



**Mahtomedi Youth Baseball
Travel Contract & Team Expectations**

Mahtomedi Youth Baseball is built on a simple premise: “Have fun & get better!” Our belief is that every kid deserves a team they love showing up for. We are committed to creating an environment where players are challenged to improve, encouraged to compete, and proud to represent their community — on and off the field.

Travel baseball, at its best, can be an incredibly fun experience, where players are excited to show up for practices and compete in games, coaches are dedicated, patient and positive, and parents are supportive. This contract endeavors to outline expectations of coaches, players and parents for the season. In the event that behavior needs to be corrected, a guide for how discipline can be issued is also included.

Mahtomedi Youth Baseball’s Board of Directors has approved this contract for travel coaches, players and parents. We hope that each coach, player, parent and team has a fantastic season.

Coach Expectations

1. Coaches will treat players and parent/guardians with respect at all team activities
2. Coaches will be on-time and prepared for all team activities
3. Coaches will communicate to players and parents their expectations and if expectations are not being met
4. Coaches will work to create a team atmosphere that is positive, engaging, and safe for all participants
5. Coaches will treat opposing Coaches, players and umpires with respect
6. Coaches are ultimately accountable for the actions, language and behavior of their fellow coaches, players AND spectators of their team. A parent getting ejected from the field by an umpire also results in the head coach being ejected for that game.

Player expectations:

1. **No bullying, picking on, excluding, making fun of any of your teammates or other players (at practice/games, school, social media, etc)**
2. When a Coach or Parent is addressing the team – No Talking
3. Leave the dugout (home and away) cleaner than you found it

4. Win with class, lose with grace
5. Be a good teammate – support and encourage other members of the team – not just when they are doing well. The most successful teams win and lose together, not as individuals.
6. No Quit – No matter the score, inning or number of outs, players will always give their best.
7. Work hard when no one is watching – work ethic is based on the hard work put into games, practices as well as at home.

Player On-Field Expectations (games & practices)

1. If you are not early you are late. Players must be ready at the start time of practice. We recommend getting to the fields 15 minutes early. For games, 45min-1hr early. Be ready - cleats on, uniform ready, for the start of team warmups.
2. Hustle – walking to positions or drill stations is not acceptable.
3. In an effort to keep kids playing multiple sports, kids are allowed to miss practices from time to time. Players playing multiple sports should be prioritizing travel baseball activities while in-season. If a conflict with another sport should arise, players and parents should communicate with the Head Coach as soon as the scheduling conflict is realized. Missing practices must be discussed with the Head Coach to receive approval, for each missed practice. It is at the discretion of the coaches if a pass will be given. Any unexcused absence will result in decreased playing time for the next game. If absences become an issue, this can potentially result in being removed from the team.
4. Players will not talk to teammates, coaches, opponents or umpires in a disrespectful manner – body language counts. No throwing equipment. We understand kids are emotional. We will do our best to help them control their emotions. If a player is unable to control their emotions, any coach on the team can remove the player from the field and/or dugout bench to sit with their parents for a set amount of time. Coaches will decide when to bring that player back to the dugout/bench.

Parent Expectations

1. “Sleep On It” - Please allow 24 hours to pass from a potential incident or event before speaking to the head coach. This cooling off period can be helpful to everyone before having a civil, productive conversation. Please remember that your coaches are volunteers who are doing their best. There is very likely an explanation for what occurred that you are upset about.
2. Be positive with your child regarding their teammates and the coaching staff and their intentions. If you find yourself being negative, reach out to the Head Coach to discuss your thoughts.
3. Trust the coaching staff, we have your child’s best interest in mind
4. Parents, families and fans should treat fellow parents, teammates, coaching, opponents, opponent fans and umpires in a respectful manner. If an issue arises at games/practices, parents may be asked to remove themselves from the field or limit their interactions.
5. Reminder - fans arguing or berating umpires can be ejected by the umpire. This will cause the head coach of the team to also be ejected.
6. MYB’s recommendation is to NOT sit behind the backstop, especially if you have difficulty controlling your language/emotions during a game.

Consequences

All coaches on a staff have a variety of solutions at their disposal to create a positive team atmosphere at practices, games and team events. If a player is being disruptive or not contributing in a positive manner, all coaches on the staff may discipline a player. Disciplinary actions include:

- Verbal warnings
- Being removed from a drill/practice
- Being temporarily removed from a game
- Being removed from the remainder of a game (in-game ejection)
- Being removed from the dugout/bench during a game
- Being removed from upcoming games (suspension)
- Being removed from the team (season suspension)

Player Removal from Practice

If a player's behavior necessitates that they be removed from practice, the coach who disciplined the player, as well as the player and the player's parent/guardian, should discuss the event at the end of practice, before the player leaves the field.

Coaches should provide clear feedback on what the behavior was that resulted in the disciplinary action, describe what the consequence was to the player & parent/guardian, and what the desired behavior would be. Players should be allowed to share if anything contributed to the incident.

Coaches should be listening in a calm, collected, approachable manner. This conversation should happen with parent/guardian present so everyone is on the same page.

Player Removal from Game

If a player is removed from a game, at the conclusion of the game and after the team meeting, the player, Head Coach and player's parent/guardian should meet to discuss what happened. It is the responsibility of the player and parent/guardian to not leave the facility until they have met with the Head Coach. A reminder of expectations should be discussed. A player should be allowed to share if anything contributed to the incident. Coaches should listen to the player in a respectful, approachable manner.

If a player is removed from a game for any reason (by a coach, or by an umpire), the Head Coach must notify the MYB Travel Director, within 24 hours of the game, via email. The player's parent/guardian's **MUST** be included on this email. This is to ensure that all parties are on the same page with what happened. The email should briefly describe what occurred and what the discipline was.

For example: During the 3rd inning, Henry was called out on strikes. He argued the 3rd strike call with the umpire. After a verbal warning from the umpire and coaches, he continued to argue from the bench. The umpire ejected him from the game.

Player Suspension by Head Coach

If a player is to be suspended, the Head Coach must notify the MYB Travel Director prior to the game, via email. The player's parent/guardian must be included on this email. A suspension requires the Head Coach, player and player's parents/guardians to meet before the player shall return to team activities.

During this meeting, the behavior that caused the suspension should be clearly described, means to fix the behavior/reason for suspension and a conversation about disciplinary actions that could follow. A Head Coach may suspend a player for up to one game.

Multi-Game Suspension from MYB Board of Directors

If repeated behavior and disciplinary steps fail to address behavior that is detrimental to the team, or a single incident occurs which is more severe, a coach may request additional support from the MYB Board of Directors.

These steps must be followed:

1. Head Coach emails MYB Travel Director, cc'ing player's parent/guardian, describing the behavior(s) that are leading the head coach to pursue this option, as well as previous disciplinary actions taken.
 - a. The player is suspended from team activities (practices and games) while an investigation is being conducted by MYB.
2. MYB Travel Director will interview team Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and possibly Team Manager (if appropriate) to discuss the player's actions.
3. MYB Travel Director will interview player and player's parents/guardian to discuss behavior and/or incident.
4. MYB Travel Director will report findings to MYB Player Discipline Committee.
 - a. Player Discipline Committee will consist of President, Vice President and Travel Director. If a conflict of interest arises between MYB President/VP/Travel Director, i.e. they are a rostered coach of a player in question, the MYB President may appoint a MYB Board Member to take their place on the Player Discipline Committee.
 - b. MYB Player Discipline Committee will convene a meeting with the MYB Board of Directors. The Discipline Committee will provide a summary of the situation and recommended suspension. MYB Board of Directors will discuss and vote to approve any suspension. Vote must pass with a majority of Board members present. Board members who have a player on the team will be exempt from voting.
 - i. MYB Board of Directors can issue a disciplinary ruling ranging from a one game suspension, multi-game suspension or season ending suspension.
 - ii. Time missed during the course of the investigation may be considered when issuing a suspension.
 - iii. MYB President will announce results of findings via email to team Head Coach, assistant coaches, manager, player parent/guardian(s).
 - c. If a player is removed from a team for the remainder of the season, the player forfeits all season fees.
 - d. Players removed from a team for the season are ineligible to participate with Mahtomedi Youth Baseball's travel program for the following season.

See following page for signatures.

By signing, we agree to these expectations and the disciplinary process outlined.

Player Name: _____ Team & Level (example 9AA) _____

Player Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Coach Signature: _____