



Guiding Principles, Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

- 1 . To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote the principles of 100 percent Americanism.
- 2 . To instill in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty and team spirit .
- 3 . To aid in the improvement and development of the physical fitness of our country's youth .
- 4 . To build for the nation's future through our youth .

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

These principles have been adopted to amend what the National American Legion Baseball Program has incorporated in its American Legion Baseball Rules and Regulations for its senior, junior and Prep programs. These principles do not supersede what the National Organization has established in their Rules and Regulations handbook.

1. Principles

- a. All players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators will be treated fairly and with respect.
- b. Retention of athletes is a key measure of success.
- c. Players will be provided with the highest quality training and coaching that the volunteer coaching staff can supply.
- d. Input from Coaches at the next level is critical in developing a progressive schedule of age-appropriate fundamental skills.
- e. Players should be evaluated periodically to gauge our success in meeting targets for skills development. The results of these evaluations

will be shared with both the player and the parent to the extent possible.

f. Parents play an extremely important role in the development of young athletes.

g. All activities and actions sanctioned by NH American Legion Baseball will be conducted in an open and transparent manner.

h. NH American Legion Baseball will openly accept fair and reasonable criticism and complaints and will effectively and fairly resolve these issues in a timely manner consistent with our Mission Statement.

i. New Hampshire American Legion Baseball (NHALB) has a goal of continuous improvement. As deviations from our mission are noted, we will look for the underlying problem and make the necessary adjustments to ensure that we are living up to the standards and goals of our Mission Statement.

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

The Department of New Hampshire American Legion Baseball Program values sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among all players, coaches, officials, and spectators. This Code of Conduct has been established and adopted to ensure the guiding principles of the Department of the NHALB Program are understood and met by all individuals associated with this organization.

This Code of Conduct applies to baseball and all activities associated with NHALB. These activities include, but are not limited to practice, NHALB sponsored games or Tournaments, and any activities attended under the NHALB or managed by other Legion Baseball programs in other states or other baseball programs that do not fall under the auspices of the National American Legion Baseball Organization .

The knowledge of the Code of Conduct will be the responsibility of each individual team and shall be conveyed to all coaches, players, parents, and spectators of each individual team. In addition, these Guiding Principles, Code of Conduct, and Disciplinary Procedures will be available on the NHALB website for review.

The following codes of conduct will be strictly enforced.

2. Players Code of Conduct

Each player is expected to act in a manner of fairly competing to the limit of their ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the player is expected to:

- a. Know the rules and abide by them.
- b. Respect the game officials and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game or following the event.
- c. Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, gestures of ill temper, and physical assault upon another player at any time.
- d. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team and demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of game. Be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- e. Respect all NHALB Staff, Mangers, Coaches and Umpires.
- f. Follow all facility/building rules and regulations, always respecting the property of others.
- g. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and manners of each individual player.

3. Team Manager/Coaches Code of Conduct

The Head Coach or Team Manager will be provided with copies of the Code of Conduct prior to the start of regular season. Each Head Coach/Team Manager is responsible for seeing that their assistant coaches, players, and parents/spectators abide by the respective Code of Conduct. It is also the Head Coach/Team Manager's responsibility to review the Codes of Conduct with their assistant coaches, players' families and those representing the respective sponsoring Legion Post.

Each Team Manager and or Head Coach will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a responsible adult fairly competing to the limit of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the on-field player representative is expected to:

- a. Know the rules and abide by them.
- b. Instruct players in the rules and coach his/her team in such a way as to motivate each player to always compete according to the rules.
- c. Place the emotional and physical wellbeing of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- d. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner.
- e. Ensure that all facility/building rules and regulations are followed by the players and spectators.
- f. Ensure that fans of his/her team always conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity while in attendance at game sites and assist the game officials in maintaining control of spectators during the games.
- g. Respect the coaches and players and/or representatives of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win or lose.
- h. Respect all staff/volunteers staff assisting with the Tournament.
- i. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- j. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
- k. Instruct team support personnel in their responsibilities in accordance with established rules and procedures.
- l. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.

4. Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct

Each parent and spectator will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a responsible adult or youth who positively encourages all participants to the limit of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, each parent and spectator is expected to:

- a. Respect the rules of the game.
- b. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
- c. Cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner.
- d. Place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.

- e. Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoid the use of abusive language, profanity, and gestures of ill temper, and refrain always from making hostile or negative remarks about the opposing team representatives.
- f. Respect all game/tournament volunteer staff.
- g. Follow all facility/building rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
- h. Leave the playing field parking area in a timely fashion after the conclusion of a game.
- i. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose. Do not interact in a negative fashion with fans, players or coaches of the opposing team or game officials.
- j. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.

5. Offensive Actions

Any individual violating the Code of Conduct set forth above shall be subject to penalties and sanctions as set forth in the Disciplinary Procedures below. In addition to conforming to the requirements of the Code of Conduct above, the following actions are specifically prohibited:

("Offensive Actions"):

- a. Refusing to abide by an official's decision.
- b. Verbally abusing or assaulting any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or volunteer tournament staff.
- c. Physically assaulting, abusing, or threatening any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or volunteer tournament staff.
- d. Stalking, tailing, or attempting to intimidate any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or volunteer tournament staff.
- e. Engaging in any other type of violent behavior, such as throwing equipment or other objects.
- f. Engaging in any lewd or sexual behavior, physically abusing a player, or engaging in any inappropriate physical contact with a player.
- g. Unless specifically allowed by the rules of the sport, pushing, shoving, or striking any player.
- h. Using drugs or alcohol while coaching, attending, or participating in any NHALB sanctioned tournament event.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1. Reporting Improper Conduct

NHALB provides an onsite Tournament Director and/or a designated NHALB official to allow coaches, players, parents, spectators, and officials to report any issues they observe before, during, or after practices and games.

A. Reporting By Coaches

1. It is the responsibility of every coach to address improper conduct observed by the coach or brought to the coach's attention in a timely and respectful manner.
2. In the event any coach feels that the NHALB official should be involved in addressing any improper conduct, the coach is encouraged to contact the designated NHALB official immediately.
3. Coaches must report any Offensive Actions to the NHALB official, including, without limitation:
 - a.) Any report or allegation of inappropriate physical contact, violence, or threatened violence against any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or tournament volunteer staff.
 - b.) Any observed or reported use of drugs or alcohol by any player, coach, official, parent, or spectator during any New Hampshire Legion Baseball event.
 - c.) Any situation where a player, coach, parent, or spectator is ejected from a game or removed from the premises.
4. Coaches are encouraged to keep the NHALB official informed of any improper conduct and the steps taken by the coach to address the misconduct, even if the coach is not required to report the misconduct to the NHALB official.
5. Coaches shall promptly respond to any request by the NHALB official for information relating to any incident or violation of the Code of Conduct.

B. Reporting by Parents and Spectators

1. Parents and spectators are encouraged to report any improper conduct to the coach and/or the NHALB official.

2. If a parent or spectator reports misconduct to the coach and feels that the misconduct is not appropriately addressed, the parent or spectator is encouraged to contact the NHALB official.

2. Procedures for Addressing Improper Conduct

A. Coaches and Officials

1. Officials (NH Legion Baseball and/or Umpires) shall promptly address any misconduct that is observed or brought to the attention of the coach or official during a NHALB tournament event.
2. Officials (NH Legion Baseball and/or Umpires) have the absolute authority, in their sole discretion, to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any player, parent, or spectator from any game or match if the player, parent, or spectator violates the Code of Conduct or engages in any Offensive Action.
3. Officials (NH Legion Baseball and/or Umpires) have the absolute authority to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any coach from any game or match if the coach violates the Code of Conduct or engages in any Offensive Action.

B. New Hampshire American Legion Baseball Chairman and Delegated New Hampshire Baseball Committee Members:

1. The New Hampshire American Legion Baseball Chairman and Baseball Committee Members will conduct a timely and reasonable investigation into any misconduct reported. The scope of any investigation will be determined by the New Hampshire American Legion Baseball Chairman at his sole discretion, provided, however, that the New Hampshire Legion Baseball Committee will provide any person accused of misconduct a reasonable opportunity to be heard both in a written request as well as a verbal follow up within 24-48hrs (or at discretion of timeline by the NH Legion Baseball Chairman) after said reporting of incident. This also includes investigative documentation both verbal and written from the person or persons alleging the offensive action.
2. After a reasonable investigation, the New Hampshire Legion Baseball Chairman and his Committee will determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of this Code of Conduct and any Offensive Action.

- a.) Penalties will be based on the nature and severity of the violation.
 - b.) The New Hampshire Legion Baseball Chairman will strive to treat all similar offenses in a similar manner, while considering the individual facts and circumstances of each violation.
 - c.) The New Hampshire Legion Baseball Chairman will not discriminate or show favoritism in any manner in determining whether to impose a penalty or in determining which penalty to impose.
3. The New Hampshire Legion Baseball Chairman will keep reasonable and appropriate records of each reported violation and shall provide a written document of each penalty and the reasons for imposing the penalty.

All decisions of the New Hampshire Legion Baseball Chairman and Committee are final and cannot be appealed.

1. Penalties

- a. Verbal Warning
- b. Written Warning
- c. Suspension:
 1. One game suspension for Teams next game (Automatic for a Game Ejection)
 2. Multiple game suspension, or
 3. Indefinite suspension
- d. Expulsion from future NH Legion Baseball Coaching.

2. Additional Considerations

- a. If a player/coach/manager/parent is suspended from a New Hampshire Legion Baseball sanctioned event, they cannot participate or be present for the duration of their suspension at the current or any other Legion Baseball sanctioned event.

Code of Conduct Signature Page

By Signature below I have read and understand my obligations as related to the code of conduct policy as detailed above

Head Coach Signature

Date

Team Manager Signature

Date