

WLBA

CODE OF CONDUCT

The West Liberty Ball Association (WLBA) represents the West Liberty community. It is expected that all players, parents, coaches and supporters of the WLBA represent the community and our sponsors with the utmost sportsmanship and respect; and take the initiative to make West Liberty ball successful and enjoyable for the children playing this game. All persons associated with the WLBA must understand that their actions and behavior are a direct reflection upon the organization and its sponsors, and should under no circumstance have or perceive to have a negative impact to the participants, game, and/or organization. It is incumbent of all parents, coaches, players, and supporters to act as ambassadors of our organization.

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principals (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship). The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

PARENTS

As a parent of a WLBA athlete, our parents must agree:

- not to force their child to participate in sports.
- to remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- to inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child or the safety of others.
- to learn the rules of the game and the policies of the organization/league.
- to be a positive role model for their child(ren) and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, demonstration positive support for all players, coaches, umpires and spectators at every game, practice or other event.
- not to engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any umpire, coach, player or parent; such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands or using profane language or gestures.
- not to encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
- to teach their child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- to demand that their child treat other players, coaches, umpires and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- to teach their child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that their child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- to praise their child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make their child feel like a winner all the time.
- to never ridicule or yell at their child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- to emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit their child over winning.
- to promise to promote the emotional and physical well-being for the athletes ahead of any personal desire for their child to win.
- to respect the umpires and their authority during games and to never question, discuss or confront coaches at the game field; and to take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- to demand a sports environment for their child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol; and to refrain from use during all sporting events.
- to refrain from coaching their child or other players during games and practices, unless asked or one of the official coaches for the team.

COACHES

All coaches for the WLBA must pass a background check; with no history of violence and/or crimes against children. Coaches are required to take a concussion training course (online at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61064/concussion-in-sports>).

As a coach for the WLBA, our coaches must agree:

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- to enthusiastically support and practice the philosophies of positive coaching, good sportsmanship and equal opportunities for each athlete.
- to know the rules, and consult those rules before raising questions during and/or after games with other coaches, umpires or WLBA representatives.
- to emphasize to players that they must abide by the rules of the game at all times.
- to strive to teach players the fundamentals of baseball/softball, and then reinforce those fundamentals throughout the season.
- to show respect for all rulings made by an umpire and in cases where there is a valid concern, the concerns are raised tactfully.
- to ensure that their team shows respect for all opponents, regardless of the outcome of the game.
- to ensure a safe environment for all players, regardless of team.
- to never verbally ridicule or physically touch a player.
- to collaborate actively and respectfully with the coaches on the other team before, during and after each game.
- to maintain the perspective that baseball is a game, to be played for fun.
- to inform players and parents of the rules and conduct guidelines and make them pledge to abide by these rules and guidelines at all times.
- to be prepared to intervene in any unsportsmanlike conduct caused by their team's parents or players and help resolve them.
- to insist on a drug, tobacco and alcohol free sports environment for all children and to enforce this policy with those observed disobeying during any practice, game or event.
- to refrain from using any abusive or profane language.
- to refrain using or being under the influence of any drug, tobacco or alcohol while at practice, games or events or around players.

PLAYERS

As a player for the WLBA, our players must agree:

- to practice good sportsmanship at all times, to win without boasting, lose without excuse and never quit.
- to attend and participate in all scheduled games and practices when reasonably possible.
- to never throw a bat or equipment in anger.
- to be aware of safety and to follow team and league rules to ensure safe play.
- to agree to the coaches' authority and to participate and communicate positively with coaches and teammates.
- to treat fellow players, opponents, spectators and umpires with respect.
- to exercise self-control at all times; refraining from profane language and setting a positive example for others to follow.
- to support and encourage teammates.
- to try their best and always keep a positive attitude.

Any incident of unsportsmanlike conduct or other violation of the WLBA's rules at any practice, game, or league activity is subject to disciplinary action by the WLBA's Board of Directors, and can range from a verbal warning to expulsion from activities.

By submitting a registration form, all parents and players acknowledge that they have read and will strictly adhere to all aspects of this Code of Conduct. Acceptance into the WLBA and the continued participation by any player, parent, and/or coach is subject to review by the WLBA's Board of Directors. Any non-compliance with these rules and regulations may be cause for disciplinary action. Furthermore, the submission of a registration form by the parent(s) grants permission for their child to participate in any and all of the activities sponsored by the WLBA, including but not limited to its organizers, supervisors, leaders, participants, officials, coaches, and other agents or representatives, who shall be held harmless from any and all claims arising from participation therein.

The WLBA reserves the right to update this Code of conduct at any time.