



**CHIPPEWA VALLEY PATRIOTS
BASEBALL & FASTPITCH,
PLAYER AND PARENT
HANDBOOK
2025**

Welcome Baseball and/or Fastpitch Participant and Parent(s),

The Chippewa Valley Patriots Baseball and Fastpitch (CV Patriots) is designed to give each child an understanding of the importance of becoming a life-long participant in sports and physical activity.

Our goal is to provide a positive and fun experience for all participants. Our program strives to provide an environment that enhances a player's self-esteem and embodies the spirit of teamwork, sportsmanship, and community. As a participant, or a parent of a participant, you play a key role in that experience. We set out to create a fun baseball/fastpitch experience for all kids and families and to teach the fundamentals of the game.

This handbook has been developed to help participants and their families understand this program's expectations, and how to achieve a positive youth sports experience for all involved. Your support helps make youth sports programs fun and successful. Youth sports programs cannot exist without the positive influences that you bring. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

CV Patriots Baseball and Fastpitch

Baseball & Fastpitch Philosophy

The Chippewa Valley Patriots(CV Patriots) Youth Baseball and Fastpitch is dedicated to teaching children in our community the fundamentals of baseball/fastpitch in a safe, positive, and age-appropriate manner. We measure our success every season by the number of kids that are excited to come back and play baseball/fastpitch with us again the following season. We strive to teach valuable life lessons through athletic competition.

Through character development, we can help young athletes reach goals on and off the field.

“I’ve found that the more you practice, the better you get. If you want something enough and work hard to get it, your chances of success are greater.”

- Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox

Coaches and Assistants

- A. All coaches and assistants are required to complete a volunteer application which includes a background check prior to coaching any youth sports. This process is required to be completed each year. All forms should be returned to the CV Patriots.
- B. Approval is required to coach any youth sport.
- C. All coaches must receive, agree, and sign the Coaches Code of Conduct prior to coaching or assisting any team.
- D. All coaches must understand and agree to carry out the duties, responsibilities, policies, and philosophies as established by the CV Patriots Baseball and Fastpitch Program.
- E. Head coaches are advised to hold a pre-season meeting with parents to establish an open line of communication with parents, review the Parents Code of Conduct, outline expectations for coaches, parents, and players, coordinate any needed parental assistance, and distribute schedules and other important information.
- F. Only the head coach and assistant coaches should be allowed in the dugout with the team during an official game. One coach must remain in the dugout with the players at all times. If there are not enough assistant coaches available, the head coach can designate a parent the duty to monitor the dugout.
- G. Excessive playing, horseplay, roughhousing, etc. are not allowed in the dugout area. Absolutely no swinging of bats is allowed while in the dugout. Bats should only be handled when batting or in the on-deck circle.

Player Eligibility and Team Composition

- A. Baseball registration is open to ages from 8U-17U
- B. Fastpitch registration is open to ages 7 through 16.
- C. Players fees are listed on the CV Patriots website and updated annually.
- D. Tryouts are in August? of each year with registration opening in September.
- E. Players may participate on only one team within CV Patriots. Players found to be participating on two teams may be removed from the games and program. Games in questions may be forfeited. (subs? Vs officially rostered?)
- F. Exemptions are allowed with administration approval.

- G. Each team shall consist of players within the required age/grade level. We strive to not have more than 15 players on each team but understand that we may accommodate more.
- H. Parental consent to participate may be withdrawn at any time.
- I. Requests to withdraw should be submitted to CV Patriots board of directors.
- J. Teams will be composed of the following age/grade levels.
 - a. Baseball age cut-off is April 30 of the year
 - b. Fastpitch is age as of January 1.
- K. Baseball Age Group
 - a. 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U
- L. Fastpitch Age Group
 - a. 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U

Player Scholarships

- A. CV Patriots strives to ensure that all players, regardless of circumstance, can participate in our program.
- B. Scholarships, to cover the registration fee, are available to those in need.
- C. Please contact info@cvpatriots.org at the time of registration if you would like to request a scholarship. Requests will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Uniforms and Equipment

- A. Each head coach will be provided with equipment for his/her team that will consist of the
- B. Following:
 - o Bats, batting helmets, catcher's gear, and baseballs/softball
 - o Scorebook for games
- C. Parents are encouraged, however, to purchase their own bat and batting helmet for their child.
- D. Please check league rules before purchasing bats to ensure they meet league specifications. If coaches need additional gear, please ask CV Patriots board of directors.
- E. Uniforms, including hats, will be purchased by CV Patriots in partnership with identified team sponsors.
- F. Players will be expected to supply their own team helmet, gloves/mitts, shoes/cleats, and batting gloves.
- G. Molded and metal cleats may be worn by players. Metal cleats are not to be worn on any artificial turf surfaces. Gym shoes and turf shoes may be worn inside. Tournament rules may vary.
- H. Catchers must wear all protective equipment. This includes masks, helmet, skin guards, chest protector, and athletic supporter with a protective cup if applicable.

Team Practice

- A. CV Patriots Corporation will determine the practice schedule based on facility availability, number of teams, and weather. The goal is to hold two practices a week prior to starting games. Once games begin, teams should practice 1-2 times per week.
- B. Due to limited field availability, practices may be scheduled any day of the week.

Game Schedules and Locations

- A. Game times and locations will be provided to parents as soon as they are made available.
- B. Game locations will consist of both home and away games. Due to limited field availability, this may impact the number of allowable home games for each team.
- C. We recognize that weather cancellations do happen. Head coaches will try to notify parents as early as possible, understanding that for away games travel is necessary. Coaches and league staff will work to reschedule a cancelled game as soon as possible.

Officials and Umpires

- A. Our umpires, depending on game location, are sometimes high school student-athletes, parents/coaches, or certified umpires. They know the game which they are officiating quite well.
- B. We ask that you are respectful of their game management. If there is an issue with an umpire, please address it with the head coach or program administrators.

Code of Conduct for Coaches, Parents, and Players

- A. In keeping with our commitment to provide a fun and positive atmosphere for all our participants, the CV Patriots strives to set high expectations for not only our players and coaches, but our parents as well. We acknowledge that without the support of our parents and our community, youth sports would not be possible. By giving careful thought to these codes of conduct and putting effort into living up to them, each of us can help create this positive environment.
- B. For a program to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of everyone involved: players, coaches, umpires, league administrators, and especially parents. All players, coaches, parents, and spectators will be held to the Codes of Conduct.

Player Code of Conduct

- A. The CV Patriots strives to provide a positive and fun experience for our players. Our players play a key role in helping us deliver on this promise. As a player within this program, you are committed to being a great teammate, working hard, bringing your best self to every practice and game, and doing your part to contribute to a positive experience for everyone. Player Code of Conduct will be distributed to all players during the registration process.
- B. Players commit to the following Code of Conduct as a player for CV Patriots:
 - I will **always** display good sportsmanship towards my teammates, coaches, opposing players, opposing coaches, umpires, parents, and spectators.
 - I will **always** display a positive attitude at practice or during a game.
 - I will treat **all** players, coaches, opponents, and fans with respect.
 - I will not yell or degrade teammates, opponents, coaches, fans, or umpires.

- I will **support and encourage** my coaches and teammates by working hard, listening, and being positive.
- I will **attend** and be on time to all games, practices, AND I will communicate directly with the coach, in advance, if I am going to miss a practice or a game.
- I understand that playing time is earned in practice through effort and attendance and unexcused absences from games and practices may affect my role on the team.
- I will **always** sprint on and off the field. Hustle is contagious and positively impacts my team.
- I will not throw or mistreat my equipment in anger and will follow all team/league rules to ensure safe play. (add to line above or separate)
- I understand that if I do not conduct myself in a positive and supportive manner that I will be held accountable for my actions.

Coaches Code of Conduct

- A. CV Patriots recognizes the significant impact a coach has on the lives of their players. A coach should always strive to provide a positive experience for all their players. Youth sports is an opportunity for an athlete to develop not only their athletic skills, but also their character. Coaches play a vital role in that process, so we expect our coaches to treat players, other coaches, and parents with respect and dignity. Coaches Code of Conduct will be distributed to all coaches during the registration process.
- B. Coaches commit to the following Code of Conduct as a coach for CV Patriots:
 - First and foremost, I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my players ahead of my personal desire to win.
 - I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for all players.
 - I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
 - I will be knowledgeable in the rules of the sport that I coach, understand their intent and I will teach these rules to my players.
 - I am obliged by this code of conduct to make every effort to complete the game and practice schedule as it is written.
 - I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
 - I will provide a sports environment free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
 - I understand that I may never remove my team from the playing field or court during or prior to a scheduled game in protest.
 - I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

Parent Code of Conduct

- A. CV Patriots encourages all parents to attend their child's sports activities and offers numerous opportunities for parents to volunteer their time in support. For players to get the most out of their playing experience, parents should show their unwavering support, including positive reinforcement of your child's performance and effort. Parents should

also be positive role models by showing good sportsmanship and a positive attitude. A Parents Code of Conduct will be distributed to all families during the registration process.

B. Parents commit to the following the Code of Conduct as a parent of a player for NYBS:

- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for them, not adults.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the team/league and abide by them.
- I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or league event.
- I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, or using profane language or gestures.
- I will respect coaching decisions regarding playing time, position, and line-ups and will refrain from coaching any player.
- I will leave the coaching to the coach during the game. Coaches coach, players play, and parents encourage.
- I understand that unexcused absences from practices and games may affect playing time.
- I will have my child arrive on time or early to practices and games and prepared with gear, water/sports drink, and anything else they may need.
- I understand that communication is paramount; I will let the coach know in advance of my child's inability to participate in practice or games. Again, unexcused absences may impact playing time.
- I understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by an umpire, game official, or coach. Additional disciplinary action may be taken by CV Patriots.
- 24 Hour Rule – I will not approach my child's coach regarding playing time or placement of my child on the field before, during, or immediately after games.
- All questions/concerns will be addressed the day after the game in an atmosphere conducive to problem solving.

Enforcement of Code of Conduct

- A. CV Patriots is dedicated to raising the standard of service in youth sports through enforcement of our Codes of Conduct among our players, coaches, parents, and spectators.
- B. Our Codes of Conduct define the expectations for all who are part of our program, and it is the duty of CV Patriots to provide accountability when violations occur.
- C. We firmly believe that for the youth sports experience to be a positive, fun, safe, and a learning experience for youth, we must all hold ourselves and those around us to a high standard.
- D. Our program is dedicated to responding to complaints against any player, coach, parent, or spectator to ensure we meet our commitment of providing a positive atmosphere for

our athletes. The purpose of the outlined procedure below is to hear the complaint and to determine what, if any, action should be taken to correct the reported behavior.

E. If a violation of our Codes of Conduct has been determined, a range of possible actions could be taken by the CV Patriots administration.

F. Action may include:

- Warning to and/or apology from the player, coach, parent, or spectator
- Probation
- One game suspension
- Multiple game suspension
- Season suspension
- Inability to coach or play in the future

G. Coaches ejected from games by an umpire will be subject to the following expectations as a coach for CV Patriots:

- Leave the field and/or park immediately and take no further part of the game.
- Report ejections immediately to CV Patriots administration.
- Depending on circumstances, coaches who are ejected from a game may be suspended for their next game. During suspension, the coach is not to attend the game in any capacity.
- If further altercations/arguments are made prior to leaving the premises, a multiple game suspension or expulsion is possible.

Health and Safety

A. CV Patriots understands that the safety of the athletes is the number one priority.

Coaches understand that the health, well-being, and development of athletes takes precedence over the win/loss record.

B. Coaches are expected to adhere to the following safety rules for each team:

- Adhere to all pitch rules and in the absence of rules act in the best interest of player health and longevity regardless of the situation.
- Provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for practices and games.
- Exhibit sound injury and risk management skills at practice and games and encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- Ensure that all equipment is safe and ready to play.

C. The program has zero tolerance for any aggressive or inappropriate behavior or physical contact with any player, coach, umpire, parent, fan, or spectator. Any violation of the above safety guidelines may be grounds for immediate action, including removal from the position of coach.

D. Coaches are expected to follow the concussion policy as outlined below:

- A concussion is type of traumatic brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head.
- Even a seemingly minor “ding” can be serious.
- You can’t see a concussion.
- Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury.

- E. CV Patriots recognizes the potential danger and long-term health consequences of this often difficult to diagnose form of traumatic brain injury.
- F. This policy is intended to provide easy to understand guidelines related to players who are suspected of having a concussion or have been diagnosed with a concussion.
- G. Coaches, on their own time, will watch one of the following videos in its entirety at least once each year. Upon completion of the training course, a written copy of certificate will be provided to CV Patriots administration.
- H. CDC Heads up-Concussion in Youth Sports Online Training for Coaches
 - o <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/youth.html> (to save/print the certificate from CDC- do a “print screen” and paste that into Word, Powerpoint, Paint, etc.)
- I. NFHS Concussion in Sports-Free Training Course
 - o <http://nhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>
- J. Prior to each season, coaches will receive a copy of the CDC's “A Fact Sheet for Coaches” and “Signs and Symptoms/Action Plan”. During a game or practice session, coaches will follow the “Action Plan” if they suspect a player may have a concussion and must report the incident to CV Patriots administration.
- K. Action Plan
 - o Remove athlete from play.
 - o Ensure athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health care professional. Do not try to judge the seriousness of the injury yourself.
 - o Inform the athlete's parents or guardians about the known or possible concussion and give them “A Fact Sheet for Parents”.
 - o Allow the athlete to return to play only with the permission from an appropriate health care professional.

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

- A. I acknowledge that I have been provided a copy of the Chippewa Valley Patriots Youth Baseball and Fastpitch Handbook.
- B. I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth in the Chippewa Valley Patriots Youth Baseball and Fastpitch Player, Coach, and Parent Handbook.
- C. I acknowledge that the information in this handbook is subject to change at any time.
- D. CV Patriots reserves the right to modify and/or eliminate information in the handbook at any time. All changes will be communicated immediately by program administration, and I understand that the revised information may supersede, modify, or eliminate existing policies.

Please select the link below to sign that you have read and agree to the policies and procedures in this handbook. Parents/Guardians, Players, Coaches can sign on the one form.

<https://www.cvpatriots.org/forms/season/41251>