

WYLIE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (WBSA)

Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaching in a youth sport program is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a manager or coach, appointed by the WBSA Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives.

Baseball and Softball embody the discipline of teamwork. They challenge players towards perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball and softball also teaches that while every player eventually strikes out, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, the WBSA expects each manager and coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Sportsmanship

Coaches Shall:

- A. Promote good sportsmanship, teach good fundamental skills, and have fun in the process.
- B. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.
- C. Understand verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that offenders will be removed from the WBSA fields at the discretion of an umpire or WBSA board member.
- D. Understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
- E. Understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player yell at an umpire, coach, fan, or player. The lone exception to this rule is when a coach or player shouts to another coach or teammate during the course of a play as part of that play.
- F. Understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times.
- G. Understand alcoholic beverages and the uses of illicit drugs are prohibited at all WBSA activities, including activities outside the WBSA complexes.

Rules and Policies

Coaches Shall:

- A. Know and understand the rules and abide by them (whether local or national).
- B. Instruct team members in the rules and coach his/her team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
- C. Understand the USSSA and local league participation rules for their division. All coaches must ensure that each player gets opportunities to bat and play the field in each game. Also understand that specific rules are also in place to limit the number and frequency of innings pitched by a particular player.
- D. Fully comply with the Player/Parents Code of Conduct.
- E. Review the WBSA website(s) (www.wyliebaseball.org / www.wyliesoftball.org) on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all updated USSSA and WBSA Rules and policies.

Umpires and Other Resources

- The WBSA recognizes baseball and softball is a game of interpretations. As a result, disputes will occur from time to time. However, it is important that players learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the umpires will be handled in a civil manner. Only the Head Coach/Manager shall initiate such discussions with an umpire. Managers/coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the managers will make no further field protest. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Division Director or Director of Umpires per league policy.

Coaches Shall:

- A. Understand that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, give the umpires the respect their position within the game deserves.
- B. Be responsible in caring for equipment, for care of fields prior to games and for cleaning up fields, dugouts and stands after games.

Parents and the League

Coaches Shall:

- A. Maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents.
- B. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, interact and respond in a courteous manner.
- C. Understand and explain the Team philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of the WBSA.
- D. Ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites and assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.
- E. Make sure that coaches and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game.

The Team

Coaches Shall:

- A. Conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
- B. Focus on providing instruction commensurate with players abilities so all players have the opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further baseball/softball competition.
- C. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- D. Understand that managers are appointed by the league to be responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team in communications with the umpires, opposing teams and league. If a manager leaves the field, he shall designate a coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the manager's duties.

Non-Game Duties - Each manager has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games. Accordingly, if I am a Manager, I will adhere to the following as well:

- A. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
- B. I will attend all required coaches meetings, safety and umpiring clinics unless I am out of town. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.
- C. I will obtain, complete and submit to the League all Volunteer Applications submitted to me..
- D. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and WBSA officials.
- E. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.

Wylie Baseball and Softball Association Coaches Code of Conduct

I, the undersigned, agree to follow the Code of Conduct and comply with all League rules, policies and procedures. I understand violations of the Code will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action in accordance to the WBSA Operations Manual, and could include a warning, game(s) suspension, season suspension, as well as impact my opportunity to manage or coach in future seasons. I further acknowledge the authority of the Board of Directors of WBSA and understand that if permitted to manage or coach I serve solely at the pleasure of the Board, which permission may be revoked at any time. My failure to honor the authority of the Board and its members or to show them proper respect will be deemed to be a violation of this Code of Conduct. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to speak to some or all of the Board at any time and that if called my failure to so attend could result in an immediate suspension. I understand that if I am suspended I will not be permitted to attend any league functions (practices, games, etc.) nor be present at any field complex/park where WBSA events are being held.

Signature
Name (printed)
Date

This page is to be returned to the Player Agent, Division VP, or President.

RULE 14.00 – SPORTSMANSHIP & EJECTIONS

14.01 All players, coaches, managers, sponsors and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. The league/tournament director has the authority to remove anyone from the event at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct. Any player, coach, manager, sponsor or spectator whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive shall at a minimum be reprimanded with a warning. If warranted, the offending party shall be ejected from the game at the discretion of the Umpires and / or the League / Tournament Director.

14.02 Any player, coach, manager, sponsor or spectator leaving their position or base, in the field, on the bench, in the dugout area or grandstands to participate in a fight, brawl or altercation shall be immediately ejected from the game and may be disbarred / suspended.

14.03 Any coach, manager, sponsor or spectator ejected from a game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field and / or grandstands for the remainder of the game. Any player ejected from a game shall either immediately remove them self from the vicinity of the playing field for the remainder of the game or be confined to the dugout area for the remainder of the game at the discretion of the League / Tournament Director. Additional penalties may be assessed at the discretion of the League / Tournament Director.

14.04 *If necessary, a team may be forced to forfeit a game and / or be removed from the league / tournament.*

RULE 18.00 – TOBACCO & TOBACCO RELATED PRODUCTS

18.01 The use of **ANY** tobacco product shall be prohibited by all participants (including but not limited to players, manager, coaches) within the confines of the playing field and dugouts. Local facilities may have stricter policies prohibiting tobacco from facility and parking areas. These policies, if any, shall be recognized and enforced during USSSA events.