

# **Hudson Youth Baseball (HYB) - Codes of Conduct**

*(Revised: 2/8/2021)*

Hudson Youth Baseball (herein afterwards referred to as "HYB") is designed to provide a robust, structured, supervised, instructional and competitive baseball program. HYB fosters an environment that emphasizes sportsmanship, fair play, physical and mental well-being, teamwork, baseball skills development, community involvement, volunteerism, and the development of good citizens and positive role models for the community.

In order to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, managers, coaches, umpires, board members and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in the Hudson Youth Baseball league, the following Codes of Conduct have been established, adopted, and will be enforced throughout every season:

## **Players Code of Conduct**

Each **Player** will ensure that he/she conducts himself/herself in a courteous, polite and fair manner during all games, practices and other HYB events to the limits of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the **Player** is expected to abide by the following at all times:

1. Respect the rules and abide by them. *Note: It is generally understood there is an initial learning curve for younger players when it comes to understanding and following the playing rules.*
2. Respect the umpires and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game. The team's manager may address the umpires during the game but only within the provisions of the rules and in a courteous, respectful manner.
3. Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, and/or gestures of ill temper, and physical assault upon another player, coach, manager, board member, umpire or league official at any time.
4. Respect the manager, coaches, players and spectators of the opposing team and demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of every game - be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
5. Follow all practice or game facility rules/regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
6. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy and manners of each individual player.
7. The use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or other illegal substances by players at HYB events is strictly prohibited.
8. Conduct himself/herself in a manner befitting the founding principles of HYB when traveling to "away" games or tournaments.

## **Coaches Code of Conduct**

Each **Manager and Coach** will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a mature adult, with the best interests of every ball player and HYB continually expressed. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, each **Manager and Coach** is expected to abide by the following at all times:

1. Respect the rules and abide by them.
2. Instruct his/her team 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.

3. Respect the umpires and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner. Only the team's manager may address the umpires during the game and only within the provisions of the rules and in a courteous, respectful manner.
4. Ensure that the players and spectators follow game and practice facility rules and regulations.
5. Ensure that fans of his/her team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game/practice sites; assist the umpires in maintaining control of spectators during the games.
6. Respect the manager, coaches and players of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win or lose.
7. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
8. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
9. Instruct team support personnel (e.g., assistant coaches, scorekeepers, field maintenance) in their responsibilities in accordance with established rules and procedures.
10. 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.
11. The use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products at games, practices and all other HYB sponsored events where children are present is strictly prohibited. Exceptions are made in specific instances where HYB members are attending an event and the hosting facility or organization (such as the NH Fishercats) allows the purchase of alcoholic beverages. However, even in that instance, excessive consumption of alcohol should be avoided.
12. Refrain from using email or social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) to publicly post material that is offensive, harassing, discriminatory, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate, or that knowingly causes harm to HYB, its managers, coaches, umpires, board members, players or spectators.

## **Spectators Code of Conduct**

Each **spectator** will ensure that his/her conduct at all games and practices is that of a mature adult with the best interests of every ball player and HYB continually expressed. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, every spectator is expected to abide by the following at all times:

1. Respect the rules of the game.
2. Respect the umpires, managers, coaches and players and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful or abusive manner.
3. Cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner, refraining at all times from making hostile, negative, or abusive remarks about the opposing team, its coaches, players or spectators.
4. Refrain from shouting instructions from outside the playing area that might otherwise distract, confuse, interrupt or startle players, managers, coaches or umpires in the field. Managers and coaches only are responsible for handling instruction on the field.
5. Adhere to all practice/game facility rules and regulations.
6. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose.
7. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.
8. The use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products at games, practices and all other HYB sponsored events where children are present is strictly prohibited. Exceptions are made in specific instances where HYB members are attending an event and the hosting facility or organization (such as the NH Fishercats) allows the purchase of alcoholic beverages. However, even in that instance, excessive consumption of alcohol should be avoided.

## **Board of Directors Code of Conduct**

Each board member will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a mature adult, with the best interests of every ball player and HYB continually expressed. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, each **board member** is expected to abide by the following at all times:

1. Respect and enforce the rules of the game.
2. Act in a manner that enhances the integrity of the Board in the community it serves.
3. Treat every player, manager, coach, umpire, spectator and other board members with courtesy and respect.
4. Demonstrate a willingness to cooperate and deal openly on all matters. This includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum in group and individual behavior when representing the Board on all matters.
5. Individual board members or groups of board members who are interacting with the public, press or other entities, shall emphasize that they do not speak for the Board of Directors unless specifically designated to do so by the Board of Directors.
6. Board members shall attend meetings on a regular and punctual basis. When unable to attend a meeting due to a personal matter or other necessary commitment, that person should notify the Secretary, President or otherwise appointed board member with as much advance notice as possible. Excessive absences may result in forfeiture of a position on the board, as decided upon by the other board members.
7. The use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products at games, practices and all other HYB sponsored events where children are present is strictly prohibited. Exceptions are made in specific instances where HYB members are attending an event and the hosting facility or organization (such as the NH Fishercats) allows the purchase of alcoholic beverages. However, even in that instance, excessive consumption of alcohol should be avoided.
8. Refrain from using email or social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) to publicly post material that is offensive, harassing, discriminatory, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate, or that knowingly causes harm to HYB, its managers, coaches, umpires, board members, players or spectators.

## **Responsibility for Conduct**

Acceptance into the HYB program requires that each participant (player, manager, coach, spectator and board member) acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct each season.

During online registration, players and their families will be provided an electronic version of this Code of Conduct to acknowledge agreement. If registration is in person, each player and parent/guardian will receive a paper copy to sign and acknowledge agreement.

During all games and practices, it is the responsibility of each team to ensure that their managers, coaches, players and spectators abide by the respective CODE of CONDUCT at all times.

## **Definition of Certain Offensive Actions**

NO manager, coach, player, board member, parent/guardian or spectator is to:

1. refuse to abide by any umpire's decision;
2. be guilty of objectionable demonstration by throwing equipment or any other forceful action;
3. be guilty of heaping verbal abuse upon an umpire for any real or imaginary decision or judgment;

4. be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon a player, an opposing manager, coach, board member, umpire or spectator;
5. at any time, lay hands upon, push, shove or strike an umpire, manager, coach, player, board member or spectator;
6. be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, opposing manager, coach, umpire, spectator, board member or any other HYB, Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth official.

## **Improper Conduct Penalties**

The League President and/or HYB Board of Directors or any future-appointed Code of Conduct Committee reserves the authority to discipline managers, coaches, players, board members or spectators during the course of the season for conduct deemed detrimental to the good order of the League. Such actions may include a warning, suspension or expulsion from the league. In extreme situations or if there is reason to believe a crime has been committed, local law enforcement will be notified. Improper conduct on the part of managers, coaches, players, or spectators during a game, practice or other league-sponsored event may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the game/practice/facility, or in extreme cases, forfeiture of a game.

**GAME EJECTIONS:** All game ejections will be considered CODE of CONDUCT violations, and the manager, coach or player responsible will be automatically suspended for a minimum of ONE (1) game. Additional penalties above and beyond a one-game suspension may be warranted if the actions are of an egregious or severe nature. The League President, Board of Directors, or any future-appointed Code of Conduct Committee will define any further appropriate penalties and must approve permission for any suspended player, manager or coach to participate in any games, practices or other league events subsequent to the incident for which they were ejected. All rulings of the League President, Board of Directors or its Code of Conduct Committee will be expedient, provided that both team managers and the Umpire-in-Chief report the facts relative to the ejection promptly. A player, manager or coach ejected from a game should be notified at the time as to the cause of the ejection; both managers are required to notify the Division Director and League President when an ejection occurs. A written report by the ejecting umpire explaining the reason(s) for the ejection should be provided in all situations involving ejection to the Umpire-in-Chief. Any manager, coach, player, board member, or spectator striking or shoving an umpire will be suspended from attending any HYB activities for the remainder of the season.

*Disclaimer: HYB and its Board of Directors hereby reserves the right to change, modify or make any other further adjustments to this Code of Conduct policy as it deems is warranted.*