

AYB Coaches Guidelines

- Your team is one of many; you may not change existing rules, uniforms, policies or procedures unless the Board of Directors has given you permission.
- You may not reprimand a player for any reason by telling them they will not play in a game. Only after you have board approval may you hold a player from a game or practice.
- Believe it or not there are coaches who try to run off the weaker players from their teams so their team is stronger. Our job is to give all players a chance to have fun playing ball. If you can't get a player to your standard try to have a little compassion. This is recreational ball not the Pro's.
- Please remember, not all parents can get out of work as early as you, so take in mind other people's schedules when you practice.
- You are an AYB Coach so please keep in mind if there is a problem in the AYB system, try to help fix it. Remember, Be part of the solution, not the problem.
- Do not promise or tell players or parents anything you cannot back up later 100%. When you tell a player "you may pitch next week", you better back it up or someone will get hurt.
- Never tell any child they may be on your team unless the league has already approved it. Any player signing up after try outs will be considered a new player and will be drawn from a hat to see which team they will be on.
- The NUMBER ONE complaint against coaches is; inconsistent practices. Don't change your practice times around, don't cancel practices, and don't be late to your own practice.
- Use your team parents as helpers; they will not be a thorn in your side if they are at your side.
- Make sure all the players have your phone number and each other's phone numbers. Lack of communication will cause you great heartache.
- Every player and team will participate in the league fundraisers. If you have a problem with this rule "PLEASE DON'T COACH".
- If a player has NOT met their financial obligations by paying registration or fundraising, they will not be allowed to finish the season.
- Get helpers from your team to consistently help you with field set up and take down. Some parents will be too intimidated to coach but will help do tasks like this one if they are asked.
- Read the rules, most coaches think they know the rules from when they played or from another league. You may be wrong, save time and face by knowing your rules. Plus sometimes when a teenage Umpire is in charge they may be mistaken and need you to set things right.
- When dealing with children, remember you are 4 times bigger than they are. Try not to get in their face when you are expressing your displeasure. The child or the parent of that child that you are just trying to make your point understood does not always perceive it.

- The goal of a team is not just to win. We know winning is important, but it's not our goal. Kids having fun is our goal. Some teams have losing seasons but everyone can't wait to try again next year. Some winning teams have a hard time getting enough kids to show up to the games. Baseball records are not worth trading your integrity for. On the other hand being on a losing team because the coach has failed to teach the sport is extremely bad also.
- This is a recreational league; each player has paid for the right to be on a team. If you are only out to coach kids that are only all-stars you're in the wrong place. You must be able to relate to a child who has never played just as well as a child who has always been a sports star. Anyone can coach a team of great athletes and look good. But that coach is really only coaching someone else's hard work to a winning season. If we successfully keep every child on the team who was not a stud when they started, and they had fun, you then are a great coach.
- AYB and the Board of Directors have to make and adhere to many rules. Please don't ask us to let you be the exception to a rule. Every rule that must be enforced tends to do two things, make the person the rule worked for very happy and make the person the rule worked against very angry. So if we all go by the same rules and don't spend our days off trying to find loopholes to get over on someone else, we will have a great season. If you are always looking for loopholes the holes are usually in your coaching ability.
- At no time is a coach or parent from any team allowed to become loud and rude to an Umpire, another Coach or a Parent. The coach can control comments and actions from his parents and you are responsible to bring them to order.
- Rule & Game Protests are not a tool to help win games. If you have a protest try to take care of it at the time of the problem. It is your job to avoid protests but we have some coaches that hope to manipulate a situation in a child's game to help recover from a loss. Coach to win but lose with dignity.
- Some common reasons some coaches will not be allowed to coach again are: (1.) Abusive verbally & physically to AYB participants. (2.) Failure to participate in fundraising. (3.) Continuous or repeatedly breaking rules & regulations. (4.) Failure to get along with others. (5.) Does not have the basic communication skills to teach a sports team. (6.) Failure to represent the rules, policies, procedures of AYB and being a negative example to the players.
- These Coaches Guidelines sound harsh to someone who has problems with the system. But at the same time these Guidelines are of very little consequence to someone who is truly out to help kids, have fun and play ball. AYB has felt a need to give all coaches this guideline but we know that only 1 out of every 50 will have a problem following these guidelines.

Coach Signature; _____ **Print Name;** _____