



# MYBA Coaching Guidelines / Code of Conduct

## **Mission Statement:**

The Morton Youth Baseball Association (MYBA) is dedicated to nurturing the athleticism, technical skills, and mental growth of our players within a supportive and positive team environment. Our mission is to challenge players to embody values such as honor, resilience, integrity, teamwork, perseverance, confidence, competition, and sportsmanship. By fostering these qualities, we aim to develop players who are not only skilled athletes but also inclusive teammates, diligent students, and responsible community members.

## **Vision Statement:**

Our primary objective for MYBA is to provide a supervised baseball program that is enjoyable, educational, and challenging for all youth participants. We strive to equip our players with the essential fundamentals needed to excel in middle and high school baseball. Through our program, we seek to create a foundation that supports the holistic development of each player, preparing them for future success both on and off the field.

## **Coaching Qualifications:**

- MYBA will strive to select qualified coaches for all teams.
- All MYBA coaches will be required to pass a criminal history background check.
- Travel coaches will be knowledgeable and capable of a quality level of training for travel teams.
- While being a parent will not disqualify a coach from being selected as a travel coach, their child will be required to score high enough to make the team.

## **Desired Coach Qualities:**

- Respects others: athletes, officials, and other coaches
- Model of fair play, sportsmanship, and proper conduct
- A good teacher of the game as it may be taught to the age level of his/her players
- Develops ALL players equally
- Acts as a winner and stays positive in some of the worst times
- Supportive of the organization's goals and direction
- Sensitivity to safety issues
- Accepting of the importance of agreed baseball fundamentals and activities

- Maintains a focus on baseball being fun and instilling love for the game in the players
- An “equal opportunity coach” not biased in ways inconsistent with coaching responsibilities
- Will coach/work for the good of the team and organization and for the sake of baseball
- Shows personal interest in each player and can encourage and praise for good play and correct mistakes in a positive manner
- Is a student of the game

#### **Coaching Selections:**

- All new coaches must complete a formal application, background check authorization form, and be interviewed by the MYBA Board of Directors.
- Travel Coaches - The MYBA Board will make coaching recommendations to the MYBA Executive Board of Directors. All coaches will be selected by the MYBA Executive Board, based on formal qualifications and experience.
- Head coaches will select their own assistant coaches, subject to MYBA Board approval. Assistant coaches must be selected at least one week prior to the start of the season (1<sup>st</sup> practice) to allow adequate processing time for a background check. If assistant coaches are not selected in a timely manner, the MYBA Board may select the assistant coach to be assigned to any given team.
- MYBA will conduct background checks on all prospective coaches.
- Anyone may give input on candidates that they feel would be a positive and professional addition to the organization.

#### **Travel Head Coach Compensation:**

- Coaches shall not receive any form of payment for services rendered unless said payment is processed through the MYBA organization.

#### **MYBA Coaches’ Code of Conduct:**

- The coach will always place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- The coach will ensure that there is ALWAYS a second, background-checked adult present during all organization activities.
- The coach will always do their best to provide a safe playing situation for all players.
- In both victory and defeat, the behavior of the coach shall model grace, dignity, and composure.
- The coach will always treat referees, opposing players and coaches, staff, and spectators with respect.
- The coach will stress fair play and good sportsmanship whether winning or losing. During the game, the coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of their players. If one of your players is

## **MYBA Coaches' Code of Conduct (continued)**

disrespectful, irresponsible, or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.

- The coach will always do their best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players.
- The coach will challenge all players to excel.
- The coach will arrive early to set up practice and stay late to supervise all players until their parents' pick up.
- The coach will never cheat or engage in any form of unethical behavior that violates league/tournament/MYBA rules.
- During the game, the coach is also responsible for the conduct of the parents of their players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting. Encourage parents to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them (and you may need to be forceful and direct) from yelling at the players and the umpires.
- The coach shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of the game.
- The coach will not show favoritism toward any participant, nor will the coach have an alternate agenda when evaluating, playing, or instructing a participant.
- The coach will be a student of the game, striving to increase their knowledge and experience as a resource for their team and organization.
- The coach will develop players as individuals first and as a team second.
- The coach will emphasize fundamentals, focusing on players reaching the skill level identified for each age group.
- The coach will emphasize a high level of fitness and follow the organization's rules regarding safety.
- The coach will teach baseball as a thinking game, encouraging players' thinking development by allowing them to play games without constant directing of activities.
- The coach will set expectations and plans early in the year with each player and the team as a whole.
- The coach will direct the appropriate conduct of parents and spectators to support the desired learning environment.
- The coach will support the values and direction of the organization in player development and conditioning.
- The coach will attend and participate in events and meetings required of coaches by the organization.
- The coach will be a model of fair play, sportsmanship, and proper conduct.
- The coach shall not use abusive or profane language before anyone connected with any program activity.

### **MYBA Coaches' Code of Conduct (continued)**

- The coach will establish clear standards for player behavior and be consistent and impartial in enforcement.
- The coach will make reasonable efforts to try to resolve problems with parents and/or seek counsel from the MYBA Board of Directors to do so.
- The coach will help players keep areas clean and respect the fields/park.
- The coach will be responsible for the positive promotion of MYBA.

**Any violations of the Coaches' Code of Conduct may result in corrective action up to and including the termination of all coaching responsibilities within the MYBA organization. The Executive Board will discuss corrective actions and a majority vote will decide the outcome.**

Please ensure you have read, understand, and will abide by the MYBA Coaches' Code of Conduct. You will be asked to acknowledge your compliance to be eligible to be a coach.