

# **ALTON YOUTH LEAGUE**

## **2022 CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **ALTON YOUTH LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Alton Youth League (AYL) was organized to provide a supervised program organized under the Rules and Regulations of Cal Ripken, Jr. Baseball League, Inc. and Babe Ruth Softball League, Inc. for all youth in the town of Alton, NH. Currently, AYL provides baseball, softball, and tee ball programs for Alton children aged 4.5-12 years old. The objective of this league is to instill in the youth of Alton the ideals of good sportsmanship, loyalty, teamwork, and responsibility to others.

The mission of this organization is to instill in the youth of Alton that the winning of games is of secondary importance to the prime objective, which is the development of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Further, the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.

To achieve this goal, the AYL board has adopted the following code of conduct to which coaches, parents, and players must adhere.

### **Coaches' Code:**

1. Consider it an honor and a privilege to coach the youth of our community.
2. Keep in mind that you are a youth sports coach and that the recreational experience is for the players.
3. Head coaches are responsible for their conduct, the conduct of their players and coaches, and the team's parents and spectators.
4. Profanity by coaches, players, parents or spectators will not be tolerated.
5. Coaches will treat the games officials with respect and instruct players, parents and spectators to do the same.
6. Coaches shall not argue or complain about an official's call, decision or judgment.
7. Only the head coach may address the officials at the appropriate stoppage in play.
8. Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy, enthusiasm and their performance within athletic programs.
9. The safety and health of players is your number one concern.
10. Impress upon your players the principles of fair play, sportsmanship and playing by the rules.
11. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
12. Ensure that your players' experience is one of fun, enjoyment and building skills of the game.
13. Players should never be yelled at or ridiculed.
14. Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Youth players need a coach they can respect.
15. Enlist the support of your team's parents in your efforts to instill the proper attitudes and values in the players.
16. Keep informed about sound coaching principles, and growth and development principles of children.
17. Check equipment and facilities. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of your players.
18. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.
19. Respect all coaches' practice and game times, as well as that of the scheduled umpire. Consult the field scheduling manager prior to changing any scheduled game or practice. Notify the Umpire Coordinator of any changes to scheduled games with as much notice as is practicable.
20. Always remember you are representing AYL and the community of Alton.

### **Parents' Code:**

1. Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment.
2. At all practices and games, a parent, guardian or other trusted adult must be present, unless your child's coach agrees to accept responsibility during practices and/or games. Notify your coach if another adult is taking

responsibility for your child in your absence.

3. Practice is essential for player development. Make every effort to have your child at all practices in a timely fashion and with the equipment your child needs.
4. Fair playing time will be practiced by all teams. Attendance, participation, effort, attitude and other observable signs of commitment may influence playing time during a game.
5. Teach your child and encourage them to always play by the rules and practice good sportsmanship.
6. Set a good example by applauding good plays by both teams. Children learn best by example.
7. Refrain from coaching your child or other players during games and practices, unless you are an official coach of the team.
8. The head coach will determine the level of parental participation during practices and games.
9. Do not ridicule or yell at your child or any other player, coach, official, parent or spectator.
10. Do not publicly question the official's calls, decisions or judgments.
11. Always show respect for volunteer coaches and officials.
12. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse. Be aware of your behavior during games and practices.
13. Respect the player bench area and player safety by keeping away if you are not an official team coach. If you need to approach the bench area for any reason, respectfully ask the head coach for permission to enter the area.
14. If there is a concern regarding the team or your youth player, communicate with the coaching staff directly in a timely manner, and allow an appropriate amount of time for the coach to respond before seeking board involvement (unless the concern is of an emergent nature).
15. Always remember you are representing AYL and the community of Alton.

### **Players' Code:**

1. Play for the fun of it, not to please others.
2. Practice is essential to your development. You must be prepared to work hard all the time, do your best, and do your part to be on time, while having all necessary items for practice or game play.
3. Play by the rules, and never argue with or complain about the official's calls, decisions or judgments.
4. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself. Remember you are part of a team.
5. Concentrate on playing and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best positive effort.
6. Practice good sportsmanship and fair play of the game. Cheer all good plays, whether it is your team's or your opponent's.
7. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Control your temper and resist the temptation to retaliate if you feel you have been wronged.
8. Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills, and do your best.
9. Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents and officials.
10. Always remember you are representing AYL and the community of Alton.

**I understand that, as a coach, player, parent or spectator, if my conduct or language is deemed to be inappropriate by AYL, I may be asked to leave the playing area in which games and/or practices are being held. Depending on the severity of the infraction, I may be suspended from attendance at further games and/or practices, and up to season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games and practices.**

**Signature of this acknowledges receipt and adherence to AYL's Code of Conduct:**

Coach's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Player's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_