



Brookings Friends of Baseball

Code of Conduct

Organizational Values

Brookings Friends of Baseball (FOB) maintains a high standard as it applies to organizational values, which include:

- Maintaining a **culture** that supports our student-athletes to reach their full potential in school, allow all participants of FOB to be good citizens and role models for others in the community, and encourage anyone participating in FOB to understand it is for the betterment of the program before themselves.
- Support an **environment** that allows for open and honest communications among all, including having student-athletes and coaches communicate with each other pertaining to the player's role on the team, the coach's expectations for the player, and opportunities to improve for the betterment of the program. Parents must accept their role is to not interfere with a player/coach relationship and be supportive of the process.
- Building a **team-first approach** that recognizes student-athletes, parents and coaches for leadership, attitude and ability to contribute for the greater good.

Code of Conduct

All FOB players, parents and coaches are required to follow the FOB Code of Conduct.

Section A. General Conduct. It is the responsibility of all FOB board members, officers, directors, volunteers and coaches to adhere to and assist in the enforcement of all adopted rules, regulations and policies of Friends of Baseball.

- The FOB Executive Committee will ultimately oversee compliance with the Code of Conduct and administration of any penalties.
- The FOB Vice President will be the point of contact for any alleged violations of the Code of Conduct.
- The Committee for Conduct and Responsibility will be responsible for investigation of any violations of the Code of Conduct and will provide recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration of any penalties. The FOB Vice President will serve as Chair of the Conduct and Responsibility Committee.
- Complaints or violations of the Code of Conduct brought to the Committee for Conduct and Responsibility will require visual proof (e.g., a citation, photograph, etc.) or corroboration from an adult witness before it will be pursued. Corroboration will be defined and determined by the Committee for Conduct and Responsibility and approved by the full FOB board.
- Within the confines of privacy and any legal restrictions, the parties directly associated with any violation of the Code of Conduct will be notified by the FOB Vice President of any action taken by the Executive Committee.

Section B. Coach Conduct. At all times, coaches will represent FOB, their respective teams and the community of Brookings in such a manner that sets an example for all. Coaches will abide by the following:

- Ensure the safety of players at all times.
- Not reprimand a player in a demeaning manner but communicate with them in ways that will provide the greatest opportunity for growth and development.
- Treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials with respect.
- Promote good sportsmanship with parents, umpires, opponents, fans and tournament officials at all times.
- Dress appropriately for the game of baseball, which includes full game uniforms from 13U and up.
- Not use tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol or illegal drugs during games, practices or any time when coaches have responsibility for their team.
- Address player misconduct timely and appropriately, which may include the removal of a player from a game for throwing a bat, helmet, and/or glove, or using profane language.
- Report repetitive misconduct by an individual player, parent, volunteer or other board member to the FOB Vice President. In the event that the FOB Vice President is involved, reports should be made to the FOB President.

- Absolutely not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, parent or fan.
- Not engage in any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- Follow the FOB, league, state, and national rules and policies relative to regular season and tournament play, including any player participation policy and pitch-count rules.
- Coaches are expected to establish reasonable rules and expectations with their team(s) prior to the start of the season or during a team's first practice and clearly communicate those expectations. The FOB Executive Committee may ask for those rules and expectations in writing. No rule or expectation implemented by a coach may conflict with the Code of Conduct.
- Coaches will be held accountable by the FOB Executive Committee for lack of appropriate disciplinary action for violations of the Code of Conduct.

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 FOB and its values well. Players will abide by the following:

- Treat teammates, opposing players, parents, umpires, fans and tournament officials with respect.
- Dress appropriately for the game of baseball.
- Listen to and learn from coaches.
- Maintain the appropriate attitude and work ethic at all times. Understand and respect your role on the team and in the program at all times.
- Be on time and ready for practices, games and meetings. Coaches must be notified of absences, prior to the practice or games. Failure to do so may result in a reduction in playing time or other consequences implemented by the coach.
- Respect the equipment and facilities.
- Good sportsmanship and behavior is required at all times.
 - No use of profanity.
 - No throwing of helmets, bats or gloves.
 - No taunting of any player, coach, game official, or fan.
 - No derogatory comments about players, coaches, game officials, or fans from either team. This includes comments made on any social media platform.
 - No physical altercations. Players may be allowed to defend themselves as appropriate.
 - Proper disciplinary action will be taken immediately by any coach that witnesses any of the actions listed above.
- Proper disciplinary action by the offending player's coach(es) for any of the actions listed above may include benching the player involved, suspending the player from subsequent games, and potentially expulsion from the team.

- Ejection policy. Any player will be subject to the following policies when ejected/removed from a contest for unsporting behavior:
 - 2 games for the first offense, 4 games for the second offense, 8 games for the third suspension, permanently removed from the organization for the fourth.
 - Suspensions will carry for the entirety of the players time from 9U-12U (*youth baseball*), 13U-14U (*middle school baseball*), and 16U-senior legion/high school (*high school baseball*). Penalties reset after each segment of the player's career.
 - Suspended players may not be inside the baseball field or involved in FOB baseball-related activities from two hours prior to the scheduled first pitch of a game until 30 minutes after the conclusion of the game.
 - Players may participate during a required team practice while serving a suspension as allowed by the coach and coaching coordinator.
 - FOB suspensions do not supersede an organization's tournament rules if the tournament rules are more severe.
 - Suspensions begin the game after the ejection/removal occurs. If the suspension begins during the second game of the double header, the player must leave the facility for the suspension to begin.
 - Rainouts/cancellations do not count toward a player's suspension. Suspended games will count as one game toward the suspension.
 - Suspensions may carry into the next season.
- Coaches have the ability to increase the level of discipline beyond the rules of the game or umpires action with approval from the FOB Executive Committee.

Section D. Parent Conduct. Parents are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner so as to represent FOB and the community of Brookings in a sportsman-like, first-class manner.

Parents will abide by the following:

- 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.
- Parent's attitude and comments will have a positive and/or negative effect on their child's experience.
- Treat coaches with respect. In many cases coaches are volunteers and not major league managers. Concerns regarding coaching should be brought to the appropriate Coaching Coordinator. Code of Conduct violations by a coach should be brought to the FOB Vice President.
- Treat umpires with respect and understanding. They are human too and many times are young umpires just getting started or even volunteers.
- Ejection policy. Parents/guardians who are ejected or asked to leave a venue by an umpire, tournament director, or member of a baseball organization/board while attending **any FOB contest or event** are:
 - Subject to a 2-week suspension for the first offense, a 6-week suspension for the second offense and a 1-year suspension for the third offense from all FOB-related activities.

- Suspensions apply to a parent/guardian who is ejected/removed for any contest - home or away - where an FOB team is competing.
- Parent/guardian ejections/removals will carry throughout the players entire time in the organization starting at 7U and continuing through senior legion.
- Violation of the suspension will result in further action by the FOB Executive Committee.
- Parents need to inform the coach of any physical ailment or injury that may affect the safety of the player or the safety of others.
- Support the teaching of the rules to all players and the ability to handle the emotions of a competitive environment.
- Demand that your child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- Provide encouragement and support but refrain from coaching your child or others during practice and games, unless you are serving as one of the official coaches of the team.
- Refrain from making derogatory comments about other players, teams, coaches or umpires whether in public or on social media.
- All parents are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** from being in the dugout, batting cages, bull pen or playing field prior to, during or immediately after a game/practice unless they are part of the coaching or support staff. Parents may deliver items to their player outside the dugout. **Exception:** Parents or guardians and volunteers with medical training may enter the dugout in the event of a severe injury.
- Respect the officials and their authority during games and never question, discuss or confront coaches at the game field. Give yourself the 24-hour rule. If you still have an issue after 24 hours from the conclusion of the game, to arrange a time to speak with the coach face-to-face if appropriate.
- Demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes and alcohol.

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, particularly at the U9-U12 levels, also have a responsibility to keep fans in control and may require fans behaving inappropriately to leave the park. Umpires may suspend or even forfeit games if fans asked to leave fail to accommodate. Additional penalties can be implemented by the FOB Executive Committee. Any fan that is ejected from a FOB contest by an umpire, coach, tournament official or FOB Board Member is suspended from all FOB events for a 2-week period. Violation of the suspension will result in further action by the FOB Executive Committee.

Section F. Policy on Mood Altering Chemicals. Use, possession, buying or selling of mood-altering chemicals - which include alcohol, drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana and others - is expressly prohibited except as prescribed for personal use by a doctor. This includes violations and non-violations of South Dakota Codified Law. It is important to note that neither

violations nor non-violations of SDCL require formal conviction. Evidence may include a citation, physical evidence (e.g., photographs, social media posts, etc.), or testimony from adult witnesses. The following consequences will be adhered to for violations by any player:

1. **First violation** - Suspension from all official games for a period of two weeks from initial suspension date. Practice participation will be subject to the coaching coordinator's recommendation and approval by the Committee on Culture and Responsibility.
2. **Second violation** - Suspension from all official games for a period of six weeks from initial suspension date. Practice eligibility will be subject to the coaching coordinator's recommendation and approval by the Committee on Culture and Responsibility.
3. **Third violation** - Suspension from all games and practices for a period of one year.
4. **Important notes:**
 - a. This policy applies to all FOB activities including both in-season and out-of-season practices, workouts, games, etc.
 - b. Penalties for violations incurred during out-of-season activities will be carried out in the subsequent season.
 - c. A suspension that is not completed by the player during one season carries over to the next season. A full season is both spring and summer baseball. Suspensions will carry over from the high school season to the legion season if necessary and the player participates in both during the same calendar year. A player that did not participate in spring ball and committed a violation during summer ball may not fulfill the suspension the following spring season.
 - d. All violations brought to FOB will be shared with the Brookings High School Activities Office.
 - e. Any penalties issued by Friends of Baseball may be above and beyond penalties administered by the Brookings School District as their code of conduct is separate and in effect 365 days a year. FOB and BSD have a signed agreement that allows BSD to govern the spring baseball season through its code of conduct, but that does not prevent FOB from implementing additional penalties.

Section G: Criminal Investigations. Brookings Friends of Baseball will cooperate with any investigation involving legal authorities, including, but not limited to Brookings Police Department, University Police Department, Department of Criminal Investigation, State Attorney's Office and others.

The FOB Executive Board will have discretion on any punishment involving a player during and after an investigation based on recommendations through the Committee for Culture and Responsibility.

Signature Sheet

I _____ have read and understand the Friends of Baseball Code of Conduct policy and will abide by the code and encourage my child to do the same. I have also read and discussed the code with my child who will be participating in FOB during the 2025 season.

I am a: Parent Coach Both

Signature (Parent/Coach)_____

Parent/Coach Printed Name:_____

Date:_____

Player Signature_____

Player Printed Name:_____

Date:_____

Date Received by FOB:_____

Note: Failure to submit the signature sheet prior to first practice day **will** result in the player not being allowed to participate.