

Bennington Athletic League

Code of Conduct

What is Expected of B.A.L. Coaches:

1. Coaches will, at all times, have the safety and general well-being of the players in mind. Coaches will not intimidate, embarrass, or ridicule players. Coaches will aim to develop sound values, sportsmanship, fair play, a good practice ethic and fundamental baseball/softball skills in all players.
2. Coaches have been instructed that it is B.A.L.'s philosophy to have all players participate in no less than ½ of each season game. Coaches shall earnestly attempt equal participation by each player. Equal participation in tournament games may not be practical. Playing time in tournaments is strictly a matter of the coach's discretion. Coaches do have the authority to control playing time in respect to discipline or attendance of players.
3. Coaches must set an extremely good example of sportsmanship, fair play, observance of rules, and respectful attitude towards umpires at all times. Profanity is not allowed during games or practices.
4. Tobacco and alcohol use is not allowed in or near dugouts, on or near fields during games or practices. B.A.L. expects this rule to be obeyed-parents and coaches are strongly encouraged to help police and enforce, whether intentional or otherwise.

What is Expected of B.A.L. Players:

1. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is absolutely necessary. Unsportsmanlike conduct of any type shall not occur.
2. Maximum effort is expected at all times; including both practices and games.
3. Players shall not argue with coaches or umpires for any reason. Respect authority!
4. Hanging one's head after an error or mental mistake, or crying over a failure have no place on the ball field. Players shall not throw equipment (bats, helmets, etc.), kick dirt, or engage in any other form of conduct which could be embarrassing to the player, the team, or B.A.L
5. Players who miss practices or games may be restricted playing time, particularly if their absence(s) are not previously excused by the coach. Players, along with their parents, should discuss vacation plans with their coach as soon as possible.
6. Players need to clean their dugouts after all games and practices. No treats or other food items are allowed in the dugout.

What is Expected of Parents:

1. We want B.A.L. to be known as a League with great integrity, sportsmanship, and high morals. We ask that parents, other relatives, and friends attending games to absolutely refrain from abusing umpires, coaches, or players in any way. Parents are to set a good example for players and complaining about questionable umpiring calls or rulings does not project the sportsmanlike image we desire. This guideline will be strictly enforced, first by the coach and then, if necessary, by B.A.L. league representatives.

2. Parents are encouraged to cheer with tremendous positive enthusiasm. Instructional commands, however, are not allowed as the coach may have already trained or instructed the player to perform a certain pitch, throw to a base, steal, hit, bunt, etc. Instructions from parents and fans will only lead to confusion among the ball players.
3. During games, parents are asked to remain a good distance away from the dugout. Please allow coaches to be the only adult contact with players during a game.
4. Parents are encouraged to attend practices and games. Coaches may call upon parents in attendance to help with practice, score-keeping, umpiring, etc. Coaching responsibilities, however, are left to B.A.L. designated coaches only. Anyone challenging the authority of a coach will be asked to leave the league. Verbal and physical abuse of coaches will absolutely not be tolerated.
5. If any parent feels a coach has violated any of the following coaching guidelines or has any concern regarding their child or child's team, it is essential that the parent adhere to the following procedures in the order indicated:
 - a. Speak directly to the head coach in a civil manner AWAY FROM any organized team activities.
 - b. If the parent is unable to reach a mutually satisfaction resolution with the head coach, the parent should then contact a B.A.L. representative.
6. Tobacco and alcohol use is not allowed in or near dugouts, on or near fields during games or practices. B.A.L. expects this rule to be obeyed-parents and coaches are strongly encouraged to help police and enforce, whether intentional or otherwise.

Violations of the B.A.L. Code of Conduct:

Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations, League representatives may impose the one which appears to match the severity of the offense, as follows:

1. **Warning** - The offending person is to be advised of the offense and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
2. **Suspension** - The offending person is to be advised that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games or days.
3. **Dismissal** - The offending person is to be advised that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
4. **Barred** - The offending person is to be advised that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league permanently, or for a specific number of years.