

Buffalo Youth Baseball & Softball Player and Parent Code of Conduct

Buffalo Youth Baseball & Softball believes in the family mentality and strives to develop hard working, confident, successful young people on and off the field.

We want players to have a positive experience by always maintaining a high standard of sportsmanship and positive behavior. This code of conduct will help guide coaches, parents, and players and express the expectations set forth by Buffalo Youth Baseball & Softball. Violations of this Code of Conduct will be grounds for discipline at the discretion of the Board of Directors and pursuant to the Buffalo Youth Baseball & Softball by-laws.

Player Code of Conduct

I agree to listen and follow the proper instructions of the team coaching staff at ALL TIMES.

I am aware that each player's participation (including my own) is crucial in maintaining the high standards of play we are striving to attain. I understand my attendance at all games, practices, team meetings, scrimmages and official games is important to the Team's success.

I agree to display good sportsmanship, positive behavior, cheer on my teammates, take pride in personal and team accomplishments and accept winning or defeat with dignity at all times.

1. All team practices, unless otherwise stated, are mandatory.
2. Arrive to practice on time-dressed and ready to go.
 - a. If a player cannot attend a practice session, the player must give advance notice of the absence or tardiness. You must speak with the HEAD COACH.
 - b. Playing time may be affected by unexcused tardiness/absence.
 - c. If you are late to warm-up for a game, do not expect to start.
3. Arrive to practices, tournaments, and team functions, including fundraising events, promptly at designated time.
4. Each player should try to arrive at least **15 minutes** prior to the practice start time. Players must be on the field, dressed (t-shirt, pants/belts fastened, cleats tied) and ready to participate at the start of the practice.
5. Dress appropriately! Weather is unpredictable.
 - a. Unless a coach specifically tells you otherwise, players should always come to practice in:
 - i. Pants
 - ii. T-Shirt (or long sleeves if it's cold)

- iii. Socks
 - iv. Cleats/ Turf Shoes (tennis shoes if indoors)
6. A positive attitude is expected at all times during practice; negative comments and behavior contrary to a positive learning environment are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
 7. Each player is expected to **HUSTLE** throughout the practice session. While on the playing field, each player shall hustle to and from each station as well as in their retrieval of missed balls and collecting of equipment at the end of practice.
 8. Every player shall do their part to make the practice run smoothly, give their undivided attention to the coaching staff and follow directions.
 9. If a player is unsure of a direction given to them or a drill being conducted – the player is encouraged to speak up and ask the coach for clarification. Work on improving individual skills outside of team practices. Working on physical conditioning when not at practice, to improve the ability to play in multiple hot summer games.
 10. No parents, friends, relatives, etc in the dugouts during games or practice. Only your team's coaches and players are permitted.
 11. **EVERYONE** sets up for practices, **EVERYONE** cleans up after practice, and **EVERYONE** carries equipment.
 12. Listen when your coaches are talking. Do not interrupt coaches and do not talk when they are talking.
 13. Report all injuries to a coach immediately, to allow coaches time to adjust practice and game plans.
 14. No alcohol, drugs, or smoking/ vaping while at any organization event. This includes practice and competition facilities, and fundraising events.
 15. No technology should be on while in the dugout unless approved by the coach. (Phones, smart watches, fitbits with communication features etc.)
 16. Use social media responsibly.
 17. Respect all coaches, players, officials, tournament directors, umpires, fans, and spectators.

Players shall not...

1. Use abusive or profane language.
2. Taunt or humiliate any other players, coaches, umpires, tournament personnel, etc.
3. Question an umpire's call.
4. Openly challenge a coach's directions or decision.
5. Show disrespect/annoyance, etc., when being removed from a game or event.
6. Abuse, mistreat, or mishandle any organization equipment or property.

Parent Code of Conduct

As a parent, I recognize that my behavior influences the behavior of not only my child, but the other players throughout the league. It is my responsibility to conduct myself in a fashion that reflects respect for others, sportsmanship, and integrity. Players are learning communication skills, conflict resolution, teamwork, and time management. We as parents are demonstrating these skills daily, and it is important that our youth learn these skills in a positive way.

We are a team – athletes, coaches, and parents. Parents can support their child by allowing them to experience challenges and successes, on and off the field. Please know that we always have the best interest of your child in mind. How much he or she improves throughout the year depends upon his or her openness to instruction, effort applied, and how he or she is encouraged to grow.

1. No parents, friends, relatives, etc. in the dugouts during games or practice. Only your team's coaches and players are permitted.
2. Demonstrate good sportsmanship! Treat the other team's players, coaches and fans with unconditional respect.
3. Parents cannot coach their child from the sidelines.
 - a. The players are working hard to follow the coach's game plan-please let them.
 - b. Allowing the coaches to coach is the best way to help your athlete be a coachable player that trusts their coaches and teammates.
4. Once warm-up has started, please allow your player to be focused on the game. Please do not approach them during warm-up or the game.
5. No drugs or alcohol while at any association event. This includes practice and competition facilities.

24-hour rule

- a. Should an issue arise, parent-coach conversations must not be within 24 hours of the completion of practice or a tournament.
- b. Coaches are here because they are passionate about the game and helping to develop your players. You are here because your child shares the same passion. 24 hours allows everyone time to reflect and make sure communication is clear.
- c. Topics that fall under the 24-hour rule; communication problem, clarification of instruction (exception: players should always ask immediately if they don't understand something the coach is asking them to do), evaluation of skills , coaching philosophy, etc.
- d. The line-up is the coach's decision and will not be up for discussion.
- e. If a conversation is started by a parent or coach within 24 hours, both parties have the right to say "I think this conversation should wait 24 hours." If either party does not respect that request, they will be in violation.

Consequences

Any person violating the Code of Conduct shall be subject to administrative action at the discretion of the coaches/organization, which may include verbal warning, written warning, probation, suspension, or up to and including termination of his/her privilege to participate in, or attend, any or all organization's activities, and will not result in any refunds or compensation from the organization.

The Code of Conduct is not conceived to address every possible behavioral circumstance. The organization and coaches and officials reserve the right to utilize this document as a framework/guideline for expected behavior, and as the association's standard for behavioral evaluation, and to implement action, based on its intent. All players will abide by the By-laws and governing documents set forth by Buffalo Youth Baseball & Softball Association.

By signing this code of conduct, you are agreeing to follow the guidelines set forth by Buffalo Youth Baseball & Softball.

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| Player Printed Name | Player Signature | Date |
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| Parent/Guardian Printed Name | Parent/Guardian Signature | Date |
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| Parent/Guardian Printed Name | Parent/Guardian Signature | Date |
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| Coach/Board Member Printed Name | Coach/Board Member Signature | Date |