

YAO Baseball Bermuda (“YAO”)

Parent/Volunteer/Player

Code of Conduct

Preamble:

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

Parent/Volunteer:

- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes and coaches.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
- I will refrain from drinking alcohol at all games and practices.
- I will refrain from taking drugs at all games and practices.
- I will refrain from using any tobacco products within 200 feet of the dugout at all games and practices.

Players Agree:

- Respect and follow your Coaches' directives.** They are there to help you to learn and to succeed. Being human they will at times make mistakes. As long as you have done as instructed, they will shoulder the blame. Do not attempt to second-guess a coach's decision; he/she has made it in the team's best interest.
- Player Umpire Conduct:** Umpires are there to make sure that a fair game occurs. They do their best to make the correct calls. No player in the YAO should ever question an umpire's decision, yell abuse or look back at an umpire to show disapproval. All conversations with an Umpire regarding a decision or call will be left to the Coaching Staff.

- ❑ **Player/ Player Conduct: Support your teammates.** Whether you are a starter or not, always cheer on your teammates. Talented teams with players who support one another can reach nearly any goal they aim for. Talented teams with players who constantly bicker among themselves or think only of “me me me” generally underachieve and end up having a mediocre season.
- ❑ **Throwing of Equipment & Use of Profane Language:** There is no “I” in “Baseball” and no room for people interested only in their own accomplishments. Playing baseball is the ultimate team sport. Swearing, the throwing of helmets or bats or other acts of aggression will not be tolerated. We will all strike out & we will all get frustrated. Focus your frustration in a positive manner; cheer on the next batter, or get the next out. It will be far better for the team.
- ❑ **Player-Opposition Conduct:** YAO Players are to project a positive attitude when on the field. You cheer on your teammates with sincere, positive comments. You never heckle or taunt the other team (even if they are engaging in this conduct). Ignore comments coming from the other team and focus on the job at hand. This is the mark of a first class team and organization.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or a Director of the YAO organization
- Written warning
- Meeting to determine future player and or parent participation in the YAO

Any questions or concerns should be sent, in writing, to the attention of the President of the YAO Baseball Bermuda.