

Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League

Participant Code Of Conduct



The Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League (GHVBL) is an organization focused on the development and education of players, coaches, umpires, and the families that support them. The GHVBL is a healthy outlet for all when respect for the game & each other is embraced. The GHVBL places a passionate **priority on sportsmanship** for all who participate and interact with the game and the league.

The next and following generations will be the stewards of our great game of baseball. More importantly, they will be the caretakers of our families, communities, and nation. The present and future well-being of our society will depend on men and women of high moral character who will demonstrate and live out the virtues of honesty, integrity, respect and personal responsibility. Recognizing that these and all other ethical values do not develop automatically in our participants, the GHVBL will make a deliberate and conscious effort to assist them in developing the values and ideals necessary for moral decision making and conduct.

The GHVBL groups league participants into 4 separate sections. Listed in order of priority:

- #1 - Player** - The most important participant is the player. It is, and always will be, **ALL ABOUT THE KIDS ON THE FIELD!**
- #2 - Coach** - The hardest (and most rewarding) job in the league. Coaches inspire, teach, and lead by example.
- #3 - Umpire** - Upholds the integrity & spirit of the game & league. Umpires must be treated with respect at all times.
- #4 - Spectators** - Enjoy the game. Allow the players, coaches, and umpires to perform with positive support & respect.

Without exception, the GHVBL places the enjoyment of participants in order of priority numbered above. **Every policy & rule we develop keeps this list of priorities in mind.** The GHVBL's Code of Conduct is stated for the general welfare and betterment of our league. Expectations & requirements have been established for all participants in the GHVBL (players, coaches, umpires, & spectators). Those who fail to act according to the GHVBL Code of Conduct may lose their right to participate in the organization.

LEAGUE EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS

Behavior Expectations

All participants shall exhibit respect for each other (player, coach, umpire, spectator) & respect for the game of baseball. Each participant is encouraged to make your impact a positive one. Our goal is to build a supportive environment, increase participants' self-esteem and foster in them a true sense of enjoyment in which everyone can enjoy themselves in & around a GHVBL game. Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results. Participants are expected to display consistently high standards of behavior and appearance.

Participants should meet and exchange greetings to set the correct tone for games before and after the contest. Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants (players, coaches, umpires, and spectators) built & based on mutual trust and respect. **Be a good sport, exhibit poise & composure regardless of the situation - win with modesty, lose with dignity.**

At any time where anything less than exemplary behavior is being conducted or observed, while the umpire has responsibility for the game, **each head coach has the ultimate responsibility for the behavior of his or her team, coaches, and spectators.** In the event a head coach is ejected or removed, this responsibility falls to the first assistant. If the conduct of a participant (player, coach, spectator) is deemed unsportsmanlike, malicious, or too aggressive by the umpire, the participant will either receive a warning or be ejected from the game depending on severity.

Participants must do their best to provide a safe & healthy playing situation for players on and off the field of play. Teams and players are guests at the fields we use during the season. Participants are asked to be mindful of their surroundings when it comes to cleaning their benches, dugouts, bleachers, and obeying local rules before, during and after GHVBL games. Report any unsafe playing conditions to the GHVBL league office as soon as possible.

It is mandatory that no one ever engages in, or tolerates offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other person on the ground of gender, race, disability, age, religious or political belief, sexual orientation, social background, ethnic origin, language, marital or civil status. **There is zero tolerance for this behavior.**

Ejection (player, coach, spectator) results in a one game suspension, but each ejection is subject to additional penalties including longer suspensions or expulsion from the league. Each ejection shall be examined for its severity to determine appropriate sanctions. In the event a participant is ejected, they are required to leave the field complex for the remainder of the game.

Disputing an umpire's judgment, making contact with an umpire or directing unsportsmanlike conduct toward any league participant will not be tolerated. Players, coaches, or spectators involved in such behavior will face disciplinary action up to and including permanent removal from the league.

Sportsmanship is the RULE. Gamesmanship is not tolerated. Be THE EXAMPLE for youth travel sports.

Participants must never place the value of winning above the emotional & physical well being of peer participants. **Participants are expected to exhibit the highest ideals of character & sportsmanship.** In all interaction with players, coaches, umpires, & spectators, we shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Consider it an honor and a privilege to be a positive influence on the young people of our community.

Participants shall read & follow GHVBL rules, policies, code of conduct and shall forward, relay, and understand them (players, coaches, umpires, and spectators). **Participants shall never seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.**

Important examples of GHVBL specific sportsmanship expectations that promote the vision & spirit of the league:

Placement level of your team - Coaches are expected to stretch their team into the highest division possible for the promotion of competitive balance in schedule building. **Rule of Thumb - No team should ever be undefeated except in the highest division (D1).** To us & as an example for the ultimate goal of player and team development, a perfect season is a .500 winning percentage, filled with 1-3 run games. That means your team was placed in the perfect division!

This is travel baseball - When building a schedule you should expect to travel a distance to half your games. You should do your best to schedule an even number of home and away games. Be flexible in your schedule, try to be open to days & times that promote games. Traveling an hour to an away DH or single game keeps the league fair, growing, & healthy.

Respect your opponent - Treat each game as a **COMMITMENT** to your opponent. Cancellations are a huge inconvenience to your opponent & the league. Confirm with your opponent (day/field/time) in advance of a game, be prompt in your submission of the game score. You should always come to the field prepared with league authorized game balls - each team should always expect to use 3-4 balls each game regardless if you are the home or away team.

Understand & appreciate you are part of something bigger - Follow league guidance in scheduling playoff games, never participating in the playoff tournament if you scheduled a tournament in conflict. Do your best to accommodate the higher seed (home team) as they earned the right to host a playoff game with their regular season results. All players participating must be age appropriate & have played the minimum # of games to be playoff eligible.

Follow the Golden Rule

In the end, it is simple, follow one of the oldest principles of ethics, **"treat others as you would like others to treat you."**

Violations of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. Participants who do not exemplify the high level of expectations described here may be subject to punishment up to and including expulsion from the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League.

If any participant witnesses inappropriate behavior at GHVBL games, please let us know about it. It's our job to address it.

Any informer exposing violation to the league will be confidential. Concerns should be sent to - theghvbl@gmail.com - thank you for your participation in the GHVBL. Enjoy every minute!