

COACHING CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

Benzie County Youth Baseball/Softball League

As a coach, assistant coach, volunteer, team helper, or league representative for the Benzie County Youth Baseball/Softball League, I understand that I serve as a role model for all athletes and families involved in the program. By signing this agreement, I commit to upholding the following standards of conduct and professionalism.

Coach and Volunteer Expectations

I agree to:

- Always place the emotional, physical, and mental well-being of athletes ahead of personal desire to win.
- Provide a safe, positive, inclusive, and encouraging environment for all participants.
- Treat all players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators, and league representatives with dignity and respect.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and lead by example at all times.
- Use positive, age-appropriate coaching techniques and communication.
- Follow all league rules, policies, and safety procedures.
- Respect the decisions of umpires and league officials.
- Refrain from the use of profanity, vulgar language, offensive gestures, bullying, harassment, intimidation, or discriminatory remarks.
- Never engage in behavior that is verbally, emotionally, physically, or sexually inappropriate toward any child or adult.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with all athletes both in person and through electronic communication.
- Never be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while participating in league activities.
- Promptly report any safety concerns, injuries, suspected abuse, misconduct, or violations of league policy to league leadership.
- Respect all league equipment, facilities, and property.
- Support a culture of teamwork, inclusion, and player development.

Background Check Requirement

To help ensure the safety of all participants:

- All coaches and assistant coaches who interact with players must successfully complete a background check approved by the league before participating in any league activities.
- The league reserves the right to deny or revoke volunteer participation based on the results of a background check or any conduct deemed inconsistent with the league's mission and child safety standards.
- Failure to complete the required background screening process will result in immediate suspension from all coaching or volunteer duties.

Zero Tolerance Policy

The Benzie County Youth Baseball/Softball League maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy regarding inappropriate conduct by adults working with children.

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited and may result in immediate suspension, permanent removal from the league, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities:

- Inappropriate, abusive, threatening, harassing, discriminatory, or sexual comments toward any child.
- Inappropriate jokes, conversations, gestures, texting, messaging, or social media interactions with players.
- Physical intimidation, unwanted physical contact, or any form of abuse.
- One-on-one situations with athletes in isolated or unsupervised settings without proper authorization.
- Use of profanity, sexually explicit language, or offensive remarks around children.
- Grooming behavior or conduct intended to establish inappropriate relationships with minors.
- Retaliation against anyone who reports misconduct or safety concerns.
- Any conduct that jeopardizes the safety, welfare, or emotional well-being of a participant.

The following actions may also result in disciplinary measures, including suspension or removal from league activities:

- Arguing aggressively with players, parents, officials, or spectators.
- Entering the field of play to confront umpires or opposing teams.
- Throwing objects or damaging property.
- Encouraging unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Failing to follow league safety protocols or policies.
- Any behavior requiring law enforcement involvement.
- Use of derogatory, demeaning, intimidating, threatening, abusive, discriminatory, or otherwise inappropriate language toward players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators, or league representatives.

The league reserves the right to remove any coach, volunteer, or representative whose behavior is determined to be harmful, unsafe, or inconsistent with league values.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Benzie County Youth Baseball/Softball League Coaching Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to follow these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or permanent removal from league activities.

Coach/Volunteer Signature

Coach/Volunteer Printed Name

Team Name / Division

Date
