

New Fairfield Baseball Travel Team Expectations

Parents and Players of the New Fairfield Travel Team -

We would first like to congratulate you on making the New Fairfield Travel Team. It is a great accomplishment and you should be very proud to be representing the town of New Fairfield in Cal Ripken Baseball. Below are a list of expectations that we need every player and parent to follow:

Commitment Rules:

All players are expected to exhibit what is called "Championship Behavior". This means players must display high standards of behavior and exemplify good sportsmanship. **Parents and family members of these players must also commit to the same level of high standards of good behavior and attitude during all team activities.** The New Fairfield Baseball Board reserves the right to revoke the privilege of any player/person to participate in the New Fairfield Travel Baseball Program, who does not conduct himself/herself in an acceptable manner. Violation of rules will result in discipline.

Discipline may include but is not limited to:

Game and/or practice suspension
Team suspension
Team removal

The following rules and regulations will apply to all players:

Players must attend and be punctual to all practices and games as scheduled.

Absence from team activities due to medical or family obligations are acceptable when approved in advance by the team's coach. (**Note – vacations, weekend getaways, etc. Do not fall under family obligations)

Unexcused absences may result in suspension as follows:

Missing one game - suspension from the next game

Missing two consecutive practices - suspension from the next game

Missing practice prior to the day of a game - the player will not start the next contest. The coach reserves the right not to play the child.

Team Rules:

1. If I am not able to make a practice or game, I must contact a coach. We understand that you may have other responsibilities such as school work and family commitments, but we do want to be notified. A legitimate reason must be supplied.
2. I will have a positive attitude toward instruction from the coaches. I will listen to the advice and instruction from the coaches and try my best to improve.
3. I will respect other players, coaches, fans and umpires. I will treat all others equally. I will create a positive environment by encouraging **all** players. All players are expected to represent our team with integrity on every social media platform. This includes treating teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials with respect at all times. **Cyberbullying, harassment, negative comments, or any online behavior that insults, embarrasses, or threatens another person will not be tolerated.** Players must use social media responsibly and understand that their online actions reflect on themselves, their teammates, and the program. Violations of this rule may result in disciplinary action, including loss of playing time or removal from the team.
4. I will treat all equipment respectfully. Throwing of gloves, helmets, hats, bats or any other equipment will not be tolerated. We intend on looking like a reputable organization/team.
5. If my parents or I have any questions or problems regarding practice or game schedules, we are to contact the coach.

Expectations of Parents and Fans in our Program:

Please understand that we as coaches make mistakes... we are not perfect, but we will do our best in making this a great season for every player on the team. There are three to four coaches for the players to listen to. Parents and fans should not be giving directions or any additional advice to players

while on the field or in the dugout. This only confuses the players. Players should hear one of three voices (The Head Coach or one of the Asst. Coaches)... this will help our players perform better, play together and keep a consistent environment. We would also recommend (not mandatory) that parents drop their son/daughter off at practice. If you feel the need to stay, please understand that you are there to observe, not coach. If one of the coaches needs your services, we will ask... please do not assume and/or ask if help is needed. We will reach out if help is needed.

1. Attend games – Cheer for both your child and our team in a positive manner. Do not behave belligerently or arrogantly toward our players, coaches, umpires, and members of opposing teams.
2. Be positive toward our players. Let them know that they are accomplishing something simply by being part of a team.
3. Avoid “putting down” coaches, athletes or other parents. We are all a part of one team. Please support our coaches, athletes and team.
4. Encourage athletes to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
5. If you have a concern that you wish to discuss with a coach please try to avoid being impulsive. Approaching a coach on the field before, during or after a game is not the right time or place. Sleep on it and then contact one of the coaches.
6. Be good models for your children. We want our players to be unified and not in small groups of 3 or 4 players. Parental team unity is expected and encouraged.
7. Parents and fans are expected to represent our program with respect and positivity on all social media platforms. This includes how you speak about our athletes, coaches, officials, opponents, and other families. **Negative posts, public criticism, harassment, or any form of cyberbullying will not be tolerated.** Please remember that young athletes are impacted by what is said about them online. We ask all supporters to model appropriate digital behavior, promote a positive team environment, and communicate concerns privately and respectfully. Failure to follow these expectations may result in restricted attendance at team events or other appropriate action by the program.
8. Only three to four Coaches and players are allowed in the dugout. If you need something, please ask one of the coaches.

Playing time:

During regular season league play the coach will give everyone an equal share of playing time. Please note...

- That equal does not mean that each player will have the exact number of at bats, innings played and/or positions played.
- If a player is in the line up as an EH or DH it is considered to be playing a position on the team in that inning(s).
- If a player makes a baserunning substitution for another player it is considered to be playing on the team in that inning.
- If a player makes a batting substitution for another player it is considered to be playing on the team in that inning.
- If a player is entered to a position on the field, but does not get an at bat it is considered to be an inning played on the team.
- Some players may record more innings than others based on positional needs of the team. Meaning... Some players do not pitch or catch and this could result in those positional players having more innings recorded at the end of the regular season play.

During tournament and playoff games the coaches have discretion over the lineup, positions and substitutions. The coaches will create a line-up that will give the team the best possible chance in winning the game/tournament while at the same time trying to get everyone in the game.

By becoming a member of the New Fairfield Baseball Program, I agree to abide by the above rules and expectations.

Thank you for your help, support and cooperation in the upcoming travel season.