

ECYB Rules and Guidelines Regarding Adult Behavior at Games and Practices

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ECYB, in partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance, strives to provide a positive, supportive environment for our kids to develop life skills as well as baseball skills. We also support and maintain our youth umpire program by strictly regulating adult conduct at our games. The following summarizes the primary rules and guidelines applicable to adults (including managers, coaches, parents, and other spectators) at our youth baseball games, practices, and league activities. Let the kids play and the youth umpires call the game. Please help us to keep the peace and protect our kids. Complete rules are posted at www.ecyb.org.

Model Good Behavior On and Off the Field

Misconduct on the part of adult leaders or players in connection with ECYB activities, on or off of the field, such as, but not limited to, fighting, threats of violence, and publicly audible use of foul or abusive language may result in disciplinary action . . .

Act Respectfully at Games and Practices

Managers and coaches shall provide a model of good behavior for their players and parents during the course of the games and during practices. They shall be required to relate to the umpires, parents and players of both teams and relate to each other with dignity and respect. Public ridicule or verbal or physical abuse of any Manager, coach, player, umpire, or spectator will not be tolerated.

Follow Guidelines for Good Sportsmanship at Games

Managers, coaches, parents, and spectators are expected to exercise good sportsmanship and follow conduct guidelines found in the ECYB Rules, the rules of PONY baseball (e.g., no alcohol or tobacco products), and the Parent Pledge of the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). Everyone should refrain from aggressive, violent, or confrontational behavior.

Parents should encourage their children to give a high level of effort, strive to learn and improve, and rebound from mistakes. Parents and spectators are encouraged to provide positive, "No Directions" cheering to support players on both teams. Cheering or chanting that demeans, embarrasses, intimidates, or taunts the opposing team or sideline is not acceptable.

Honor the Game and encourage players to maintain respect for the rules, opponents, umpires, teammates, and themselves.

ECYB Rules prohibit second-guessing of the umpires, managers and coaches; offensive language; physical abuse; threatened physical abuse; verbal threats; and taunting players, umpires, or other adult participants. Such behavior may result in a warning,

ejection from the game, or forfeiture of a game. Spectators may not stand behind or beside the backstop. Managers and coaches should similarly avoid standing behind the backstop, as it may distract the players.

*When fan control problems arise, the umpires or proper authority will stop the game and ask the Managers to control the problem. **If team management is unable to do so, the game will be stopped.***

Let the Youth Umpires Call the Game!!!

<u>Allowed Conduct</u>	<u>Inappropriate Conduct</u>
The manager may ask an umpire a question to clarify a rule interpretation or game ruling.	A manager cannot dispute or challenge a judgment call made by an umpire.
A manager may respectfully request a conference with the umpires to clarify a rule interpretation or game ruling. The manager may address the umpire making the call in a polite, respectful, and non-confrontational manner.	No coach, parent, or spectator may initiate or directly participate in any disputes or discussions involving the umpires and managers about an in-game ruling or rule interpretation (unless the coach is manager for the game).
The manager may submit criticism of an umpire’s performance in writing to the head umpire (Mark Beller, bigleaguebeller@sbcglobal.net) and umpire scheduler (Ellie Blue, elliesportspage@gmail.com).	No manager, coach, player, or spectator may discuss the strike zone, criticize field positioning on made calls, or otherwise purport to instruct umpires how to do their jobs.
Coaches may ask for the count of balls, strikes, or outs or call timeout.	Scorekeepers may not interact directly with an umpire, unless responding to a question.
The Division President, or the Division President’s designate, has authority during a game to inform the umpires and Managers of the meaning or content of the rules of baseball and of ECYB.	The Division President does not have authority to change any call by an umpire.
If an umpire makes one or more "bad" calls against your team, Honor the Game and stay silent!	No one may engage in conduct that would tend to pressure, intimidate, harass, or bully a youth umpire, including without limitation the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making or signaling a call before the umpire has made the call; • Questioning or arguing a judgment call made by an umpire; • Instructing an umpire to “ask for help” from another umpire; • Expressing dissent through words or action such as gestures or asking questions like “where did that miss?”; and • Discussing the strike zone with an umpire before, during, or after the game.

When Is Asking an Umpire a Question Appropriate?

The differentiation is whether it is a judgment call or a rules infraction. Simply speaking, if it is a judgment call, strike zone, close play on base; anything that could be called another way with a different set of eyes is off limits for questioning. So if an umpire calls a player out when it may be clear to anyone else that he was safe, it is not open to question, not even by another umpire. The manager cannot interfere by asking another umpire's opinion or intervention. Case closed. If the umpire has second thoughts, he is allowed to change his call or he can call in the other umpires to discuss the issue. The calling umpire still owns the call and can take or decline any suggestions by the other umpires.

Rules Infraction: A runner is barreling for home. The catcher is guarding the plate anticipating a throw from the field. The catcher stands his ground and the runner plows him under. What call? Under what circumstances can the catcher stand there and under what circumstances must the runner slide? This is clarified in rules of play in several sections of the published ECYB Rules. Safety is the prevailing factor here.