



# Delaware Komoka-Kilworth Mt. Brydges Minor Baseball Expectations of Coaches, Players and Parents

*What we expect from you and you can expect from us?*

## **DKMB Association Objectives**

The DKMB Association has the following specific objectives:

- To not only help develop fundamental baseball skills but also to promote and develop the values of respect and responsibility in the game of baseball in a fun, challenging and confidence boosting atmosphere.
- To help develop passionate and versatile baseball players.

Baseball has always been about much more than simply winning or losing. First and foremost, the game is meant to be fun, and that is what all children should be able to experience from the first time that they walk out onto the ball field.

## **Respect**

Respect means that all participants in the game should consistently demonstrate a respectful attitude toward other people who are involved, irrespective of their position. This would include the reciprocal relationships that exist between players, parents, coaches, spectators, officials, and facility personnel.

- We ask that during games and practices there be only positive encouragement from all involved. Negative comments or criticism of our players, our opponents, other spectators or the officials do not benefit the game.
- Please be respectful of the umpires. Many are young and learning, and may make mistakes. A quiet conversation with an official goes a lot further than a public berating.
- Please feel free to congratulate our opponents on their efforts. Doing so is one of the classiest displays in sports.

## Expectations

The following are expectations of each coach, parent and player participating in the DKMB baseball program. Violations of these are not in the best interest of everyone involved and will be handled appropriately by the DKMB association. This could result in the removal of a coach's, parent's or player's privileges to participate in the program.

### Coach Expectations

- To commit 100% to the athletic, social and emotional development of all players that they are coaching.
- To teach their players that doing their best is as important as winning, so that their team will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game.
- To communicate with athletes on any and all aspects of their personal goals.
- To communicate with parents on appropriate aspects of the team and their players.
- To represent the best interest of each player on the team.
- To acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of their team and of their opponents.
- To constantly improve the skills and knowledge of each player on the team.
- **To show respect for all fellow team members, spectators, opponents, coaches and officials.**

### Player Expectations

- To play baseball because they want to, not just because others want them to.
- To play by the rules of baseball, and in the spirit of the game.
- To control their temper – fighting and “mouthing off” can spoil the activity for everybody.
- To do their best to be a true team player.
- To not become a distraction on the team, allowing coaches to do their jobs and fellow teammates to learn.
- To remember that winning isn't everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing their best is just as important.
- To acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of their team and of their opponents.
- To remember that coaches and officials are there to help them – accepting their decisions and showing them respect.
- **To show respect for all fellow team members, spectators, opponents, coaches and officials.**

### Parent Expectations

- To encourage and support, not force their child to participate in baseball.
- To remember that their child plays baseball for his or her own enjoyment, not for their own.
- To encourage their child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- To teach their child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that their child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game.
- To make their child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.

- To never ridicule or yell at their child or another athlete for making a mistake or losing a game.
- To remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good plays/performances by both their child's team and their opponents.
- To never question the officials' judgment or honesty publicly by berating or humiliating the official.
- To support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's baseball games.
- To respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to coach baseball for their child.
- **To show respect for all players, spectators, opponents, coaches and officials.**

### **What will not be tolerated**

There is a zero tolerance for any of the following within the DKMB program:

- Disrespect for other people and property (players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators, equipment, facilities, etc...)
- Blatant use of foul language.
- Racist comments
- Theft.
- Use of alcohol or drugs during practices or games.
- Bullying
  - Physical – Hitting, shoving, kicking, spitting on, grabbing, damaging or theft of property.
  - Verbal – Name-calling, humiliating, degrading behaviours, hurtful teasing, threatening
  - Relational – Exclusion of peers, spreading rumours or gossip

### **Disciplinary Action**

**Player Violations** – Initial violations by players will be handled by the coaching staff of the team involved. If this fails to curb behavior or attitude, the DKMB association executive will be brought in to aid in a resolution. If at this point issues can still not be resolved, the player will be removed from the team with the possible forfeit of any registration fees paid.

**Parent Violations** – Team coaches may try to work with their players' parents to resolve initial issues, however complexities may be involved that do not make this feasible. The DKMB executive will ensure that no parent's actions at games or practices are detrimental to others or the organization. Repeated violations may result in the parent being banned from facilities, or that parent's player being removed from the team with the possible forfeit of any registration fees paid.

**Coach Violations** – Any parents or players who encounter issues with any member of the coaching staff can bring these to the attention of the DKMB executive – anonymously if desired. Incidents will be investigated thoroughly and handle appropriately with the possible removal of the coach in question from the team if warranted.

Please note that infractions by opponents, opponent parents or other spectators affect all involved and may be dealt with as well. Please report any abuse to the association executive.

## **A Note for Parents**

Competition can be a healthy environment in which to teach children teamwork and perseverance. Positive reinforcement will assist in building your son or daughter into a healthy adult, with core values like respect and responsibility helping guide the way.

As a parent, you need to take steps to ensure that competition is both a healthy outlet and learning experience. You should not get carried away “in the heat of the moment”, because your child’s competition is for their benefit, not yours! If given the proper context, the benefits of competition for your child will extend far beyond winning and losing. Make sure that you take the time to separate yourself from your child during these events – they need to learn on their own in order to grow.

During any competition, a parent will have a vested interest – they want to see their child do well. But few stop to ask themselves questions such as “is my child enjoying this” or “is baseball fun for my child”? More and more frequently, parents react for themselves during competitions, often taking matters into their own hands. The refusal to keep their children fully in mind often lets parents feel as though they can justifiably act out on their emotions. In truth, nothing could be more destructive, for both parent and child.

### **Issue Resolution**

If you have issues with any of the coaching staff, please observe the 24 hour rule – wait 24 hours before confronting a coach. This allows tempers to cool down, and time to gather thoughts and put things into perspective. Please feel free to ask questions (at the appropriate time) if there is anything that you do not understand the reasoning behind. Misunderstandings can often fester into larger issues.

At the end of a game, if our players have worked hard, the fans have been supportive, and there are smiles coming off of the ball field, then it was a good game no matter what the score was.