



WESTONKA YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

All Westonka Youth Baseball Association (the “**WYBL**”) parents, coaches, players, and spectators are required to follow this WYBL Code of Conduct while attending any WYBL event.

Section A. General Conduct. It is the responsibility of all Officers, Directors, Coaches, and Parents to adhere to and assist in the enforcement of all adopted rules, regulations and policies of the WYBL.

- The WYBL Board will oversee compliance with the WYBL Code of Conduct. The President and Vice President of WYBL will be responsible for handling cases of noncompliance with the code and bringing any complaints to the Grievance Committee.
- The WYBL President will be the point of contact for registering a complaint.
- The offended party and the community at large will be notified of any action taken by the WYBL Board.

Section B. Coach Conduct. At all times, coaches will conduct themselves in such a manner to set an example for the players and represent the community well. As a baseball coach, it is essential to maintain a high standard of conduct both on and off the field. Your behavior and actions greatly influence the players and their overall experience in the sport. Coaches must abide by the following:

1. **Positive Role Model.** Be a positive role model for players, demonstrating good sportsmanship, integrity, and ethical behavior. You shall not reprimand a player in a demeaning, humiliating or intimidating manner and treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect. Always be positive and use positive reinforcement for players in the youth programs. No yelling in a negative manner and no profanity.
2. **Player Safety.** Protect the safety and health of players and not engage in any type of physical punishment or physical contact with a player that is hostile, violent, or meant to or actually causes harm, embarrassment, intimidation or fear. I understand that this is a zero-tolerance policy and violation of such may result in my expulsion from the WYBL. Follow the concussion management rules required by WYBL.
3. **Drugs and Alcohol.** You shall not use tobacco or alcoholic beverages during games or practices or when you have responsibility for your team.
4. **Misconduct.** Address player and parent misconduct timely and appropriately if a player or parent violates the Code of Conduct (below). Report repetitive misconduct by an individual player or parent to the WYBL.
5. **Professional Conduct.** You shall not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent including, but not limited to, harassment, booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
6. **Teaching Players to be Good Teammates.** Coaching kids to be Good Teammates is an essential aspect of their development both on and off the field. Encouraging positive teamwork and sportsmanship helps children develop important life skills such as communication, collaboration, empathy, and respect. This means creating a safe and inclusive space where players feel comfortable expressing themselves and taking risks. Encourage mutual support, kindness, and understanding among teammates. Promote empathy and respect by helping players understand the perspectives and feelings of their teammates and opponents. Encourage them to respect everyone regardless of mistakes or differences in skill level.
7. **Development and Learning.** Foster an environment that promotes skill development, growth, and learning. Provide equal opportunities for players to improve their abilities, regardless of their skill level or previous experience. Utilize constructive criticism and positive reinforcement to help players develop their skills and reach their potential.
8. **Fair Play.** Emphasize fair play, honesty, and respect for the rules of the game. Follow the league-level rules and policies and tournament rules and policies, including the player rotation and pitch-count rules. Encourage players to compete within the rules, avoiding cheating, intentional harm to opponents, or any form of unsportsmanlike behavior. Teach players to accept both victories and defeats with grace and humility.
9. **Continual Learning.** Stay updated on the latest coaching techniques, rules, and strategies related to baseball. Seek opportunities for professional development, attending coaching clinics, workshops, or conferences. Strive to enhance your coaching skills and knowledge to provide the best experience for your players.

By adhering to this Code of Conduct, you contribute to the growth and development of your players both as athletes and individuals. Remember, as a coach, you have a significant impact on shaping their experiences and values, so always lead by example and promote the values of integrity, respect, and sportsmanship in baseball and beyond.

Section C. Player Conduct. Players are expected to always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner: before, during and after practices, games and while traveling out of town. At all times, players will conduct themselves in such a manner so as to represent the WYBL and community well. Players will abide by the following:

1. **Be a Good Teammate.** This means complementing one another, letting the coaches coach other players, and not criticizing other players for their play or mistakes. Use the Golden Rule and be aware of your negative comments about others on and off of the field, including on social media. Derogatory comments about other players, teams, coaches or umpires, whether in public or in social media are unacceptable and disciplinary action may be taken by the offending player's coach(es) when they become aware of these comments or postings.
2. **Be a Coachable Player.** This means being a great listener and understanding that the coaches want the best for you as a player and as a team and always respecting your coaches.
3. **Be Respectful.** Treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect. There will be no criticizing of other players on any team at any time. Shake hands with officials and opponents, win or lose and avoid negative behavior or taunting.
4. **Attendance and Punctuality.** Be on time for practices, games and all meetings. Coaches must be notified of absences, prior to the practice or game.
5. **Personal Conduct.** No throwing bats, gloves or helmets. Baseball is a tough game, but represent yourself, your team, and the WYBL in a positive manner and avoid any behavior that makes you or your team look badly. For instance, this includes, but is not limited to, temper tantrums, use of profanity, damaging dugouts, fields or equipment. Proper disciplinary action must be taken by the offending player's coach(es) when this type of activity is witnessed, which may include being benched for the remainder of a game or for future games as reasonably determined by the coach in his/her reasonable discretion.
6. **Discipline.** Proper disciplinary action by the offending player's coach(es) may include benching the player involved, or in more severe cases, suspending the player from play in the next game or games the team is to play. Disciplinary action resulting in suspension of a game or games will be reported in writing to the WYBL Board for review.
7. **Strive to Learn.** Strive to learn and improve your knowledge and skills of the game. Accept feedback from coaches and officials and show a willingness to grow as a player.

Section D. Parent Conduct. Parents are expected to always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner before, during and after practices, games and while traveling out of town. By following this Parent Code of Conduct, we can all teach and create a supportive and inclusive environment where all children can enjoy playing baseball, learn important life lessons, and develop lasting friendships. Together, we can make a positive impact and inspire the next generation of players to embrace diversity and promote equality in our sport and beyond.

At all times, parents will conduct themselves in such a manner to represent the WYBL and community well by abiding by the following:

1. **Perspective.** You must remember that this is a game for children, not parents! Children play baseball to have fun. You are here to watch the show and support your child and everyone involved in a positive and uplifting way;
2. **Be a Good Teammate.** Teach your child how to be a Good Teammate and friend by not criticizing teammates for their play or mistakes. Be a good example of what it means to be a Good Teammate by not criticizing the coaches or other players with or around your child. Please be an adult when discussing others and be positive. The lessons of good sportsmanship and teamwork start at home with you!;
3. **Teach Respect.** Teach your child how to be a good sportsman by treating other players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect. Be a positive role model for the players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event. Teach your child to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. The lessons of good sportsmanship are ongoing and start with you at home!;
4. **Comments from the Stands.** You shall not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent, including but not limited to, booing, taunting, yelling or outwardly questioning an umpire, coach or player, using profane language or gestures, or any other unsportsmanlike conduct that reflects badly on the WYBL, during any game, practice or other WYBL event;
5. **Coaching From the Stands.** Refrain from coaching your child or other players during games and practices from the stands. Parents should leave the "coaching" to the coaches and keep negative comments to themselves. This includes, but is not limited to, texting or talking to coaches during games to question playing time or other coaching decisions. Any issues or concerns you have about a coach's strategic decision-making should be addressed through the appropriate channels such as discussing the matter directly with your coaches and at least 24-hours after the event. Please remind yourself that the coaches are volunteers and this is a kid's game!;
6. **Umpires.** You must remember that many of your games will be umpired by teenagers. Try to remember who the adults are by not openly criticizing calls, coaches' decisions, or other players. Ask yourself if you would like anyone else making a negative comment about you for everyone to hear in a similar situation. Please try to remember that this is not a major-league game!;
7. **Anti-Discrimination.** You will conduct yourself and demand that your child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, color, sex or ability, or any other characteristic. Refrain from making derogatory comments about other players, teams, coaches or umpires, whether in public or in social media, and refrain from any public dispute with any other person during a WYBL event;
8. **Injuries.** Inform the coach of any physical ailment or injury that may affect the safety of your child or the safety of others;
9. **Alcohol and Drugs.** You shall not abuse alcohol at any WYBL practice, game or other event. You should never bring or use illegal drugs or engage in any illegal drug abuse at any WYBL event. Any alcohol or drug abuse by a parent can have severe consequences not only for the parent but also for the team's reputation and the well-being of the players. You should help encourage a drug-free environment by discussing the importance of staying away from illegal substances with your child. Reinforce the message that drug use can harm their health, athletic performance, and future prospects.

Section E. Fan Conduct. Fans must treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect. Violators may be required to leave the park by umpires or tournament officials. Coaches also have a responsibility to keep fans under control, and also may require fans behaving inappropriately to leave the park. Umpires may suspend or even forfeit games if their instructions are not followed. Additional penalties can be implemented by the WYBL Board.

Section F. Policy on Mood Altering Chemicals. Use, possession, buying or selling of mood-altering chemicals (e.g., alcohol, drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana, etc.) is EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED except as prescribed for personal use by a doctor. WYBL follows the Minnesota High School League Policy on Mood Altering Chemicals, including the penalties stated in Bylaw 205.

Section G. Policy on Weapons. No weapons are allowed at any baseball event. Any player, coach or parent violating this rule is immediately suspended from the team activities pending WYBL grievance hearing review. Weapon offenses may result in the immediate removal of the player from the program.

Section H. Grievance Committee. The WYBL shall have a Grievance Committee shall consist of all Board Members. The Grievance Committee shall review any incidents or reports of any Code of Conduct violations or other behavior of any person that is reported to the WYBL Board. The Grievance Committee will investigate complaints, irregularities, and conditions detrimental to WYBL. The individual investigated shall be informed of the general nature of the charges and given an opportunity to provide a written statement before the Grievance Committee reviews the matter. The Grievance Committee may gather other facts and statements as it deems necessary to decide on the matter.

The Grievance Committee shall have the sole and reasonable authority to discipline, suspend or terminate anyone when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the best interest of WYBL. Any decision to suspend anyone longer than two (2) games must be approved by a majority vote of the Grievance Committee. The goal of all disciplinary actions is to correct the misconduct and to maintain the integrity and good standing of the WYBL in the Westonka community. The Board of Directors shall have full power to suspend or revoke such person's current or future participation in any WYBL event, including suspension from attending any WYBL game or event pending the outcome from the Grievance Committee. Some violations may be minor that merit discipline amounting to written warnings or suspension from a certain number of games as determined by the Grievance Committee in its sole discretion. Severe or major violations, or the continuous violations of the Code of Conduct may merit removal from any future WYBL event for a longer period of time or permanently as determined in the sole and reasonable discretion of the Grievance Committee.