



Aberdeen Hardball Association (AHA) Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct is for athletes and parents privileged to participate and be involved in our baseball program. While you participate as an athlete, you are representing yourself, the community of Aberdeen, and the Aberdeen Smittys Baseball program. This is a Code that will be used by coaches to ensure that all students involved in activities are treated uniformly. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and athlete to become familiar with and follow the guidelines in this code. The opportunity to participate in our baseball program is a privilege, not a right. An athlete who violates the Code of Conduct can lose this privilege. Parents who violate the Code of Conduct can cause their athlete to lose this privilege.

PARENTS:

1. Show a positive attitude towards the association, games, coaches, and all participants, including on social media.
2. Do not embarrass yourself, our town, and our association by yelling at players, coaches, or officials. Parents are not to communicate with coaches or players during the game.
3. Ensure that your head coach is contacted in advance if your player is unable to attend a practice or game.
4. Practice sessions are normally closed to spectators.
5. A 24- hour waiting rule will be in place for any communication from parents to coaches and/or Board of Directors. This would include game play, playing time, and policy changes. If there is a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow includes:
 - a. Please encourage your child to speak directly with the coach.
 - b. Never approach a coach immediately after a contest. This is not the proper time or place for a discussion concerning your child or the team. Call the following day and make an appointment, which is convenient for both you and the coach to meet.
 - c. Raise your concern in a calm, courteous and logical manner. Yelling, being rude, or using foul language is totally unacceptable.
 - d. Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Often a parent may be blinded by emotion, and this overrides logic and reason. Listening receptively may really help you to understand another viewpoint.
 - e. If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call to schedule an appointment with a member of the Board of Directors or email ahasmittys@gmail.com to discuss the situation.
 - f. Please note, playing time will not ever be discussed between a coach and a parent. Unlike recreation or intramural teams, equal or guaranteed playing time does not exist. In an effort to win, a coach will use players best suited to the conditions or demands of the contest at that time.
6. If rules 1, 2, or 5 are broken, the following penalties will be served by the offending parent: If profanity or threatening language is used by the parent, it constitutes a second offense.
 - 1st offense – Parent Game Attendance Suspension of 1 Game
 - 2nd offense – Parent Game Attendance Suspension of 5 Games
 - 3rd offense – AHA Hardball Board of Directors Discretion
7. A parent can have a prominent effect on the very important and delicate relationship between a player and a coach. If you express a negative opinion in front of your child, your athlete may carry with them your convictions. While a parent may not agree with all decisions of a coach, how and when to express feelings can have a decided effect upon the player/coach relationship.
8. Receiving technical or strategic instruction at home may interfere and conflict with the instructional process at practice sessions and games. This may ultimately impede your athlete's progress and affect their playing time or whether they win a starting position. Allowing the coach to instruct and guide the team is crucial in many respects.



Aberdeen Hardball Association (AHA) Code of Conduct

PLAYERS: ** A separate copy of this form is required for each player**

1. I will be a team player and get along with my teammates. I will show courtesy to other team players, officials, and fans at all times.
2. I will not swear or use abusive language on the bench, on the field, or at any team function.
3. I will not lash out at or disrespect any official, no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
4. I will conduct myself in an appropriate manner at all facilities (baseball field, hotel, restaurant, etc.) during all team functions, including on social media.
5. I will attend and be prompt for every practice and game, unless excused by the coach.
6. I will not misbehave during practice or any non-game baseball related activities. If I abuse this, I understand that I may be removed from the facility and I may not practice or play game(s) for the time frame specified.
7. I will not throw and/or abuse any equipment. If equipment is thrown/abused and damaged, the player will be expected to reimburse Post #24 for replacement costs.
8. I will keep my uniform clean, in good repair, and always tucked in when applicable; from pregame until the game is completed. I will wear my uniform, including my hat, correctly.
9. I will sprint to and from my position. I will run at full speed on all ground balls and fly balls, no matter how "inevitable" a putout might appear.
10. I will not haze, fight with, or bully anyone.
11. I will not steal or vandalize any property.
12. I will not use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol.
13. I will not use products containing tobacco and devices such as e-cigarettes or vaping devices with or without tobacco contents.
14. I will abide by all team specific rules as well as AHA Code of Conduct.
15. I will abide by any new/updated rules approved and communicated from the AHA Board of Directors.
16. If I choose not to abide by these rules or to violate the AHA Code of Conduct, I will be subject to disciplinary action by the team coach/Board of Directors.

DISCIPLINE FOR VIOLATIONS OF PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Items 1-9:	Coach's Discipline
Items 10-13:	First offense– 4 game suspension Second offense- season suspension
Items 14-16:	Coach's Discipline/AHA Board of Directors Discretion

EVIDENCE OF VIOLATIONS

1. Information received from law enforcement or court services personnel providing reasonable cause to believe an infraction has occurred.
2. A coach or player is found guilty or enters a no contest plea in a juvenile court or an adult criminal court.
3. A self-reported violation by a parent, coach, or player.
4. A reported violation by a parent, coach, player, or anyone affiliated with AHA.



Aberdeen Hardball Association (AHA) Code of Conduct

CODE VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

1. The AHA Board of Directors, or its designee, shall be responsible for the fair and equitable administration of the Code of Conduct.
2. This Code of Conduct is in force all year long for the entire AHA organization.
3. The possession, use, distribution of tobacco, alcohol, anabolic steroids, or the possession, use or distribution of marijuana or controlled substances, as defined Chapters 22-42, SDCL 13-32-9, is a violation of the Code of Conduct.
4. Any violation of any city, state, or federal law (excluding Class II Misdemeanors and all non-felony motor vehicle offenses) are a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Violation of any aspect of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. Such action will be at the sole discretion of the Aberdeen Hardball Association Board of Directors and coaching staff. Any decisions or actions taken will be final and not subject to review or appeal.

By signing below, the player and parent(s) agree to accept and abide by the Code of Conduct and to act responsibly on and off the baseball field consistent with the principles and ideals of the American Legion and the Aberdeen Hardball Association. Also, by signing below this policy is in effect for any parent, guardian, or relative of the player that supports the player on or off the baseball field.

Player signature

Date

Parent signature (one parent signature required)

Date

Parent signature

Date