

Frederick City Babe Ruth Baseball
Codes of Conduct for Players and Parents
Introduction

Frederick City Babe Ruth Baseball (FBR) sponsors youth baseball activity with the goal of providing our children an opportunity to develop superior life skills through team play, sportsmanship, top competition, and hard work. Our mission is to provide Frederick youth the opportunity to play baseball at the highest level commensurate with their individual ability, potential, and interest. An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our mission. To better achieve that mission, we provide the following Codes of Conduct for all Frederick players, parents, and coaches.

These Codes of Conduct are a covenant between Frederick players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These Codes express our core values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed.

The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles:

- (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude;
- (2) Setting a good example; and
- (3) Maintaining good relationships with all youth baseball participants - including officials, opponents, and our own teams' players, parents, and coaches.

1. Demonstrating a positive attitude

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of FBR.

2. Setting a good example

Each person associated with FBR is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples.

FBR will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes: Vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents. *We require thorough self-restraint by all participants - both players and adults. Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.*

3. Maintaining good relationships

Officials - The umpire's job is a difficult one. All umpires are human and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified umpire should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform the

appropriate club officials about blatant officiating problems. Managers should make reports through appropriate channels, including mail evaluations where available.. Umpires have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents/supporters.

Opponents - Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of baseball, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score.

Our Own Team - In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coaches' authority. As in most cases, parental example is all-important.

Player's Code

It is a privilege to play on a baseball team. As a FBR player, I will:

1. Play the game for the game's sake, and not just to please my parents or coach.
2. Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
3. Respect the game of baseball and its laws, learn these laws and try to follow them, and play the game fairly.
4. Work for the good of my team and give my best effort at all times.
5. Show respect for the authority of the umpire, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.
6. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. I understand that baseball is a game, and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
7. Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated.
8. Help my parents and fans understand the laws of the game so they can watch and enjoy the game better.
9. Control my temper and not retaliate, even if I believe I have been wronged.
10. Not use or possess tobacco, alcohol, or illegal or performance-enhancing drugs.

Parent's Code

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your son or daughter, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

1. Support your child

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

2. Always be positive

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model, and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement.

3. Don't be a sideline coach or ref

Refrain from coaching or umpiring from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - Do not openly question their judgment or honesty.

4. Demonstrate a positive attitude toward your opponents and their families

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good hospitality at home and to represent Frederick City Babe Ruth Baseball in a positive way when visiting other clubs. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

5. Remember that your child wants to have fun

Your child is the one playing baseball, not you. Children must establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

I will set a good example to my child in his/her baseball development by adhering at all times to the following:

- I will not criticize the umpire openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing, sent to my manager or league representative, not verbally.
- I will give only positive feedback to players.
- I will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do my best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome. I will be mindful in "lopsided" game where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood.
- I shall do my best to teach our players to become students of the game.
- I will show the quality of sportsmanship during and after each game and help my child remember to thank the umpire after the match without regard to the result.

- I will do my very best to have my child prepared for every game.
- I will support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the umpires by demonstrating patience.
- I understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the umpire, or an organization or County official so the game is not forfeited due to the action of the parent spectator.
- I will leave the coaching to the coach during the game.
- I understand that the leagues can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth - not adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

Only the Manager and two (2) Coaches may accompany the team onto the field. Parents and other spectators must remain outside the field of play.

Adopted by the Frederick Babe Ruth League Board of Directors on January 6, 2021