

# SHAWANO YOUTH LEAGUE COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the goal of Shawano Youth League (SYL) to provide consistent high-quality coaching. While the SYL will help ensure that the necessary resources are in place for coaches to succeed, it is necessary for each individual coach to initiate and maintain compliance. To assist with compliance, SYL has developed this Code of Conduct and requires each coach to personally abide by it. The Code of Conduct concepts should be incorporated into team communications, practice plans, game strategies and coaching philosophies.

## • COMPLETE NECESSARY COACH'S REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete Coaching Application Form. (As requested by the SYL board)
2. Receive approval from the SYL Board to coach.
3. Complete background check form.
4. Review and sign Coaches Code of Conduct.
5. Attend Coach Training as directed by the SYL or Varsity Coach/Athletic Director.
6. Conduct practices and coach games following the SYL guidelines.

• **BE PREPARED** – Communication between parents, players and assistant coaches is important in making sure everyone knows the dates and times of practices and tournaments. Parents may have multiple kids in various activities – knowing practices in advance will reduce stress on all participants.

• **PROMOTE FUN** – Don't get too serious. Winning is a consideration, but not the only or most important one. Care more about the player than winning the game. Remember that children participate to have fun and this game is for youth, not adults.

• **BE PATIENT** – Your players need the freedom to make mistakes on the field and it's your job to help them learn from those mistakes. One or two corrections won't be enough. This will take time and patience.

• **PROMOTE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE** – Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or losing a game. Do not single out players for criticism in front of their peers. Players need to feel it is safe to try things and okay to fail without risking the wrath of their coach or teammates.

• **MAXIMIZE PLAYING TIME** - Understand that to develop baseball/softball players, all players must gain experience. Give each player the opportunity to play as much as possible.

• **FOCUS ON THE FUNDAMENTALS** – The League's policy on player development has a strong foundation in the development of fundamental skills. This decision to focus on the fundamentals of pitching, catching, batting, base running, throwing, etc. is encouraged by the Shawano High School coaching staff. Wins and losses come and go, but you only get one chance to develop a player's fundamental skills.

• **UNDERSTAND THE RULES** – Get the appropriate SYL rulebook and read it. Identify any special rules or policies of your league.

• **DISPLAY & ENCOURAGE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** – Your players will learn from your example. Control your emotions. Avoid actions, language and gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating. Teach your players how to behave after a win or a loss. Teach your players to respect the game officials and their authority.

• **RESPECT THE AUTHORITY OF THE UMPIRES** – Disputing, challenging, or excessively arguing an umpire’s decision is strictly prohibited. Ask questions or seek clarification if you need to, but do it in a calm manner. Set the right tone for your team by never arguing a call or disparaging an official. Do not blame a loss on the officials. Never confront an umpire before, during or after a game. If you have a significant issue, contact the SYL. Warnings/Expulsions received from violating these rules within the current season could result in the SYL Program Directors calling a special meeting to discuss circumstances of the infraction. SYL Program Directors have the right to review each circumstance of any infraction received and finalize a decision that may result in a one game suspension, two game suspension or dismissal from the SYL program.

• **RESPECT OTHERS** – As a coach, you not only represent your team, you represent Shawano. It is important to show respect for parents, players and opponents.

• **BE EVERYONE’S COACH** – All players deserve your coaching at practices and in games. Make the team experience good for all players by letting everyone contribute. If you coach your own child, don’t shine the light on them too much or too little. Treat everyone as equals.

- **Corrections** – at certain times, parents/guardians may give the players incorrect instruction. If this occurs, pull the parent aside, away from others, and provide them with the correct information. Never degrade the parents/guardians in front of other coaches or players.

• **TAKE CARE OF THE FACILITY** – Know the building/field use rules and regulations and make sure the players and spectators follow them. Assign a team parent this responsibility during home games.

#### **Violation of Guidelines/Expectations:**

- Any suspected violation will be handled by the SYL Program Directors.
- A coach in violation of any of the above expectations & guidelines may be asked to leave practice, tournament or team function. The SYL program comes first; no one person or player is bigger than the entire program.
- If problems continue to persist throughout the year, additional action may be taken to remove the coach from the SYL program.