

Coach's Code of Conduct

Coaching a youth sport program such as Dixie Youth Baseball is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a manager or assistant coach, appointed by the South Hill Baseball (SHB) 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 embodies the discipline of teamwork. It challenges players towards perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball also teaches that while every player eventually strikes out or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat, play, or game. South Hill Baseball expects each all coaches to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Sportsmanship

1. I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good baseball skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I realize, accept, and will practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.
3. I understand that physical or verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the fields at the discretion of an umpire or SHB board member.
4. I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
5. I 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 single 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.
6. I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at the South Hill Baseball complex and any location used for a SHB team.
7. I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all games, including events outside the Dixie Youth complex.
8. I understand the use of tobacco and vapor products on the fields and in the dugouts is prohibited and is only permitted at the parking lot.

Rules and Policies

1. I will know and understand the rules and abide by them (whether local or national). I will instruct my team members/assistant coaches in the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.

2. I will adhere to all Dixie Youth safety guidelines from the Dixie Youth rulebook and SHB local league options.
3. I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All coaches must ensure that each player get minimum opportunities to bat and play the field in each game. I also understand that specific rules are also in place to limit the number and frequency of innings pitched by a particular player.
4. I will review the SHB website on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all updated Dixie Youth and SHB Rules and policies.

The Umpires and Other Resources

1. I recognize baseball is a game of interpretations, and 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 umpire will be handled in a civil manner. I understand only managers may initiate such discussions with an umpire. The 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 Board of Directors.
2. I understand at times some of the umpires are “in training” as are the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position within the game deserves.
3. I will be responsible in caring for equipment, for keys delegated for my use, for care of fields prior to games and for cleaning up fields, dugouts and stands after games. I will make sure that all league-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

The Parents and the League

1. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous manner.
2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of the SHB (i.e., SHB is organized as a recreational league, meant for the enjoyment of all the players).
3. Team meetings before the season starts are very important, usually first practice. Be sure to text team parents and let them know they need to be at the first practice and meet with them in the stands to discuss concessions support volunteering and rules such as parents are stands only, door is closed at game start and no parents can come on field or dugout. Be sure to pass along all players wear SH baseball shirts and hats... coaches as well. Our sponsors keep our league going, we will wear provided hats/shirts. Concessions fees will be returned to parents after working one night, please pass this along. To help keep an open line of communication with parents and ward off any

drama, let parents know if they have any issues that need attention, please tell them to come to you first instead of discussing with other parents, communication is key. Social media is used by everyone these days, please let parents know we all share photos and should use such sites in a positive manner for our kids. No one should post any negative comments about teams, coaches, players, umpires or anything having to do with SH baseball.

4. I will ensure that fans of the team/parents conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games. I will make sure that coaches and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game. Doors closed at start of games.

5. I will support (through participation and organization of parents) SHB in fundraising efforts and concession duty.

The Team

1. I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of all players.

2. I will 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 competition.

3. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.

4. I 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 of Managers

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:

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games, and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner. The league has a team website that should be sent to all parents with schedule.

2. I will attend all required coaches' meetings, safety, coaching, and umpiring clinics unless I am out of town or have a significant previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.

3. I will complete, obtain, and submit to the League all required paperwork, which will include Coaches Applications before the season starts.
4. I will make sure that I read the SHB Rules at southhillbaseball.org and a copy of the national Dixie Youth rule book and share with assistant coaches.
5. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and SHB officials. 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.

SHB has a “zero tolerance” policy for any aggressive or inappropriate physical contact with any player, coach, umpire, parent, fan or other person and any breach of this rule is grounds for immediate action, including removal from the position of Coach, Manager, Umpire, and Spectator privileges.

Signature

Date

Print name

Not adhering to SH Baseball terms:

First offense..... suspension from coaching the next game

Second offense..... suspension from 1 week of coaching games

Third offense..... removal from coaching permanently