



**SOUTH OKANAGAN MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

Providing a Positive Baseball Experience for the Youth of the South Okanagan

## **COACH CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Updated: September 14, 2024**

The player/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal and athletic development of their players. They must recognize and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. A coach must not exploit this privileged relationship with players for personal, ideological, material, or other advantage. Coaches must also recognize that they are conduits through which the values and goals of the South Okanagan Minor Baseball Association ("SOMBA") are channeled.

Coaches are responsible for their own behavior as well as that of their players. This Code of Conduct has been developed to assist coaches in developing a standard of personal behavior that will allow them to assist their players in becoming well-rounded, self-confident, and productive citizens.

As a coach in SOMBA, I confirm that:

- I will abide by SOMBA's rules and regulations.
- I will actively uphold the rules of baseball, the spirit of the rules of baseball, and expect my players to do the same.
- I will fulfill all league, exhibition, invitational, play-off and championship competition and event obligations in accordance with the expectations of SOMBA and ensure that all commitments are honoured.
- I will ensure that field prep/teardown and other duties are carried out in accordance with SOMBA policy.
- I will always adhere to a dress code by wearing traditional baseball clothing and footwear while on the field during pre-game warm-up and games.
- I will ensure that all players on my team are treated fairly and equitably, and decisions on issues such as positions played, and other assignments are unbiased.
- I will not require that players participate in any external programs as a prerequisite to participating on my team, nor will I imply that they should do so.
- I will not under any circumstances, endorse, recommend, or suggest the use of performance enhancing drugs or supplements by any player.
- I will ensure no player on my team is discriminated against for any reason, including race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, physical or mental disability, gender, or sexual orientation.
- I will work to ensure the environment surrounding my team is free of harassment. Harassment takes many forms but can generally be defined as behaviors, including comments and/or conduct, that are insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual or group of individuals or which creates an uncomfortable environment.
- I will ensure my players act in ways that contribute to a safe environment and through my actions I will model the behaviour I wish them to emulate. I will require that members of my team resolve conflicts in a mature, professional manner.



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- I will remember the academic pressures faced by my players and conduct practices and games in a manner that supports academic success.
- I will place a player's future health and well-being foremost when deciding on an injured player's ability to continue playing or training. I will consult with the parents/guardians and may ask for clearance from a medical authority if I have any concerns.
- I will not use foul, profane, harassing, or offensive language or gestures in the conduct of coaching duties and will never use physical force in any kind in the conduct of coaching duties.
- I will make every effort to attend all practices and games and will prepare myself for these events to the best of my ability so that practices are organized and effective.
- I will encourage open communication between coaches, players, and parents/guardians.
- I will refrain from making negative comments to the umpires, remembering that many of them are learning the game as well.
- I will treat opponents and officials with proper respect, showing humility in victory and grace in defeat and I will encourage my players to do the same.
- I will use the proper channels to address any concerns that arise including the Conflict Resolution Process that I have received.
- I understand that if I fail to comply with these rules, I may be subject to discipline and possibly required to withdraw from SOMBA.
- I will abstain from the use of tobacco products and alcohol while in the presence of players and discourage their use by players. Umpires will immediately eject a player or coach from the game should either of these violations occur. (Note: can(s) of chewing tobacco are not to be on the playing field or kept in the back pocket of your baseball pants or in the equipment bags of players).
- I agree to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages and the use of any illegal substances near the fields or spectator areas of SOMBA or the other sport associations we may visit.
- I will strive to improve my coaching skills through the coaching development resources offered by SOMBA, BC Minor Baseball and any other resources.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) confirm that I have read and understand the **SOMBA Coach Code of Conduct** and the **SOMBA Conflict Resolution Process**, and I agree to abide by these rules and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)