Umpire Code of Conduct

- You are a representative of FBA and have been hired to do a job. Be professional at all times and do your best with all calls.

- Be 15 minutes early to each game. A prepared umpire is a good umpire.

- No use of electronic devices or cell phones while you are on the field and on duty!

- Wear protective gear at all times when on the field. Plate umpire must have a facemask, chest protector, shin guards, and personal protection. Base umpire will need personal protection. All umpires must wear the uniform
    - Community - Blue shirt and either appropriately worn pants or shorts.
    - Travel – Official Hat, Pants, Shirt

- There will be no alcohol or tobacco use on or near the fields. This includes coaches and parents so please give warnings if you witness anything at the field and notify an FBA Board Member IMMEDIATELY.

- Show no favoritism or celebrating with either team. You must be neutral at all times. If a family member or good friend is on either team switch field with another ump if possible. You may not cheer or celebrate with any player.

- Review your "league" rules prior to each game to make sure you understand them. Have a copy of the rules with you at every game.

- Always have a coaches meeting at home plate before each and every game and let the coaches know your strike zone and also what is considered foul on those fields without fences.

    - Establish which team is the home team based on the schedule and know who the scorekeeper for the home team is. Any disputes the home book will be the final word.

    - Review the field of play for oddities such as no chalk lines, holes under fences etc... determine what is considered out of play.

- Be definitive in your calls. You are in charge of the game and your calls stand! Everyone makes mistakes but don't ever let a player or coach change your mind.

- Be LOUD! Make sure that every batter knows the count and call strikes and foul balls loud enough for everyone to hear. Coaches need to know if a ball is foul or fair especially for having their player steal.

- Don't be lazy! Get out from behind home plate and hustle if the play calls for it. This enables you to have the best view of a play. Every coach & player respects a hustling ump.

- Keep a level head. Things happen quick on a baseball diamond at times and you may need a second to digest it and then make your call. Take the second as it allows you to think before making a decision.

- Never use profanity towards a player and\or coach. No matter how bad a parent, player or coach may get, remind them in a calm but stern voice this is your diamond and we are playing a sportsmanship game tonight and if they can't abide by these rules they will be asked to leave. If problems continue, play will be halted until they leave. Coaches should assist in asking parents to leave.

- Above all else, ACT LIKE YOU WANT TO BE THERE! Everyone picks up on an umpire's body language or appearance if they do not want to be there or are having a bad day. Look like and act like an ump! You are being paid to provide a quality service and not just to show up.