

Manor Youth Association

Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaching a youth sport program is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a coach, appointed by the Manor Youth Association (MYA) Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children in the community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of good sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork –values they can use throughout their lives. In order to ensure each coach is acting in the best interest of the children and the League, the MYA Board has developed a Coaches Code of Conduct for interactions with players, parents, fans, coaches, and umpires. Not everyone has the temperament and patience to work with young children while developing their skills and values. If you don't feel certain you can abide by the conduct described below, you should consider another volunteer position within MYA.

1. _____ **Respect all Players.** You must ensure that all criticism you offer to the players be constructive and balanced with compliments. You must recognize that all players are contributors to the team and treat them all fairly and equitably within the rules.
2. _____ **You are required to show good sportsmanship at all times.** Understand that the players are learning to be good sportsmen and team players and are quick to copy all behavior they see on the field, particularly that of the coaches. You are expected to show respect to team coaches, players and parents and the opposing managers, coaches, players and parents at all times.
3. _____ **Language.** When there are interactions with players, appropriate language and behavior is expected. At no time is cursing or yelling at a player acceptable. As a coach you are a mentor and should focus on the positive. A coach should always be looking for opportunities to praise and encourage the players.

Discipline –At no time is verbal abuse or physical discipline of a player acceptable. At the beginning of the season, coaches must establish and communicate rules of acceptable behavior to players and parents, and the consequences if not followed. Coaches have a variety of behavior discipline measures at their disposal including restriction to the dugout, dismissal from practice or games and, with approval of the MYA of Directors dismissal from the team.

4. _____ **Respect for Parents.** Baseball/Softball is a big commitment for parents as well as players and coaches. Coaches are expected to interact with parents in a professional manner, and take time to listen to their concerns and comments. *You are expected to keep parents informed of your plans and team goals and ensure the whole team is pulling in the same direction.* Coaches should remember they have the entire league behind them to help with conflicts which arise, and should not under any circumstances engage in argumentative or combative interaction, no matter how much provoked. Appropriate language and behavior is expected, and verbal abuse will not be tolerated. Parent conflicts will arise during the season, and it is of utmost importance that players witness from their coach how to deal with conflict in an effective, constructive, positive way, and not escalate conflict further. You are expected to schedule a team meeting before your first practice to formulate to parents the expectations for your team, including how to resolve disputes as stated in the Code of Conduct for Parents. You are not alone in your position as manager or coach, you have a strong organization to assist you in the resolution of problems, issues or disputes.

5. ____ **Respect for Other Coaches.** Coaches are expected to interact with opposing coaches in a professional manner. At no time should a coach yell from one dugout to another at an opposing coach. Coaches are to address other coaches between innings and with the umpire present. If the need arises to address an opposing coach before the end of the half inning, the coach should ask the umpire to call timeout to address the opposing coach at home plate.
6. ____ **Respect for Umpires.** Coaches are expected to interact with umpires in a professional manner. At no time should a coach yell from the dugout, 1st base coaches box, or 3rd base coaches box to argue with an umpire. Coaches are to address the umpires between innings with the umpire's permission. If the need arises to address an umpire before the end of the half inning, the coach should call a timeout and request permission to address the umpire at home plate. If a coach asks for the umpire's permission to discuss a call, the umpire will be more willing to listen.
7. ____ **Use of Drugs, Alcohol, & Tobacco is Strictly Prohibited.** A coach determined to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave the field immediately. An infraction of this type will (with approval from the MYA Board of Directors), result in a termination of coaching privileges. MYA fields are located on school property, and the use of alcohol or tobacco at the MYA fields is strictly prohibited by Manor ISD.

Enforcement Measures

In the event a complaint is brought before the MYA Board of Directors by the League President of a Coach failing to comply with the above, the MYA Board may decide to either dismiss the complaint, issue a warning, or impose sanctions. These sanctions include, but are not limited to, any combination of the following. The sanction shall be based on the severity of the violation as well as the attitude of the Coach regarding the violation.

- (1) **Probation:** The Coach will be advised of the offense and the period of probation during which it is expected that no further violations will occur. *If repeated, the sanction will be escalated to a higher level than if probation had not been imposed.*
- (2) **Suspension:** The Coach will be advised of the offense and the period of suspension during which he/she is prohibited from participating in any MYA games, activities, or events.
- (3) **Dismissal:** The Coach will be advised of the offense and informed that he/she is being dismissed from the League for the remainder of the season or other designated period of time.
- (4) **Barred:** The violator will be advised of the offense and informed that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the League, permanently, or for a specified number of years.

You must initial each paragraph above. By signing in the space provided below, you are agreeing that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Coaches Code of Conduct for participation with the Manor Youth Association Baseball/Softball Program, and will abide by any decision rendered by the MYA Board of Directors for failure to do so.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____