



The Ringgold Community and RYAA board thank you very much for your time, energy and desire for involvement with the development of our children in youth sports. We pride our Recreation program on safety, fun, and fairness. We expect all of our coaches to uphold these principles in providing the leadership and setting the example for our children to follow and model. Your role is very important to the children and their parents.

1. WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH?

It is understandable that coaches at almost every level want to win contests. There is nothing wrong with wanting to win. The problem we run into is that wanting to win is not a clearly developed idea of accomplishment. We are a recreation organization that promotes fun and player development. Coaches have to think about the overall goal of student/player progress. We ultimately want you to teach and coach our athletes to be better students, citizens and leaders. You are responsible for teaching them the benefits of sport participation. We want our athletes to enjoy the experience, learn how to be cooperative members of a team, and be better people for having been involved in our programs. We want to develop a love for the game in every player. The following actions will not be tolerated in front of our athletes on or around the field: tobacco use, foul language, yelling at players, coaches or parents in a negative tone, fighting, etc.

2. WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES?

- a. **Player Safety** – Nothing else is more important than keeping our athletes safe. Make sure to take every precaution necessary to create safe playing conditions and prevent injuries.
- b. **Playing Equality** – Always ensure that each player gets equal playing time. Focus on allowing each athlete to try any field position while protecting them from unsafe conditions.
- c. **Playing Fun** – Ultimately the kids are out to play recreational sports to have fun. Make sure to keep this first and foremost in your mind as you structure your practice training sessions and games. Please utilize your commissioners for any help you need.

3. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES?

Your responsibilities as a coach are many. Please be mindful that communication is the most important attribute that you need to focus upon more than anything else.

- a. **Communication** – Figure out how each of your parents desire to be communicated to. Not everyone has access to e-mail so texting and phone calls may be necessary. As soon as you become aware of something, please forward to your parents. The website ringgoldyouth.com is another means of communicating through your homepage.
- b. **Safety/Facility Care** - Always make sure your players have the proper gear on before training or playing. Look over your field conditions before playing or practicing. Utilize the RYAA Safety Incident form if someone is injured. Please ensure you, your players and parents leave the fields in better condition than they found them in.
- c. **Leadership** – Ultimately you are a role model for our athletes to learn from. Your players look up to you and will model your style. Make sure to keep your focus on having fun and developing the player with in

the game. Strive to share with your players and parents a sense of community involvement as well given we are a non-profit volunteer based organization by stressing the importance of having them participate in all fundraising and field clean up days to help improve RYAA for all.

4. WHAT ARE OUR TRAINING/TEACHING METHODS?

Athletes learn best by seeing, doing and problem solving.

- a. **Seeing** – Always try to provide an example of how to perform the activity you are trying to coach rather than just telling them how to do it. You can do the example first or ask one of the players to show the others how. Then let the rest try.
- b. **Doing** – Try to focus mostly on teaching the fundamentals of the sport you are coaching rather than the strategic aspects of the game. Keep the discussion short and the activity long. Our players are in recreational sports so they can learn. They would much rather participate than listen to a lecture.
- c. **Problem Solving** – They also learn best by figuring out how to solve the problem themselves so try to coach by asking questions. Ask what made them think to do what they did incorrectly and get them to tell you how to do it correctly, then get them to show you how.

5. HOW DO WE DEFINE SUCCESS?

We define success as having no injuries for the entire season, everyone leaves each game and practice with a smile on their face, each athlete progressing in their talent and ultimately they want to come back the next season to sign up and have the same coach as the previous season.

6. HOW WILL PRACTICES AND GAMES BE ORGANIZED?

Be prepared. It doesn't take players long to figure out that a coach is unprepared. Coaches fully expect their players to be ready for practice. They expect players to have the proper equipment, be on time, and be ready to concentrate on the practice. Players expect the same out of their coach. Make sure to have your practice outline filled out before your practice. Make sure to have your line up and game plan filled out before you get to your game on game day.

TIP: Whether this is your first time coaching or not, we can always learn something new. Ask other coaches for pointers, watch other coaches run their sessions, seek information online for teaching concepts that are age appropriate to your sport and level, or consider speaking with professional educators and coaches on how you can hone your coaching craft.

7. TEAM RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Please take the first practice of the season to talk with your players about establishing team rules and consequences. This will help to ensure the children don't get shocked when they have to sit out for an inning, half, or game when they break a rule.

8. HOW WILL YOU COMMUNICATE YOUR PHILOSOPHY?

Please help us in being a liaison for RYAA athletics in sharing with your parents so they understand our underlying principles in supporting the development of their children.

Coach's Signature

Date