



Westford Youth Baseball and Softball League Code of Conduct

Westford Youth Baseball and Softball League (WYBSL) will not tolerate any unsportsmanlike conduct within any of our divisions. Board members, coaches and parents are expected to conduct themselves as positive role models within the community.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, as well as the parents and other spectators who attend the game. A coach, assistant coach, player, or spectator can be removed from the playing field or spectator area by order of an umpire, division director or any other board member for violating any of the following rules of conduct:

Non-adherence by coaches and disciplinary action

Section I

Violation:

- a) Any directing of remarks or actions to a coach, assistant coach, player, spectator or umpire that are of a distracting nature.

Penalty:

- First violation: Written warning
- Second violation: One week suspension from coaching (practices and games)
- Third violation: Indefinite suspension from coaching (pending Board of Directors review)

Section II

Violation:

- a) Arguing with an umpire or league official over a call on the playing field
- b) Throwing equipment or damaging the property of the Town of Westford or WYBSL in any way
- c) Refusal to follow any league or game rules or removal of a team from the field of play before regulation play is done, unless it is done so for player safety
- d) Use of tobacco products at any time during games or practices
- e) After each game, in the spirit of good sportsmanship, all coaches, assistant coaches and players shall form two opposing lines and proceed through a traditional, orderly "handshake line". No coach or player shall avoid participation in this line or exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct in the line.

Penalty:

- First violation: One week suspension from coaching (practices and games)
- Second violation: Indefinite suspension from coaching (pending Board of Directors review)

Section III

Violation:

- a) Verbal threats, use of profanity or actual physical harm towards players, umpires, league officials, coaches or spectators
- b) Under the influence of alcohol products at any time during games or practices

Penalty:

- First violation: Indefinite suspension from coaching (pending Board of Directors review)

Section IV: Administrative Procedures

- a) Coaches shall report all injuries beyond first aid cases in accordance with the WYBSL *Accident Reporting Procedures*. Failure to report injuries to the division director could result in a permanent loss of a coaching position at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- b) Coaches are responsible for picking up and returning all equipment in the same condition that it was received within two weeks from the end of the season. Failure to return the equipment to the division director could result in a permanent loss of a coaching position at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- c) Coaches in PeeWee, Minor, and Major baseball divisions, as well as Junior, Intermediate and Senior softball divisions are responsible submitting *Player Evaluations* for their team within two weeks from the end of the regular season. Failure to comply with the request for player evaluations could result in a permanent loss of a coaching position at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- d) Coaches shall observe the 25-second rule when it applies to lightning. If the flash (lightning) is less than 25 seconds from the bang (thunder) then all play shall be suspended. Failure to comply with may result in a one year suspension from coaching at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Disciplinary Process

It is the responsibility of the WYBSL Board of Directors to establish a Disciplinary Committee will include the President, Vice President, Umpire in Chief and other members appointed by the President.

If a coach, assistant coach, player or spectator is removed from a game or otherwise notified by a Board member that they have violated the Code of Conduct, that person shall provide a written statement describing his/her version of the events and/or other explanation to the division director within twenty four hours of the incident or notification. He/she may not participate in any game or practice until doing so.

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in WYBSL to report violations to this code of conduct to their Division Director or another Board member. In the event that that League is notified of a violation of the above guidelines, the Disciplinary Committee will conduct an investigation of the facts consisting of interviews with those involved. The Committee shall review the statements and gather any other information from other parties that they deem necessary to determine if a further penalty should be assessed.

Following an investigation of the facts, a determination will be made by the committee and a notification of action will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. The person accused of the violation will be notified of the decision from the Board of Directors in writing within one week of the final hearing.

It is not the intent of WYBSL to limit the growth or development of any player, coach, or official within the program. It is with this in mind that we feel firm guidelines, on which our coaches officials, players and parents can rely, will encourage an attitude of good sportsmanship and mutual respect that will serve them well in this area and other areas of their lives. With all for your help these actions will never need to be imposed.

My signature indicates that I have read, understood and will abide by the WYBSL Code of Conduct.

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Division: _____