

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON BASEBALL HANDBOOK



Coach Longo's Baseball Philosophy

The coaching philosophy of this program is based upon the following five points. First, I want to establish discipline both on and off the field. Secondly, we want to have an open line of communications with staff, players, and parents. Third, the staff will strive to build a rapport with players through caring and motivation. Fourth, we will run an organized program. Fifth, the coaching staff will teach the fundamentals of the game and respect for the game of baseball. All of these will help develop these players into responsible young men.

1. DISCIPLINE/ACCOUNTABILITY:

The coaching staff will strive to install discipline both on and off the field. We ask all players to **DO THE RIGHT THING**. That means teaching our players about smart choices and the consequences for poor choices. We want all the players to understand that the coaching staff is not just trying to teach baseball. We are trying to develop life skills, and baseball is a great way to learn those skills. In order to be successful in life, players must develop self-discipline and good mental-discipline to be successful. We want players to understand that there are always consequences for their actions, take responsibility for their actions, and never transfer blame or excuses. The coaching staff will be consistent and fair with all players concerning discipline actions.

2. OPEN COMMUNICATION:

Poor communication is the downfall of many teams and organizations. We want to make sure that all is understood and that everyone is clear on what is expected and how things are to be done. The coaching staff will not only be able to communicate to entire teams, but also be able to communicate to each individual player. If we have many players in our program, we must be able to speak a different languages to reach every player in our program. Also, we want players within the program to understand that we have an open door policy. If the player is having problems of any kind he should feel free to come and visit with any member of the coaching staff.

3. BUILDING RAPPORT WITH PLAYERS THROUGH INTEREST, CARING AND MOTIVATION:

The coach-player relationship is one that is very special, one that can be cherished for years to come. We feel that relationships are very important and we encourage them. We understand that coaches are role models and we accept that responsibility. As coaches, we are going to try to get to know each player while expressing an extreme interest in each and every player. We want young men to want to play for this program and this coaching staff and take **PRIDE** in it. The staff will strive to motivate and inspire players to have a love for the game and to understand what it means to be part of a **TEAM** that is as close as a family. These things are memories that each and every player will take with him for a lifetime. We want each player to enjoy his experience as a player within this program. Building Rapport by putting players into positions for them to succeed.

4. ORGANIZATION/ATTENTION TO DETAIL:

Organization is a key to success. Our goal as a staff is to be extremely organized in every aspect of the program. Practice plans, game management, meetings, scouting and other related activities are all very important to the success of our team. Being organized coaches is essential to our team's success.

5. TEACHING THE FUNDAMENTALS:

We strongly believe that coaching is teaching and teaching is coaching. The coaching staff will strive to teach every young man in the program the fundamentals of the game as well as the game itself. We will strive to work within the framework of each individual to establish what is best for him and the team. We do not believe that everyone should look alike. We will teach fundamentals, not style!

TEAM OVERVIEW PLAYER PLACEMENT:

Our Baseball Program maintains 3 teams and involves tryouts and releases. Each team will keep the number of players that the coaching staff determines from tryouts.

Varsity is 9-12 grade

Junior Varsity is 9-11 grade

The Varsity team focuses on the skills and teamwork needed to win the district and state title. Student-Athletes playing time on the Varsity will be determined by which players give the team the best chance to be successful, practice and game experiences, and effectiveness of play from the Student-Athlete.

The Junior Varsity and Freshman teams will work on fundamentals and skill development. Playing time will be determined by practice and game experience with an emphasis on playing all Student-Athletes in the first half of the season. The second half will be determined by the above performances during practice and games.

PLAYERS LEVEL CHANGES:

Moving Student-Athletes up from freshman to junior varsity or varsity or moving Student-Athlete down from varsity to junior varsity or freshman may take place during the season. When this is happening within the season the coaching staff will talk with the Student-Athlete involved prior to making any level changes.

* Coaches reserve the right to make any changes to the above team information.

**Although it is our desire to play all players as much as we can. Making a team does not or will not guarantee playing time. Paying player fees does not guarantee playing time.

GRIEVANCE POLICY FOR PARENTS:

This policy was created as a guide for parents to resolve potential questions or concerns with the coaching staff. The coaching staff requests that you follow the steps in pursuing answers to your questions.

Step 1: Address with your Student-Athlete the questions and concerns that you have. They have attended all functions and might have the answer to your questions or concerns.

Step 2: Contact the Head Coach. Call or email the coach and leave a message. The coach will return your call or email in a timely fashion (normally within 24 hours) and discuss your questions or concerns. Our hope is that this conversation will answer your questions and allow us to hear your concerns. Playing time is not a concern that will be addressed with parents.

Step 3: Meeting with the coaching staff.

Step 4: Meeting with coaching staff and Athletic Director, if a resolution has not been reached, then we will proceed to a meeting with the coaching staff and Athletic Director. This meeting should include all parties. The Athletic Director will facilitate this meeting. This meeting will be scheduled by the Athletic Director and take place in the Athletic Director's office. The coaching staff request that you, as a parent, adhere to the following grievance guidelines.

*Please do not approach any coach on the field at any time. At the field we are focused on baseball and our responsibilities. We do not need to be ambushed with questions and concerns before, during or after the game or practice.

*Please do not try to contact any coach at home. With families of our own, time at home is dedicated to being a part of that family. Baseball conversations and issues should not interrupt this valuable time with our families.

*During any discussion the coaching staff will not talk about lineups, game strategy, other players, or coaching decisions.

Thank you for your understanding!

PLAYER INJURIES:

All Baseball players should report injuries to the coaching staff immediately, regardless if the injury occurred during a game, practice, or outside of the baseball. Coaches must ensure that our players receive proper diagnosis as well as treatment for a quick and healthy recovery.

PLAYOFF ROSTER SELECTIONS:

The Varsity Head Coach will use his discretion as to who to bring up to the Varsity Team to participate in the section playoffs. The Varsity Head Coach will consider input from the entire coaching staff.

TEAM RULES

1. Team members uphold a rich tradition of honorable behavior. Wherever they are, they are part of a team that proudly represents the best this school has to offer. Their honesty and good conduct are the most important contributions they make to the team.

- Team members never steal anything from anyone. When they find a lost item, they try to return that item to its owner.
 - From minor items to valued possessions, any instance of stealing will result in suspension from the team. A second offense will result in removal from the team.
- Team members are honest in all that they say and do. If they're late for a practice for no good reason, they admit it. They don't invent cover stories. Their coaches and teammates know they can count on them to tell the truth at all times.

- Violating this trust by lying (or committing other dishonest acts) will result in suspension from the day's activity and assignment of additional duties. Repeated offenses can result in removal from the team.
- Team members are also honest on the field. In practices and games alike, cheating of any kind is not tolerated. Our goal is to win a game through fair and competitive play.
 - Cheating on the field will result in extended bench time. Repeated offenses will result in a multiple game suspension from the team.

2. Team members take good care of their bodies and respect local laws regarding tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. They do not commit the following violations:

- Possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Attendance at a gathering where alcohol or drugs are being illegally used or possessed

The minimum penalty for committing either of these violations is as follows:

- First offense: up to the loss of 25% of the season of competition
- Second offense: up to the loss of 50% of the season of competition
- Third offense: up to the loss of all remaining season eligibility

3. Team members respect others and strive to represent the team and school in a positive manner.

First offense: warning.

Second offense: cleanup work day.

Third offense or offense at any competition: a special meeting with parents and the athlete could be called to help solve the problem. Suspension or dismissal from the team may result.

4. Team members respect and appreciate all officials who give their time to make competition possible. At the end of each game, we go out of our way to thank the officials for their work. Our athletes never argue a call with officials and never make a disrespectful comment toward them.

Breaking this rule will result in extended bench time. Repeat offenses will result in suspension and possibly removal from the team.

4. Team members respect and care about each others safety. Our athletes do not identify themselves as seniors, juniors, sophomores, or freshmen. They identify themselves as team members, caring for and helping each other as we strive toward team goals. Our team does not participate in any kind of hazing, either during or away from team activities. Hazing is any activity that singles out a member or members of a class or age group for special unpleasant treatment. Hazing is the infliction of humiliation, isolation, stress, or physical discomfort, often in the spirit of "initiating" a newer or younger member or members into the team.

Any minor psychological hazing will result in a multiple-game, if not dismissal from the team, suspension for all who commit the hazing. Physical hazing will result in at least a one-game suspension for bystanders who do not report or prevent the incident and a multi-game suspension or dismissal from the team for all who commit the act.

5. Team members place academic performance as priority one!

Athletes earning two or more F's in school may not be eligible to play until they complete a grading period with no F's. Athletes earning more than two F's in an academic year may practice with the team until they have completed a grading period with no F's but must participate in **ALL Saturday Study Halls**.

6. Team members make effective use of practice time. They arrive on time, ready for a great practice.

First time being late will result in a warning.

Second time being late will result in 30 minutes of campus cleanup. These actions may be sent before the Team Council.

7. Team members arrive at practice with all necessary equipment and in clothing that ensures a great practice. Team members will not take the practice field unless they follow these required clothing and equipment policies:

- School T-shirt. Athletes will not be allowed to take their T-shirts off and must have them tucked in during the entire practice. No cut off sleeves. If the temperature is below 70 degrees long sleeves will be worn.
- Baseball pants or athletic shorts.
- Spikes or turf shoes (tennis shoes are optional to change into on the days we have long runs).
- Belts
- Sweats for cold days.
- Team Hat

8. Team members must travel to away games on the team bus to be eligible to play. Athletes who want to leave a game site with their parent or parents must submit a written permission form from their parents the day before the away game for Athletic Director approval. Forms are available on our website.

Failure to comply may result in a multiple game suspension.

9. Team Policy for Drug Use

To make your participation in the Baseball Program a safe, positive, and healthy experience, your coaches will enforce the following team policy with regard to the use of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, and performance-enhancing drugs.

- All members of the team are prohibited from using, purchasing, possessing, manufacturing, or selling any
 - illicit drugs;
 - performance-enhancing drugs banned by the International Olympic Committee, United States Olympic Committee, or National Collegiate Athletic Association; or
 - any drugs banned by FHSAA.
- All members of the team are prohibited from using alcohol and tobacco at any team facility or function. This includes locker rooms, practice and contest facilities, meeting rooms, eating facilities, and transportation vehicles. It also includes all competitive events as well as team meetings, awards banquets, and official team events.
- Athletes will continue to participate in practices, if permissible, while disciplinary action and rehabilitation are occurring.

Coaches may establish additional rules as seen fit, including rules for conduct. These rules will be communicated verbally and/or in writing to the student-athletes and will be on file in the Athletic Director's office.

10. To be eligible for an award, a student-athlete must complete the season in good standing.
 11. All rules established by this Athletic Permit will be considered to be in effect continually, year round, until the student athlete completes eligibility or graduates, whichever is later.
 12. Dress code for Fridays will be set as dress pants, dress shirt and tie or polo shirt and dress pants.
 13. Players' hair will be trimmed neatly off of their ears.
- * All violations of rules may be taken in front of the Team Council before coaches decide to discipline per guidelines.

TEAM COUNCIL

The Team Council is designed to eliminate self-serving interests and promote communication between players and coaches. The Council was designed for two reasons: to open lines of communication between the coaching staff and the players and to serve as a disciplinary committee if the need should arise. But just as important, this student-athlete board is charged with holding its own accountable. The Council helps create a sense of togetherness among the players and coaches and provides the players a chance to have a say in the running of the team.

The Council consists of two representatives from the Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshman teams as well as the team captains. Each of the representatives is selected by teammates in the winter before the spring program begins. The current freshmen will vote on their representatives after tryouts are completed, giving them time to make an informed choice.

The Council in conjunction with the coaching staff developed a point system for team violations. A point for example is given to an athlete that is late for a team meeting or has an unexcused absence in the weight room. When an athlete receives a predetermined number of points they must appear before the Council where disciplinary action is taken. Athletes will also appear before the Council for any major team violation or at the request of a coach or teammate if a complaint is lodged.

The coaching staff reserves the right to override any disciplinary action taken by the Team Council.

PLAYER CONTRIBUTION

Player contribution will be set at \$500. Player contribution shall be set by the head coach of the baseball program with a financial assessment of need by the Booster Club.

Meal fund per player will be \$125.

Fundraising opportunities will be provided. Players will be credited a percentage of monies collected to their accounts.

All fees are due to the program during the current season. Dates will be provided by the booster club. Fees that are not paid to the program will be turned over to the school's accountant. Players will not be allowed to separate from the school before payment is made (i.e. graduate or transfer).

BOOSTER CLUB

The purpose of the booster club is to assist the coaches in establishing an organization to support the baseball program, coaching staff and players. To encourage and maintain continued communication between the coaches and club members, engage in fundraising activities for the benefit of the high school baseball program, its players and the promotion of its objectives. To avoid any actions that would tend to interfere or conflict with current schools and/or school district policy and to promote enthusiasm in the school and the community for the baseball program.

Any family/business that currently has a student in the Baseball program at our High School. This will allow families to vote on Booster business. Alumni of the Baseball program will be allowed to join the Booster Club in a non-voting capacity. Community members can also join the Booster Club in a non-voting capacity.

The boost club will be funded through membership dues, donations from individuals, as well as businesses and fundraising activities. We would like 100% family participation. Once you pay your dues, you can decide what level of involvement your family can provide. The booster club meetings will be held monthly during the school year. Times and locations will be provided at a later date. We welcome your ideas, attendance to meetings, voting in decision-making and involvement in our fundraising activities through volunteering on the various committees for special projects. It is not a requirement of membership to participate, although your ideas and efforts will help tremendously.

Fundraising opportunities will be offered to all players. Distribution of the 50% of profits will be divided equally between players that participate in the fundraiser towards player dues.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

- Be supportive of your child's participation on the team, but don't pressure your child.
- Keep winning in perspective, and help your child do the same.
- Help your child set realistic performance goals.
- Help your child meet his responsibilities to the team and the coach.
- Inform the coach of any medical or physical ailments that your child may have that may affect performance or health.
- Remain in the spectator area.
- Let the coach be the coach.
- Provide only supportive comments to coaches, officials, and players of both teams. Avoid any derogatory comments.
- Do not coach your son during the contest.
- Do not drink alcohol at practices or contests.
- Cheer for your team.
- Show interest, enthusiasm, and support for your child.
- Be in control of your emotions.
- Help when asked by coaches or officials.
- Be Involved

PLAYER, PARENT, COACH CONTRACT

It is a high priority to Coach Longo and our coaching staff to communicate clearly and effectively to student athletes and their parents, the purposes, goals expectations, and philosophies of the Coach Longo's Baseball Program.

We believe that this communication and contract will enable the "student-athlete, parent, coach, and team to function in a way that can only produce success and pursue excellence. It is our strong hope that these dynamics will give each player a positive and successful baseball experience.

PURPOSE

The purpose and intent of the baseball program is to provide the student-athlete with an instructional baseball experience consistent with the standards set by Booker T. Washington High School and the Escambia County School District. Our program exists to add to the educational experience. All goals, expectations, and philosophies will be derived from our purpose.

EXPECTATIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES

Consistent with school and district policy, any use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will result in discipline outlined in the baseball program team rules.

1. Baseball can be an emotional game. Players are required to control their language.
2. Punctuality to practices and games is absolute. If a student-athlete is not on time, it is believed that they are not ready to perform. If there is an appropriate reason such as an exam, doctor visit, etc. the coaches must be notified prior and arrangements made.
3. Student-athletes are expected to dress neat, clean and in a professional manner at all times when representing the baseball program. This includes practice attire, game uniform, dressing for road trips and possibly dressing for school on specific game days.
4. All players in the baseball program are expected to take care of their field. This will include assigned duties, field maintenance, trash detail, equipment responsibilities and other assignments deemed necessary by the coaches.
5. Parents are not required to attend practice sessions and workouts, as it has been observed that on many occasions, student-athletes do not perform as well when the parents are present at workouts.
6. Consistent with state athletic associations' policy, abusive language toward opponents and/or umpires such as "trash talk" is not consistent with a class program.
7. The coaches reserve the right to impose curfew on evenings before ball games. This discipline is believed to be very compatible with a program pursuing excellence.
8. Playing time, positions, pitching schedules, et. are not negotiable issues. No one wants to put the best nine on the field more than the coaches do. Playing time roles will be discussed with the players only.
9. A coaches, player and parent conference can occur if a situation or circumstance concerning a player arises.
10. Discipline may be administered within the baseball program for behavior that occurs during the school day. To do otherwise would not be consistent with our purpose. What happens at school does matter. A Team Council may be used.
11. Student-athletes are expected to remain eligible throughout the school year. The coaches reserve the right to suspend or dismiss a player depending on the situation. Possible playing time can be taken away as a disciplinary measure. A Team Council may be used.
12. A student-athlete is issued a uniform only after their role on the team has been communicated by the coaches. If the student-athlete does not accept the role after receiving the uniform, the coaches reserve the right to dismiss the player. A Team Council may be used.
13. Attitude is everything! Players are expected to maintain and demonstrate a positive team-oriented, teachable and coachable attitude throughout the season. Any behavior less than that may result in discipline, lack of playing time, suspension or dismissal from the program. A Team Council may be used.
14. A player must be cleared by a physician before returning to workouts after being injured or possible illness.
15. When the coaches are asked to evaluate a player's baseball future by college or professional scouts a no less than objective and honest evaluation will be given.

NOTE: Any violation of these purposes, goals, expectations, and philosophies, could result in discipline, lack of playing time, suspension, or dismissal from the program. A Team Council may be used.

Again, the purpose and motive of this contract is to communicate clearly and effectively the purposes, goals, expectations, perspectives, and philosophies of our Baseball Program. This is intended to be positive and to facilitate the dynamics between players, parents and coaches in an effort to make this year a success for all involved, especially the players. Coach Longo and the coaching staff ask each player and parent to join us in making this commitment to pursue excellence and have culture for a positive year. We ask each player and parent to read and sign below if you are willing to make this commitment with us.

I have read and understand the player, parent, and coaches contract for the baseball season. I agree to commit to its intended purpose and to support, follow and encourage the goals, expectations, perspective and philosophies contained in the contract. I realize my important role for the team and will work diligently to perform it.

We do hereby give our approval for his participation in the Baseball Program, and any events connected with the program, this includes, but is not limited to, photography for the Program website and Facebook page. We do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree that the coaches and any other participants, or any other persons or agencies associated with this organization are not to be held responsible and are free from liability for any claims arising from our participation.

We understand that we are **REQUESTED** to participate in all fundraising activities and financial support programs associated with the Baseball Program. This includes, but is not limited to, team fundraisers, tournaments, park cleanup and maintaining the concession stand.

PLAYER CONTRACT

I understand that, as a member of the Booker T. Washington Wildcat Baseball team, I will not be satisfied with less than my best effort on the court or in the classroom.

I will strive to earn A's and B's in all my classes.

I will attend every class. I will arrive on time for each class and I will turn in every assignment on the assigned date. I will sit in the front of class, if possible.

I will attend all practices, games, fund-raisers, and other events associated with our Baseball Program. In the event I am unable to attend any function due to family or personal emergency, I will contact Coach Longo immediately. As a parent, I will also work to support our Baseball Program by meeting work and fundraising requirements on time. In the event that I cannot make my assignment, I will arrange my fellow parent replacement.

I understand if I miss a Baseball function, I will be expected to make it up by extra conditioning and by contributing in other areas as discussed with Coach Longo. This, of course, is excused with a doctor's order from practice or the unfortunate death of a family member.

I will be on time for every Baseball function.

I will treat my teachers, coaches, and teammates with courtesy and respect. This includes responsible behavior on the Internet, Facebook, Twitter, texting and email. Unsupportive communication concerning another player, coaching decisions, playing time, or position will not be tolerated. Any comment made by a parent or player that does not strengthen the relationships among our team family will result in dismissal of that player.

I will give 100% effort in every practice and game, as it is my intention to become the best Baseball player I can be.

I will follow the guidelines set by our coaches, faculty and administrators in a respectful fashion. I understand that these guidelines are for the good of our team, our school and our reputation.

I will not participate in any illegal behavior. I understand that I represent my family, my team, and my school wherever I am. There will be consequences such as running, missed games, and team suspension depending on the severity.

I understand that for my personal success, and the success of the program, I must follow these guidelines and furthermore, encourage my teammates to do the same.

I have read and agree to the above guidelines. I understand that failure to meet the requirements of the contract may result in loss of opportunities to continue as a member of the Booker T. Washington Wildcats Baseball program.

******We have been provided, read and understand all program policies, rules and procedures and will follow the program policies, rules and procedures. I understand that any violations observed and/or reported by any parent, coach, umpire, is subject to review.******

PRINTED PLAYER NAME: _____ PRINTED PARENT NAME: _____

PLAYER SIGNATURE: _____ PARENT SIGNATURE: _____