



2025

**Player, Parent, Coaches
Handbook**

Mission Statement | Goals

Our goal is to provide our players and parents with a great baseball experience. This is only feasible with the cooperation from our parents, who must first put their trust into our organization and our developmental philosophies. We are driven to lead our coaches and parent coaches in the development of our players, on and off the field.

Mission Statement - Our mission within our baseball organization is to provide players with the opportunity to succeed on the field of play, but more importantly, help them build character traits that will be essential in being successful in life.

Philosophy - We feel it is vital to develop great work ethic. As an organization, we pride ourselves in developing our player's work ethic and demand a great effort from each player. We are confident in our teaching techniques and realistic approach for each individual player. We believe it is also important that each player is given a transparent view of playing time and playing situations.

A great work ethic + good character + extensive player development + supportive parents = Winning

- We will respect the game of baseball
- We will win with class and lose with class
- We emphasize working hard and at the end of the year, we should have more wins than losses
- We feel it is more important to teach our players how to deal with defeat, rather than emphasize a loss
- We accept losing, only with a good effort. We will never condone losing with a poor effort. We will not dwell on a loss, but only talk about situations in which we could have been better prepared and how to handle situations differently in the future

Our goal is to provide a “no nonsense” approach for our ball players. We will not entertain any type of the following distractions from parents, coaches or players that will include, but are not limited to:

- Player or parent bullying
- Delinquency

- Crying
- Throwing of equipment
- Showing up a coach, teammate or opponent
 - Including trash talk, bat flips, excessive celebrations
- Player tardiness
- Theft
- Jealousy
- Our parents will applaud, and be supportive of each others's accomplishments
- There is no room in our organization for jealousy of fellow players, or fellow players accomplishments

To protect the best interest of the business, we may make mid-season changes or moves that could include:

- Field staff positioning
- Players
- Parents

Our goal is to find the best fit for each individual player. This will sometimes mean that the best fit for that player may be removal from a team. If we have one individual player or parent negatively affecting the rest of our team or organization, we will remove them from our organization without hesitation. We do not, and will not tolerate any manipulative actions by parents or players in our organization. This is a business and we must protect the best interest of the business first and foremost.

We ask players to hold each other accountable for each other's actions. This includes on the field as well as off the field. We will encourage our players to speak up and be leaders. This does not mean that everything our players say and do will be correct, but the emphasis is to teach them to be leaders and be vocal. We will help correct our players as we progress throughout the season, but please be understanding of this process.

Pitching Philosophy

- Our overall goal is not to win championships at a young level, but to teach our players how to play the game the best way possible with respect and good charac-

ter. We will not over use a player to pitch. We will have certain pitchers on each team that will throw more than others, but we will follow strict pitch counts and pitching policies that are non-debatable

- Our number one job for our pitchers is to protect their arms and give them a chance to pitch at a higher lever later in their careers
- Any managers or coaches who do not follow pitch counts will be subject for removal. No questions asked.

Playing Time

The only playing time we guarantee for each player, is a player reaching a milestone of Plate Appearances (PA's)

- The PA's milestone will only be reached if each player is present at every game. We will not be held accountable for players not reaching the allotted PA milestone if they are not able to make every game
- We do not guarantee equal playing time. We do our best to play everyone as much as we can, but to win ball games, certain players will play more than other players at certain times
- Tournament/Game cancellations due to inclement weather or not having enough players is something we cannot control.
We will do our best to make-up scheduled games
- Listed below is a guideline of some of the basic necessities we feel are needed to play a full season of baseball at each level. We have listed a basic guide to reach the number of games we have set up as a goal to play

For 14U and Below...Each player will receive a minimum amount of PA's per season. How to figure PA's over the course of a season (EXAMPLE):

- 1 game averages 25 PA's
 - 11 man lineup / 25 PA's = 2.25 PA's per game
 - 30 game season x 25 PA's per game = 750
 - 750 total PA's available for a whole season / number of players on an 11 man team = 68.1818

- We make sure each player receives at a minimum 65 PA's • This leaves 60 extra PA's to divide amongst better hitters during the season in bracket games

Coach/Player Initiated Questions

First base coach questions: While the play is in progress verbal reminders (ball put in play)

- Point to the ball
- "Find the ball"
- "Hard turn"
- "Draw a throw"
- "Through the bag"
- "Pick up your coach"

After the runner reaches first base

- "BOSO" Ball, Outs, Scoreboard, Outfield
- Where are your outfielders
- Where is the ball
 - How many outs are there
 - Did you get your signs
 - What are you doing on a fly ball
 - Where are the other base runners
 - Are you anticipating a ball in the dirt
- What are you doing on contact

Bench coach questions:

- Is the pitcher throwing first pitch strikes
 - What is the score
 - What is your approach based on the situation
 - Are you timing the pitcher

- Is the pitcher tipping his pitches
- Does the catcher have a good arm and quick release
- • Does the pitcher hold runners on
- How are the outfield arms
- Awareness of changes in pitcher

Pitching coach questions:

- Are you varying your looks to first base
- How are you trying to finish hitters
- When is a good time to throw an off-speed pitch
- • What kind of swings is the opposing team taking
- Are they on time? Are they late? Are they early?
- • What pitches do we throw when hitters are...
- Ahead? Early? Late?
- How far away from the plate do their hitters stand?

Offensive Situations

Hitting absolutes

- Two strike approaches will be used when our hitter has two strikes, and when we need to execute in certain situations.

- Two strikes
- Moving base runners (hit the ball to the right side of the infield on the ground)
- Runner on third base less than 2 outs with a close ballgame, infield is playing back, a ground ball scores a run - Infield is playing back, less than two outs, a sac fly scores a run

- Bunt situations
- We will continue to have our players bunt with two strikes
- Sacrifice bunts are not for a base hit. We get in a good position to bunt early, and

if executed, we will advance a runner for an out. It is not a surprise. The bunter's job is to advance the runner; it is not the runner's job to advance them. A well-placed bunt will work every time

- With Runner @ 3rd, less than two outs and Infield back....Our hitter's job is to hit the ball to the shortstop or second baseman with the first good pitch available, which will score a run. This is a productive plate appearance

- Infield in

- Our hitter's job with the infield in is to hit a fly ball into the outfield. This is a productive plate appearance

- • Runner on second base or second and third base no outs - Our hitter's job is to advance the base runner to third base by hitting a ground ball to the right side of the infield. We are trading an out for a base. This is a productive plate appearance

- Taking pitches

- Our hitters will have to mandatorily take until they get a strike from time to time. These are examples of when our hitters will take until they have a strike:

- After our pitcher has had a long defensive half inning

- In the last inning of a game when we are losing

- After a 4 pitch walk from the previous batter

- After the first two hitters have swung at their first pitch and gotten out (prevents a 3 pitch inning)

Defensive Situations

Defensive Situations to know and practice

- Bunt Defense

- Runner on 1st

- Runner on 2nd (including pick off)

- Runner on 1st and 2nd (including pick off)

- 1st and 3rd defense

- Cuts and relays

- Double cuts
- Double plays
- Straight steals
- Who covers the bag
- Outfield positioning
 - Infield positioning
 - PFP's (Pitchers Fielding Practice) • Bases loaded situations
 - Do or die situations
 - Pick off plays from the catcher
 - Pick off plays at first
 - Pick off plays at second

Our shortstop will be responsible in shifting our infield depending on the hitter and the situation

- The manager and/or bench coach will need to help lead our shortstop with defensive adjustments

Our center fielder will be responsible for shifting our outfielders depending on the hitter and situation

- Our manager and/or bench coach will be responsible for helping lead the adjustments

Pitching Policies

Absolutes:

- We will pride ourselves on taking care of our player's arms and not over throwing our players to avoid injury. Our pitch counts and pitching policies are non debatable. They are absolutes.

The best way for our catchers and pitchers to develop into proactive thinking baseball players is to call their own game. Using this method, our pitchers and catchers will make mistakes and make wrong pitch calls and pitch selections. This is perfectly normal and will be accepted. We will educate our pitchers and catchers as best we can, on how to call correct pitches in specific situations.

Pitch Count Limits by Level

- Spring limits

- 9U-60
- 10U-60
- 11U-70
- 12U-70
- 13U-80
- 14U-80

Mid Summer Limits

- 9U-75
- 10U-75
- 11U-85
- 12U-85
- 13U-95
- 14U-95

We will use GameChanger to track pitch counts. Each player will not be allowed to go over our allotted pitch count unless other wise directed from the GM. If a pitcher throws less than 30 pitches in an outing, that pitcher will be available to pitch the following day, if agreed upon by the parents and the player.

Holding runners

- We will not rush our pitchers on the mound
- We teach our players to remain calm and evaluate each situation before we move on with the next play, or next pitch
- If a tying, or go-ahead run is on first base, we will consistently hold the base runner
- It is our pitchers job to control the opposing teams running game. Mixing up the timing in which the pitch is thrown, and running pick off plays are our main way of holding runners to a conservative lead

Parent Code of Conduct

Any questions or situations must first be addressed or communicated with the manager/coach of the team. The team's manager/coach will handle all issues or situations for each team and report each issue to the management team as needed. We will absolutely not entertain any type of dramatic issues that are a distraction from our overall goals.

We will absolutely not tolerate any parents, fans, or players yelling or screaming at umpires, players of another team, coaches of another team, or fans of another team. Doing so may result in a suspension or a termination from the team. Playing with class is one of our main priorities, and if our players or parents act in a disrespectful, classless way at the ballpark, appropriate actions will be taken. We will never ask any fan to leave the ballpark, but we may ask a fan to leave the seating area if a fan become a distraction. Our goal is to set up an environment for each player to succeed and gain more knowledge of the game with good sportsmanship and character. Outside distractions will hinder the development of our players and will not be tolerated

The manager/coach of each team will have the authority to ask a parent to leave the seating area if he/she feels it is in the best interest of the team.

Playing time

- Every player will get playing time, but it will not be equal. We aim to develop every player, which means giving everyone innings and plate appearances
- We are not required to fulfill the milestone of plate appearances per player if that player is not present for each game played, or we have cancellations.
- Playing time questions or concerns will not be discussed until the middle of the season at best
- Beginning in the month of June, managers/coach will have the option to manage every game to win. This means some players may see less playing time

Social Media

- Any negative comments, pictures or gestures made or referring to the following things, will be grounds for an immediate removal from our organization without any discussion:
 - On Deck and field staff
 - Families within On Deck organization
 - Opposing teams/players and their families
 - Umpires
 - Players who have been removed from organization

Hotel

- Any issues with the hotel staff needs to be reported to the coach as soon as possible, it is not the parent's responsibility to take care of team issues at the hotel (i.e. a hotel staff member harassing a player or players). The manager/coach will resolve the issue
- Parents and players will not be allowed to use hotel property for other uses than what that object is intended for (i.e. racing luggage racks in a hotel parking lot. Throwing pool chairs into the swimming pool)
- Player curfew is 10:00p, unless directed otherwise
- Everyone who is checked into the hotel will be responsible for the actions of their own children. We will not allow our player's families to freely run throughout the hotel
- Parents will be asked to leave the lobby of the hotel by 11:00p unless directed otherwise
- **Adult beverages will be permitted in and around the hotel, only if poured into a cup. We will not tolerate beer cans and trash laying around the lobby of the hotel and seating area**

Ballpark

- Any issues at the ballpark involving the host of the tournament will need to be reported to the manager of each team. It is not a parents responsibility to take care of issues involving tournament directors or tournament hosts
- Never enter the dugout or playing field for any reason, this includes player siblings

- Understand that players are not allowed to leave the dugout during the game
- Never coach from the stands
- This includes calling pitches

Umpires

- Our manager/coach will be the only individual to communicate with umpires, regardless of the situation. We will not tolerate parents talking, yelling, screaming or making sarcastic remarks to umpires
- We teach our players to ask and know each umpires individual name. We ask our players to try to build relationships with umpires and communicate well with them. We teach them the fact that umpires are no different than players, they have personalities and feelings, and can be right as well as wrong, which is no different than players and parents. Umpires are an important part of the game, but not the most important part of it. The emphasis always needs to revolve around our players and not umpires. The manager will take care of any issues with umpires as needed
- If an umpire communicates with a manager about a fan being disrespectful, you will be asked to leave the seating area with no questions asked

Opposing Players

- We will not tolerate any of our fan(s) taunting, jeering, yelling or screaming at other players, regardless of the situation
- We encourage our fans to applaud great plays made by opposing teams as well
- If there are opposing players disrespecting our team's property, or our players, report it to our coach of the team and proper action will be taken. It is not our parents responsibility to address opposing team issues

Our Players

- We encourage our parents to help discipline/remind our players of our code of conduct when we are together as a group. Our code of conduct and dress

code policy is only as good as our parental support. As a staff, we are not able to see everything that happens good and bad, but with the help of our parents (and the ultimate goal being to help build good character and develop great work ethics); it is common sense to work together as a group to help each other out when needed.

Disciplinary Action

- Our overall goal is to go out and play good baseball and enjoy the summer. If parents disrespect our organization with selfish actions and violate our code of conduct, we will bench and or suspend players. It is a very simple policy, respect our organization and what we stand for, or your child does not play

Playing games with other teams during On Deck season

If you're On Deck team has a game or tournament, you are expected to play with On Deck. If player is asked to play for another team, player will be required to get permission from the head coach of the On Deck team. If this is violated, we will bench or suspend players.

Player Code of Conduct

Our players will be held accountable for their actions. Our player code of conduct only works if our parents help enforce and demonstrate respect of it.

Teammates

- We will teach our players to respect each other on and off the field. We will not tolerate a player "showing up" another player. Nobody is better than anyone else
- Examples include:
 - Throwing hands up in the air after a bad play
 - Talking to another player about a play another player made
 - Talking to parents about a play another player should have made

It needs to be clear, we will pull a player during the middle of the game with no hesitation if the player is showing up another on or off the field

Cell Phones

- Once workouts or games start, cell phones need to be put away in players bag. We do not want to see cell phones out.

Hotel

- Curfew 10:00pm
- In your own hotel room by 10:00p unless otherwise directed
- No running/yelling in the hallways or letting doors slam on the door latches

Dress Code

- Shirts and shoes will be required at all times when entering and leaving the swimming pool area

Dugout behavior

- Never leave the dugout during a game
- We will not tolerate inappropriate behavior in the dugout
- Distractions in the dugout will result in limited playing time and disciplinary action. The following actions will warrant disciplinary action
 - Spitting seeds/drink at other players or their property
 - Throwing equipment
 - Screaming at other players

Practice Attire

- Each player will be required to wear baseball pants and a team workout shirt

Disciplinary action

- Our disciplinary actions are not debatable
- We believe in conditioning our players as part of our disciplinary action. We will condition our players if we feel they are disrespectful, causing dramatic issues within the organization, or not giving a good effort

- By using this method, we feel we are able to teach our players to be accountable for their own actions as well as others

- We feel that it is our job to make sure we get a good effort, on the field as well as off the field, each and every day. If they fail to give a good effort, we will make sure we get an effort out of them through conditioning. We will condition them to make up for a lack of effort. This often applies to the whole team in most cases. We will win as a team, lose as a team and condition as a team. In certain circumstances, not everyone will be punished for one individual's actions.

Parent and Group Participation

We will need parent participation and volunteering to help meet our overall goals for the season. Listed are a few scenarios in which we will ask parents to help but are not limited to:

- Field work
- Assisting at practices
- Keeping a scorebook

