

Minnetonka Baseball Association

Code of Conduct



All Minnetonka Baseball Association (MBA) players, parents, and coaches are required to follow the MBA Code of Conduct.

Section A. General Conduct. It is the responsibility of all Officers, Directors and Coaches to adhere to and assist in the enforcement of all adopted rules, regulations and policies of the MBA.

- The MBA Board will oversee compliance with the MBA Code of Conduct. The Vice President of MBA will be responsible for handling cases of noncompliance with the code.
- Any confirmed offense brought before the MBA Board will result in a warning, suspension or expulsion from MBA.
- Each complaint brought before the MBA Board will require corroboration before it will be pursued.
- The MBA Director of Leagues will be the point of contact for registering a complaint.
- The offended party and the community at large will be notified of any action taken by the MBA Board.

Section B. Coach Conduct. At all times, coaches will conduct themselves in such a manner so as to set an example for the players and represent the community well. Coaches will abide by the following:

1. Use no profanity.
2. Treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect.
3. Not reprimand a player in a demeaning manner.
4. Dress appropriately for the game of baseball.
5. Not use tobacco or alcoholic beverages during games or practices or when coaches have responsibility for their team.
6. Address player misconduct timely and appropriately according to these policies.
7. Report repetitive misconduct by an individual player to the MBA Director or Leagues.
8. Follow the concussion management rules required by MBA.
9. Not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
10. Not engage in any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
11. Follow the league-level rules and policies and tournament rules and policies, including the player rotation and pitch-count rules.

Section C. Player Conduct. Players are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times: before, during and after practices, games and while traveling out of town. At all times, players will conduct themselves in such a manner so as to represent the MBA and community well. Players will abide by the following:

1. Use no profanity.
2. Treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect. There will be no criticizing of other players on any team at any time.
3. Dress appropriately for the game of baseball.
4. Listen to and learn from coaches.
5. Be on time for practices, games and all meetings. Coaches must be notified of absences, prior to the practice or game.
6. Respect the equipment and facilities.
7. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. No throwing bats, gloves or helmets. No damaging dugouts, fields or other equipment or facilities. Proper disciplinary action must be taken by the offending player's coach(es) when this type of activity is witnessed.
8. "Hot Dogging," temper tantrums and the use of profane language are expressly prohibited by all players and proper disciplinary action must be taken by the offending player's coach(es) when this type of activity is witnessed.
9. Derogatory comments about other players, teams, coaches or umpires, whether in public or in social media are unacceptable. Disciplinary action must be taken by the offending player's coach(es) when they become aware of these comments or postings.
10. Proper disciplinary action by the offending player's coach(es) may include benching the player involved, or in more severe cases, suspending the player from play in the next game or games the team is to play. Disciplinary action resulting in suspension of a game or games must be reported in writing to the MBA Director of Leagues.
11. If the game umpires do not act, the level of disciplinary action to be taken in these cases is to be determined by that player's coaches. If there is a situation where coaches do not act, disciplinary action may be taken against those coaches.

Section D. Parent Conduct. Parents are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times: before, during and after practices, games and while traveling out of town. At all times, parents will conduct themselves in such a manner so as to represent the MBA and community well. Parents will abide by the following:

1. Remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not parents.
2. Inform the coach of any physical ailment or injury that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
3. Treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect.
4. Be a positive role model for the players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.

5. 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.
6. Teach my child to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
7. Demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
8. Refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
9. Refrain from making derogatory comments about other players, teams, coaches or umpires, whether in public or in social media.
10. Respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
11. Demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and refrain from their use at all MBA practices and games.

Section E. Fan Conduct. Fans must treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect. Violators may be required to leave the park by umpires or tournament officials. Coaches also have a responsibility to keep fans under control, and also may require fans behaving inappropriately to leave the park. Umpires may suspend or even forfeit games if their instructions are not followed. Additional penalties can be implemented by the MBA Board.

Section F. Policy on Mood Altering Chemicals. Use, possession, buying or selling of mood altering chemicals (e.g., alcohol, drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana, etc.) is EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED except as prescribed for personal use by a doctor. MBA follows the Minnesota High School League Policy on Mood Altering Chemicals, including the penalties stated in Bylaw 205.

Section G. Policy on Weapons. No weapons are allowed at any baseball event. Any player, coach or parent violating this rule is immediately suspended from the team activities pending MBA grievance hearing review. Weapon offenses may result in the immediate removal of the player from the program.