

DEEP CREEK BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

We (Deep Creek Baseball Association, Inc.) believe that athletic competition should be fun. Additionally, we believe that those who coach athletes, first and foremost, have a duty to assure that their teams impart important life skills and promote the development of good character. The essential elements of character building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when coaches consciously *teach, enforce, advocate* and *model* these values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Finally, we believe that sincere and good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our sports program and the well being of our athletes. This Code of Conduct applies to all Managers, Coaches and Administrators involved in DCBA sports.

TRUSTWORTHINESS:

1. *Trustworthiness* — be worthy of trust in all you do and teach athletes the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability and loyalty.
 - q *Integrity* — model high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; teach, advocate and model the importance of honor and good character by doing the right thing even when it's unpopular or personally costly.
 - q *Honesty* — don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in or permit dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - q *Reliability* — fulfill commitments; do what you say you will do; be on time.
 - q *Loyalty* — be loyal to your league and team; put the team above personal glory.
2. *Primacy of Educational Goals* — be faithful to character-development missions of the league and assure that these objectives are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals; always place the emotional, physical and moral well being of athletes above desires and pressures to win.
3. *Counseling* — be candid with athletes and their parents about the requirement of many colleges preventing recruitment of student-athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.

RESPECT:

4. *Respect* — treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of athletes.
5. *Class* — be a good sport, teach and model class, be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; encourage athletes to help up fallen opponents, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
6. *Taunting* — don't engage in or allow 'trash talking', taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
7. *Respect Officials* — treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
8. *Respect Parents* — treat the parents of athletes with respect; be clear about your expectations, goals and policies and maintain open lines of communication.

9. *Profanity*— don't engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures during practices, sporting events, or any other situation where the behavior could reflect badly on the league or the team.
10. *Positive Coaching* — use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for the sport. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that is demeaning to athletes or others.
11. *Effort and Teamwork* — encourage athletes to pursue victory with passion, to think and play as a team, to do their best and continually improve through personal effort and discipline. Discourage selfishness and put less emphasis on the final outcome of the athletic event.
12. *Professional Relationships* — maintain appropriate, professional relationships with athletes and respect proper coach-student boundaries. Sexual or romantic contact with athletes is strictly forbidden as is verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed to or in view of athletes.

RESPONSIBILITY:

13. *Life Skills* — always strive to enhance the physical, mental, social and moral development of athletes and teach them positive life skills that will help them become well rounded, successful and socially responsible.
14. *Advocate Education* — advocate the importance of education beyond athletic eligibility standards and encourage athletes to set and achieve academic goals.
15. *Advocate Honor* — prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship within the league and vigorously advocate the concept of pursuing victory with honor.
16. *Good Character* — foster the development of good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling high standards of ethics and sportsmanship which include the six core ethical values (noted above).
17. *Role-Modeling* — be a worthy role-model, always be mindful of the high visibility and great influence you have as a coach and consistently conduct yourself in private and coaching situations in a manner that exemplifies all you want your athletes to be.
18. *Personal Conduct* — refrain from profanity, disrespectful conduct, and the use of alcohol or tobacco in front of athletes or other situations where your conduct could undermine your positive impact as a role model.
19. *Competence* — strive to improve coaching competence and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching principles and current strategies, character-building techniques, and first-aid and safety.
20. *Knowledge of Rules* — maintain a thorough knowledge of current game and competition rules and assure that your athletes know and understand the rules.
21. *Positive Environment* — strive to provide a challenging, safe, enjoyable, and successful experiences for the athletes by maintaining a sports environment that is physically and emotionally safe.
22. *Safety and Health* — be informed about basic first aid principles and the physical capacities and limitations of the age group coached.
23. *Unhealthy Substances* — warn athletes about the dangers and of unhealthy and illegal substances including alcohol, tobacco and recreational or performance-enhancing drugs.

24. *Privilege to Compete* — assure that athletes understand that participation in community sports programs is a privilege, not a right and that they are expected to represent their league, team and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Require your athletes to consistently exhibit good character and conduct themselves as positive role models.
25. *Self-Control* — control your ego and emotions; avoid displays of anger and frustration; don't retaliate.
26. *Integrity of the Game* — protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble or associate with professional gamblers.
27. *Enforcing Rule* — enforce this Code of Conduct consistently in all sports-related activities and venues even when the consequences are high.
28. *Protect Athletes* — put the well being of athletes above other considerations and take appropriate steps to protect them from inappropriate conduct.

FAIRNESS:

29. *Fair and Open* — be fair in competitive situations, selecting a team, disciplinary issues and all other matters; and be open-minded and willing to listen and learn.

CARING:

30. *Safe Competition* — put safety and health considerations above the desire to win; never permit athletes to intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to themselves or others.
31. *Caring Environment* — consistently demonstrate concern for athletes as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another and think and act as a team.

CITIZENSHIP:

32. *Honor the Spirit of Rules* — observe and require athletes to observe the spirit and the letter of all rules including the rules of the game and those relating to eligibility, recruitment, transfers, practices and other provisions regulating competition.
33. *Improper Gamesmanship* — promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship; don't cheat. Resist temptations to gain competitive advantage through strategies or techniques (such as devious rule violations, alteration of equipment or the field of play or tactics designed primarily to induce injury or fear of injury) that violate the rules, disrespect the highest traditions of the sport or change the nature of competition by practices that negate or diminish the impact of the core athletic skills that define the sport.

Any violations of the following regulations should be reported directly a Deep Creek Baseball Association Board Member.

VIOLATIONS

1. Possesses, transports, consumes, sells, or uses alcoholic or malt beverages, controlled substances, and/or drug paraphernalia while at a Deep Creek Baseball Function.
2. Possesses, consumes, or uses smoking or smokeless tobacco, or unauthorized inhalants in and around Deep Creek Baseball Fields. Smoking will be permitted in the parking lot at Deep Creek Park and outside School Property at any Deep Creek Schools.
3. Commits any willful, persistent, disruptive behavior or any act in violation or subject to penalty under Virginia Commonwealth Statutes or local ordinance.
4. Commits any willful, persistent, disruptive behavior or any act in violation of rules or policies established by Deep Creek Baseball.
5. Directs, threatening, abusive, profane, derogatory, or obscene language or gestures at other competitors, teammates, coaches, umpires, fans, or other interested parties while at a Deep Creek Baseball function.
6. Ejection from a game.

PENALTIES

- Violations of Items 1, 2, and 3 above will result in first offense a minimum 3 game suspension; second offense dismissal from the team. Suspensions will be served immediately.
- Violations of Items 4 and 5 will result in first offense a warning; second offense a one game suspension; and third offense dismissal from the team. Suspensions will be served immediately.
- Violation of item 6 will result in a one game suspension/ Suspension to be served immediately.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined if I violate any of its provisions.

Manager/Coach Signature

Date