

ARLINGTON BABE RUTH--CAL RIPKEN DIVISION COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

The effect that a baseball coach, or coach of any sport, has on young athletes is undeniable. Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball--Cal Ripken Division strives to assure that the coach-athlete influence is a positive one that helps to maximize player development--physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Knowing how to coach baseball effectively is important, but more important is your job as role model.

We want every one of our assistant coaches--head coaches this is your job--to know going into this season that ABR expects them to uphold high ideals of sportsmanship during practices and games.

Recognize that most of these standards are easy to abide by (and often not relevant) at Double AA and below where there are no umpires or score. At AAA and above, as games tend to get competitive, these guidelines become more important, and can become challenging for some in the heat of the moment. Prepare for challenging situations by asking yourself: how will I react when the umpire makes the wrong call? Or when a parent of one of my players acts outside these guidelines? Answer according to these guidelines.

Coaches and their assistants must:

- First and most importantly, take responsibility that every parent and assistant coach on the team abides by these rules.
- Exemplify honesty, integrity and fair play no matter what impact might be on the outcome of the game.
- Honor the spirit and the letter of the rules. Promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship. In other words, don't bend the rules to your advantage.
- Require your players and assistant coaches to treat each other, opposing players, coaches, officials and parents with respect.
- Not allow your assistants or players to trash talk, taunt, or behave in ways that demean players on your team, players on opposing teams, officials, or the game of baseball.
- Treat game officials with respect. Don't complain or argue with an umpire's bad calls. If there's a disagreement, live with it. If a rule needs clarification, wait until the half-inning and bring it to the umpire's attention in a personal, respectful and calm manner with the other coach involved. If you have larger complaints about officiating, direct them to the ABR Board.

- Make sure neither your players nor assistants badger anyone. How you deal with game officials sets the tone for how they will. Don't allow them to indulge in conduct that may incite players or spectators against officials or the other team. If a parent or spectator from your side is taunting an umpire or opposing team coach or player, you have the responsibility to talk to the spectator. Tell him calmly that he's not doing your team any favors with his behavior and that he's breaking league rules.
- Do not allow your assistant coaches to yell out in an attempt to influence an umpire's calls. We can all recognize the difference between encouraging a pitcher and influencing an umpire.
- Control your ego and emotions. Displaying anger and frustration sends the wrong messages to players and undermines the integrity of baseball.
- Discuss with your team on a regular basis the importance of sportsmanship and good character – these concepts should be discussed far more often than winning or losing. In fact, some of the best youth and professional coaches never mention winning and losing, ever. They focus instead on each player doing their job to the best of their ability.
- Remember the expected standard: Victory with honor, defeat with dignity. Chances are good we'll all win some and lose some this season. Try to do both the right way--for your players sake.

The ABR Board appreciates all the hard work and long hours our volunteer coaches contribute to our baseball program and to our players. For the other coaches' and parents' benefit, if you witness violations to the above standards, please contact the ABR Board. The Board will investigate and take appropriate action.