



# **MIDDLEVILLE YOUTH ATHLETICS**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **COACHES**

The Middleville Youth Athletics (MYA) REC Baseball & Softball (MYBSB), Middleville Youth Football (MYF), Middleville Youth Flag Football (MYFF) programs exist to provide a safe, positive, instructional, and team-oriented environment where athletes develop athletic skills, character, sportsmanship, and a lifelong enjoyment of the game.

**As a coach, I understand that I represent MYA, the Thornapple Kellogg community, and every family participating in our program.**

### **With Respect to My Players**

1. I recognize that my primary responsibility is the development, safety, confidence, and enjoyment of every athlete.
2. I will create a positive, inclusive, and encouraging environment.
3. I will place athlete safety above competitive success.
4. I understand that MYA programs prioritize development over winning.
5. I will teach age-appropriate fundamentals and good sportsmanship.
6. I will provide equitable opportunities for instruction and participation.
7. I will encourage effort, teamwork, accountability, and respect.
8. I will never use humiliation, intimidation, or retaliation as a coaching method.
9. I will remember that youth athletics exist for the benefit of the players.
10. I will encourage multi-sport participation and long-term athlete development.

### **With Respect to Opposing Teams**

1. I will demonstrate respect toward all opponents.
2. I will teach athletes to compete with integrity.
3. I will never encourage dangerous, unsportsmanlike, or retaliatory behavior.
4. I will help de-escalate conflicts during games.
5. I will win with humility and lose with dignity.

## **With Respect to Umpires and Officials**

1. I recognize officials are essential to youth athletics.
2. I will treat officials respectfully at all times.
3. I will model appropriate behavior for players and spectators.
4. I will address concerns professionally through appropriate channels.
5. I will never encourage players, parents, or spectators to challenge officials.
6. I understand that an official's judgment calls and final decisions are final. I will conduct myself in a professional manner, demonstrate respect for game officials at all times, and represent MYA, my team, and our community with integrity while serving as a positive role model for our athletes.

## **With Respect to Parents and Families**

1. I will communicate professionally, respectfully, and honestly.
2. I will foster positive relationships with families.
3. I will address concerns privately whenever appropriate.
4. I will avoid creating unnecessary conflict or division within the program.
5. I understand that disagreements should never interfere with the experience of the athletes.

## **With Respect to MYA**

1. I understand I serve as a representative of MYA both on and off the field.
2. I will support the mission, policies, and decisions of MYA, even when I may personally disagree.
3. I will use established organizational processes to express concerns or recommendations.
4. I will not knowingly undermine board decisions, league operations, coaches, volunteers, or organizational initiatives.
5. I will not intentionally interfere with MYA-sponsored events, activities, fundraising efforts, sponsorships, or community partnerships.
6. I will not use MYA communication platforms, team communications, or organizational resources to promote activities that conflict with MYA programs without prior approval.
7. I will accurately represent MYA policies and decisions when communicating with families.
8. I will protect confidential organizational information obtained through my volunteer role.
9. I will cooperate with organizational investigations and requests for information.
10. I understand that board members and volunteers deserve the same respect expected of players and coaches

# **Communication and Social Media**

1. I understand that electronic communications are an extension of my role as a coach.
2. I will communicate respectfully through TeamSnap, email, text messaging, and social media.
3. I will not engage in harassment, bullying, intimidation, or personal attacks toward athletes, parents, coaches, volunteers, board members, officials, or community partners.
4. I will not knowingly spread false or misleading information regarding MYA or its participants.
5. I will avoid gossip, speculation, or communications that create unnecessary division within the organization.
6. I will address concerns through MYA's established communication process before discussing them publicly.
7. I understand that private group messages and social media communications may affect the culture and reputation of myself, the team and athletes, and the organization.

## **Fundraising, Sponsorships, and Organizational Activities**

1. I will support MYA-approved fundraising activities.
2. I will not intentionally redirect participants away from MYA fundraising or organizational events for personal or third-party benefit without prior approval.
3. I will respect sponsorship relationships established by MYA.
4. I will ensure any team fundraising activities comply with MYA policies.

## **Professional Conduct**

1. I will remain emotionally controlled during practices, games, meetings, and communications.
2. I will refrain from abusive, threatening, discriminatory, or profane language.
3. I will treat every participant with dignity and respect.
4. I will immediately report safety concerns or policy violations.
5. I understand that my conduct away from the field can affect MYA and the athletes I serve.

# Responsibility for Team Conduct

Coaches are responsible for making reasonable efforts to manage the conduct of their players, assistant coaches, team volunteers, and spectators. Coaches are expected to address inappropriate behavior promptly and seek assistance from MYA leadership when necessary. All issues that require intervention will observe a 24-hour rule. Any incident that puts a youth athlete, coach, or parent/spectator directly in harm's way will be reported and addressed immediately.

## Enforcement

Failure to comply with this Coaches Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the MYA Board, including but not limited to:

- Verbal coaching
- Written warning
- Required meeting with the MYA Board
- Probation
- Suspension from coaching duties
- Removal from coaching responsibilities and Ineligibility for future coaching positions.

The MYA Board reserves the authority to investigate reported violations and determine appropriate corrective action based on the severity, frequency, and impact of the conduct.

**Coach Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please email your signed commitment to: **admin@tkmyf.com**

*By signing and submitting this document electronically, you affirm your agreement to the above Coaches Code of Conduct.*