

# BPAA Fast Pitch Coach Conduct and Ethics Policy



## **Form of Address**

Keep a professional distance between yourself and your athletes. One suggestion would be to require your players to address you as "Coach" or Mr., Miss or Ms.

## **Language**

Please carefully consider the language you use when speaking to or are in the vicinity of any of our students, parents, and members of the community. Remember that the language and habits that your players observe will undoubtedly become a part of their make-up. If you lose control of your emotions, it is difficult to expect the athletes under your direction to maintain theirs. Sport officials and other judges are becoming more sensitive to profane outbursts and those individuals who either use or tolerate the use of profanity are sure to be penalized. Let's insure a fair and positive experience for all!

## **Sportsmanship/Conduct**

As role models, coaches have a unique opportunity to impact that which, in some areas, can determine the future health and support of high school athletics... sportsmanship. Because the values we seek from activities cannot exist without good sportsmanship we can insure support from educational institutions only if those involved in these activities promote the highest sportsmanship possible. Good sportsmanship does not happen accidentally. It takes a lot of hard work, a great deal of courage and dedication to stand up and tell people when they are wrong or take the extra time to make sure things happen right. As coaches this is one of our most important responsibilities and if we are successful in this, we will have attained a more lasting mark than any championship could bring.

## **Ejection from a Game/Competition**

Ejection from a game is a serious offense. If you are ejected from a game you will be required to turn in a written statement explaining your actions to the Association President and attend a follow up meeting. If a coach is ejected a second time during the season he or she will be restricted from coaching in the BPPF for one calendar year.

## **You Are the Coach Not Their Peer**

Always remember, wherever you are with your athletes, you are an extension of Brooklyn Park Fastpitch. You may strive to be friendly, but do not attempt to be a close friend with a player. Be sure to establish clear boundaries. Never be afraid of seeking help and guidance from colleagues and board members.

## **Never Be Alone With a Player**

It is important that we avoid finding ourselves in a closed room with just one player. While there may be times this is unavoidable, such as talking about something that should only be done in private, it is in your best interest not to put yourself in the position of being alone. Always keep a door open to protect yourself and the athlete.

Remember that if you must exchange emails, Tweets, Facebook messages or texts with a student you must be very careful of what you say and share. It is a good general rule to speak only face to face with team members because electronic information can often be misinterpreted. If electronic

communications must be used the message should be to all team members and sent at an appropriate time. Players should not receive messages after 9 p.m. or before 8 a.m. Remember that all electronic messages are part of public data and can/may be shared in a variety of unintended venues.

**Avoid an Inordinate Amount of Practice with One Athlete and Not Alone**

As a coach you need to be careful in how you relate to your athletes. It is not in your best interest to spend an excessive amount of time with one athlete or to coach them alone. Other athletes may feel that you favor certain athletes and it is not conducive to team chemistry.

**Do Not Take Students to Your Residence**

Do not take a student to your residence, nor should you visit an athlete’s residence. The only appropriate exception is when there is a team function at a residence, and the entire team is present as well as parents.

**Player Apparel**

Teams often want a team t-shirt or sweatshirt for personal purposes and to build team unity. It is the coaches’ responsibility to approve apparel requests by players/parents. Any slogans, pictures/photos or messages on the apparel must be appropriate and in good taste. Coaches should be sensitive to the price of this merchandise so that athletes or families are not put in an embarrassing position.

**Drug and Alcohol**

No volunteer of BPTFS will engage in drug and / or alcohol use which poses a risk to players, other volunteers, or self, reflects negatively on BPTFS while carrying out responsibilities as a volunteer of BPTFS, and shall not unlawfully use drugs or other controlled substances or abuse alcohol in a manner that results in impaired judgment or performance. Furthermore, no volunteer will unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use on or in the workplace any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcohol, or any other controlled substance, as defined by state and federal law.

“Workplace” is defined to mean the site for the performance of volunteer work done in connection with responsibilities as a volunteer of BPTFS, including:

- Any school building or any school premises;
- Any volunteer owned vehicle or any other approved vehicle used to transport players to and from BPTFS activities;
- Off school property during any BPTFS approved activity, event or function, such as tournaments, practices or Target Center Events.

Coach Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_