



Tyngsboro Youth Baseball Association

CODE OF CONDUCT

MISSION STATEMENT

Parents, players, coaches, spectators, volunteers, game officials, and league administrators shall work together to make the games of baseball a positive and rewarding experience for everyone involved. The fields utilized by the Tyngsboro Youth Baseball Association (TYBA) for practice and games should be viewed as our children's "Field of Dreams". Our goal is to help everyone involved gain a better sense of fair play, respect for others, and a willingness to address the needs of the group as a whole without losing sight of the individual. Above all we strive to enhance our children's self-confidence, self-esteem, and overall enjoyment of Baseball.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to detail guidelines for the conduct and behavior of all individuals that participate in TYBA activities. Participants include, but are not limited to, parents, players, coaches, spectators, volunteers, game officials, and league administrators. All participants are required to abide by the TYBA Code of Conduct as well as other Codes of Conduct that may govern TYBA activities including the Town of Tyngsborough, the Tyngsborough Recreation Department, and the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Furthermore, the conduct and behavior of all participants, whether detailed in this document or not, is expected to be respectful and considerate of all participants and will not harm, insult, belittle or degrade another participant or individual.

HOW TO REPORT AN ISSUE AND ESCALATION

Following is the guideline for reporting and dealing with issues:

Issues related to a game while the game is in process:

- Parent discusses issue with coach. If necessary, coach discusses issue with umpire.

All other issues:

- Issues are first discussed with the Coach.
- If the issues cannot be resolved or is not resolved by the coach, or if the issue is about the coach, then the League Director should be contacted.
- The next escalation point is the TYBA Executive Board.
- Contact information is located at www.tyngsboroyouthbaseball.org

CONSEQUENCES

TYBA is committed to providing a healthy and safe experience and environment for all participants as previously defined. Issues escalated to the TYBA Executive board will be reviewed and dealt with expediently. TYBA reserves the right to impose any penalty that it deems appropriate for any infraction.

of the TYBA Code of Conduct. Penalties will include and are limited to: an informal warning with no further action; a formal warning with no further action; suspension from individual games; suspension from the league for a determined period of time; suspension from the league for an indefinite period of time; or a banning from any TYBA practice, game, field or event. The TYBA Executive Board reserves the right to impose a penalty with or without a warning.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

As a player the following guidelines are intended to promote good sportsmanship, effort, and a willingness to learn the game.

- Understand the commitments parents, coaches, umpires and the league make to help you enjoy the game, and respect them for it. Respect and cooperate with coaches, umpires, teammates, league directors, opponents, and parents.
- Respect team and league rules concerning my behavior on and off the field.
- Always try your best regardless of the outcome
- Be honest with all involved and in all situations
- Know the rules of Baseball.
- Respect the equipment and playing fields and place trash in the proper receptacle after practices and games. Never destroy or steal baseball equipment or intentionally damage fields.
- Never “show-off” or taunt another player or person for any reason.
- Avoid foul language and any other inappropriate gestures and language during TYBA events.
- Expect to be treated fairly and with respect from all involved.
- Expect to play substantially.
- Expect coaches, parents, spectators, umpires and league directors to provide an environment where you can learn baseball, be safe and have fun.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

The primary responsibility of a coach or manager in TYBA is to make sure that playing organized baseball is a positive experience for every child on the team.

Except for the T-Ball and Farm Leagues, TYBA encourages every coach to help their team win as many games as they can. However, coaches will not be judged on their won/lost record, but instead on how the children on their team act and improve. TYBA does not approve of a win-at-all-cost attitude. A coach's first objective should always be to help the children improve, and that includes other children on other teams as well.

All coaches and assistants should be teachers and role models to all the children in the program both on and off the field of play.

A coach's job is harder after a loss than a win. While you should instruct your players on what they did right and wrong in order to help them, you must never criticize them in a way that discourages them. No

matter how frustrated you are at a player who constantly does the wrong thing, remember that he/she is just a child, and that it is just a ball game.

Concentrate on having the kids have fun playing and learning the game.

Coaches are expected to:

- Know and teach the TYBA approved syllabus.
- Teach their players the value of teamwork, respect for their teammates, and respect for umpires, other coaches and players.
- Teach their players self-discipline and instill confidence and a desire to improve.
- Stress that doing the best you can is all that is asked, and never make players feel inferior or superior to each other.
- Teach players to play to win, but not make winning the only acceptable alternative.
- Serve as a role model for the children they coach.
- Concentrate on improving each child individually on the fundamentals of baseball.
- Be responsible for the conduct and behavior of assistant coaches, team parents and spectators.
- Make sure that no alcohol or tobacco is allowed at any TYBA function where the children are present.
- Not inappropriately touch the children.
- Insure that all children are not left at a field alone. Whenever possible, always have another adult with you while you are waiting for the parent.
- Make sure that the kids respect the field and equipment and pick up after a practice or game (trash, equipment, etc).

As a Coach, I agree to:

- Develop a strategy to implement and monitor the sportsmanship policies of our league.
- Review and communicate sportsman policies to assistant coaches, player, spectators, and game officials on an ongoing basis.
- Provide a safe environment for participants.
- Review league rules and regulations and be sure that all persons involved are aware of them.
- Support and commend (praise) players, coaches and spectators who display good sportsmanship.
- Serve as a positive role model.
- Ensure taunting policy is adhered to and appropriate action is taken if policy is violated.
- Implement and adhere to the TYBA League Syllabus.

Coaches and Parents

- All coaches and volunteers of TYBA are expected to treat all parents with respect and courtesy.
- If a parent is rude or insulting, simply tell them you will talk with them when they calm down. If as a coach they are unhappy with you, and you cannot resolve the issue, refer them to the appropriate League Director or the TYBA Board of Directors.

- As a coach, do not under any circumstances engage in a public shouting match with parents. This could have a negative effect on the player and it is your responsibility to avoid it. Remember, even if you are insulted, you have a responsibility to the kids on the field. Protecting them comes before protecting your own ego or reputation.
- Interacting with parents is part of a coach's responsibility that is assumed when you become a coach. Keep in mind at all times that you are coaching for the kids, not the parents.

Conduct towards Other Coaches

- Be respectful of other coaches and avoid confrontations. Your players notice your words and actions and will rationalize their own conduct and behavior by what they observe.
- If you have problem with another coach, discuss it off line and in a manner such that the kids don't pick up bad habits and poor conduct.
- If the situation can't be resolved in an appropriate manner, report the situation or conflict to the League Director.
- Refrain from publicly criticizing other coaches.

Coaches conduct with Umpires

- Realize that in youth baseball, most umpires are untrained volunteers. In many cases mistakes will be made. It's ok to question an umpire's call or decision. However, it must be done professionally and appropriately.
- Coaches should never-swear, curse, or act upset at an umpire. No matter how bad the call is. As a coach, exercise control and think before it happens, not after.
- Be calm when discussing calls made by the umpires, they will have more respect for you and your players.
- TYBA will not stand for anyone harassing our volunteer umpires for any reason. If you have a complaint about an umpire, take it to a league official.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

Parents are a very important part of the game as coaches, volunteers and as spectators. Parents are included in this code of conduct and agree to:

- Be a positive role model for every child and encourage good sportsmanship by showing respect, courtesy, and provide positive support for all players, coaches, umpires, and spectators at every practice, game or TYBA sponsored event.
- Never force a child to participate in baseball. Remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for the kids, not the adults.
- Always inform the coach of any physical disability, illness or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- Learn the rules of the game and TYBA rules and policies.
- Never engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as taunting, arguing or refusing to shake hands.

- Refrain from using profane/offensive language or gestures.
- Never encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health or well-being of the players, coaches, umpires, spectators or league directors.
- Teach my child to play by the rules and resolve any conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Demand that my child treat other players, coaches, umpires, league directors and spectators with respect.
- Teach my child that doing his/her best is more important than winning.
- Praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make him/her feel like a winner every time.
- Never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing in a competition.
- Emphasize attendance at team practices and the benefits of skill development.
- Deemphasize competition and winning a game, particularly in the lower leagues.
- Promote the emotional and physical well-being for the players ahead of any personal desire for my child to win.
- Respect the umpires and coaches on the field, the league directors off the field and their authority during game.
- Never question, discuss or confront coaches on the field.
- Refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
- Demand a sports environment that is free from illegal drugs and alcohol.
- Never use illegal drugs or alcohol at games, practices or TYBA events.
- Show interest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the good plays of both teams.
- Show proper respect for game officials, participants, coaches and other spectators.
- Learn the rules of the game in order to understand and appreciate why certain things take place.
- Obey officials and league administrators who are responsible for keeping order.
- Stay OFF the playing field during practice and games, unless asked to by a coach, umpire or official.
- Show respect for private property.

TAUNTING POLICY

Taunting by parents, players, coaches, spectators and game officials shall not be tolerated. Violations of the policy shall be addressed immediately. Taunting includes, but is not limited to:

- Actions or comments that are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar.
- Conduct that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens, based on race, color, religion, gender, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.
- Conduct or comments, that attack an individual's size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or other personal matter.

Examples of taunting include, but are not limited to:

- Trash talking – that is defined as comments ridiculing an opponent’s skills, efforts, or lack of success and is likely to provoke an altercation resulting in a physical response or physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game.
- In the Face – confrontation by one player to another.
- Booing, jeering catcalls, etc.