my player, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all
- I will remember that the game is for youth development, not for adults
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my player
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and umpires with respect
- I promise to help my player enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assist with coaching, provide transportation, and assist in the development of my player's skills at home
- I will require that my player's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics

ABYB Players' Code of Conduct

I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Players' Code of Conduct Pledge as follows:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and caretakers at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship
- I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot
- I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches
- I will treat my coaches, other players, caretakers, umpires and fans with respect
- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert caretakers and coaches if baseball stops being fun
- I will encourage my caretakers to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me
- I will remember that baseball is an opportunity to learn and have fun
- I will do my very best in school first, sports second