

Brandon Valley Baseball Association Coaches Code of Conduct

Approved October 8, 2023.

Organizational Values:

The Brandon Valley Baseball Association Coaches Code of Conduct is established to promote a positive and respectful environment for all participants, including players, coaches, parents, and spectators. It outlines the expectations and standards of behavior for all members of the Brandon Valley Baseball community.

Brandon Valley Baseball Association maintains a high standard as it applies to organizational values, which include:

1. It's about community.
2. Maintaining a culture that supports our student-athletes to reach their full potential in school, allow all participants of BVBA to be good citizens and role models for others in the community, and encourage anyone participating in BVBA to understand it is for the betterment of the program before themselves.
3. Support an environment that allows for open and honest communications among all, including having student-athletes and coaches communicate with each other pertaining to the player's role on the team, the coach's expectations for the player, and opportunities to improve for the betterment of the program. Parents must accept their role is to not interfere with a player/coach relationship and be supportive of the process.
4. Building a team-first approach that recognizes student-athletes, parents and coaches for leadership, attitude and ability to contribute for the greater good.

Code of Conduct:

General Conduct: It is the responsibility of all BVBA board members, officers, directors, volunteers and coaches to adhere to and assist in the enforcement of all adopted rules, regulations and policies of the Brandon Valley Baseball Association.

1. The BVBA Board of Directors, or specifically the Executive Committee, will ultimately oversee compliance with the Coaches Code of Conduct and administration of any penalties.
2. The BVBA Vice President will be the point of contact for any alleged violations of the Coaches Code of Conduct.
3. A Committee for Conduct and Responsibility will be responsible for investigation of any violations of the Coaches Code of Conduct and will provide the evidence to the BVBA Board of Directors or Executive Committee for consideration of any penalties.

The BVBA Vice President will serve as Chair of the Conduct and Responsibility Committee. As appropriate the Conduct and Responsibility Committee may include law enforcement.

4. Complaints or violations of the Coaches Code of Conduct brought to the Committee for Conduct and Responsibility will require visual proof (e.g., a citation, photograph, etc.) or corroboration from a witness before it is pursued. Corroboration will be defined and determined by the Committee for Conduct and Responsibility and approved by the full BVBA board.

5. Within the confines of privacy and any legal restrictions, the parties directly associated with any violation of the Coaches Code of Conduct will be notified by the BVBA Vice President of any action taken by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

Coaches Conduct:

At all times, coaches will represent BVBA, their respective teams and the community of Brandon in such a manner that set an example for all. Coaches will abide by the following:

1. **Player Safety:** Ensure the safety of players at all times. Coaches will not engage in habitual disobedience with rules, regulations, policies or instructions given by the BVBA Board of Directors.

For all 9U-12U coaches and teams, no coach or a parent of a player is allowed to schedule more than 10 tournaments (inclusive of the state tournament) for said team or players between the 15th day of March in any given year up until the July weekend hosting the South Dakota Class A State Tournament without the express prior written consent of the Director of Baseball. After the South Dakota Class A State Tournament and up until the end of February of the following year no coach shall force a BVBA team or player to play in additional tournaments. Participation in tournaments outside this window is strictly voluntary and at the discretion of the parents of the player. The coach should not apply peer pressure or allow players or other parents to apply peer pressure to any player or parent considering playing in said tournament.

2. **Player Treatment:** Not reprimand a player in a demeaning manner, publicly or privately, but communicate with them in ways that will provide the greatest opportunity for growth and development. A coach should never attempt to *motivate* a player by using demeaning comments, words or actions.

3. **Respect:** Treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect.

4. **Promote Sportsmanship:** Promote good sportsmanship with parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials at all times.

5. **Dress in BVBA gear:** Dress appropriately for the game of baseball, which includes full game uniforms for 13U to Legion. For 9U to 12U teams, the coach should at all times wear a BV hat and shirt.

6. **Drug, Alcohol and Criminal Conduct:** Not use tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol or illegal drugs during games, practices or any time when coaches have responsibility for their team.

7. **Ensure Compliance with Policies:** Address player misconduct timely and appropriately, which may include the removal of a player from a game for throwing a bat, helmet, and/or glove, or using profane language.

8. **Report Misconduct:** Report repetitive misconduct by an individual player, parent, or fan to the BVBA Vice President. In the event that the BVBA Vice President is involved, reports should be made to the BVBA President.

9. **Sportsmanlike Conduct:** Absolutely not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, parent or fan. This may include inappropriately talking to, yelling at or raising your voice at an opposing player, coach, parent or fan.

10. **Inappropriate Behavior:** Not engage in any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.

11. **Comply with Rules:** Follow the BVBA, league, state, and national rules and policies relative to regular season and tournament play, including any player and pick up player participation rules and pitch-count or innings rules.

12. **Set Team Expectations:** Have a player and parent meeting as soon as possible. Tell the parents your philosophy on coaching, practice expectations and playing time. Inform them of your travel rules, expectations, and consequences. Provide each player with game and practice schedules. Coaches are expected to establish appropriate and reasonable rules and expectations with their team prior to the start of the season or during a team's first practice and clearly communicate those expectations to players and parents. The BVBA Board of Directors may ask for those rules and expectations in writing. No rule or expectation implemented by a coach may conflict with this Code of Conduct or BVBA rules and policies.

13. **Accountability:** Coaches will be held accountable by the BVBA Board of Directors for lack of appropriate disciplinary action for violations of the Coaches Code of Conduct. This accountability may include removal as the team coach.

14. **Travel:** When driving to and from games, please drive responsibly and adhere to the rules of the road. We don't need an accident to occur which was the result of carelessness.

Criminal Investigations:

1. Brandon Valley Baseball Association will cooperate with any investigation involving legal authorities, including, but not limited to Brandon Police Department, Sioux Falls Police Department, Department of Criminal Investigation, State Attorney's Office, South Dakota Attorney General's Office, and others.

2. The BVBA Board of Directors will have discretion on any punishment involving a player or coach during and after an investigation.

Consequences of Violations:

Violations of the Brandon Valley Baseball Association Coaches Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions, including warnings, suspensions, or removal from the team or organization, as determined by the sole discretion of the Director of Baseball, and/or BVBA Board of Directors as applicable and outlined in this Coaches Code of Conduct Policy. Coaches violating this policy may be required to watch a Sportsmanship Video offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Any decisions or actions taken will be final and not subject to review or appeal.

Reporting Violations:

Players, coaches, and parents are encouraged to report any violations of this policy to the Director of Baseball or BVBA board members. All reports will be treated confidentially and taken seriously.

Acknowledgment:

By signing this Coaches Code of Conduct, all coaches agree to abide by these principles and uphold the values of Brandon Valley Baseball Association. All coaches also understand that their conduct reflects not only on themselves but on the entire organization and Brandon community.

Date: _____

9U to 12U Travel Teams, 13U to Legion:

Coach's Name (Printed): _____

Coach's Signature: _____

BVBA Team: _____