

# Post 6 American Legion Baseball

## Parent/Coach Communication Guide

### **The Parent-Coach Relationship**

We are excited that your son is playing baseball with the Post 6 Legion baseball club. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him. Possibly the most important ingredient to achieve this outcome is to ensure that lines of communication are developed to allow for free and easy communication and removal of conflicts. As a parent, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on the coaching staff and your son.

Coaches apply-to and are selected by the board of directors based on experience, schedule, philosophy and economics. This parent/coach communication guide is intended to spell out all levels of communication so that parents, coaches, and athletes share a common goal during the baseball season.

### **Communication you should expect from your son's coach:**

- Introduction and philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your son.
- Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- Team goal.
- Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
- Procedure to follow should your son become injured during participation.
- Player Code of Conduct and discipline.
- Coach contact information.
- Handout/return of uniforms and equipment.

### **Communication coaches should expect from parents:**

- Notify the coach of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Player injury update.
- Query to coach's communicated philosophy and expectations.

As your son becomes involved in baseball through the Post 6 Legion program, he will experience some rewarding moments in his life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your son wishes. At these times a discussion with the coach may be desirable to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding. It is expected that your son will first meet with the coach to discuss the concern. What are appropriate concerns for parents to discuss with a coach?

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**

- The treatment of your son, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your son improve.

- Concerns about your son's behavior.

Post 6 Legion baseball coaches make judgments based on team philosophy and what is best for all players involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your son's coach. Other issues such as those listed below must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Inappropriate issues to discuss with coaches:**

- Playing time.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling.
- Matters concerning other athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between a coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

### **Procedures to follow to discuss an appropriate concern with a coach:**

- Call to set up an appointment your son's coach.
- If the coach cannot be reached, contact General Manager and Board Member Pat Perner (715.570.8285). He will arrange the appointment for you or facilitate a meeting on behalf of the coach.
- Please *do not* attempt to confront a coach before or after a game or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and sometimes exacerbate the issue.

### **TEAM EXPECTATIONS**

- Play hard, all the time. Especially on defense.
- Learn: we should all learn something new, every time our team takes the field. Play smart.
- Teamwork: you will make everyone better when you do the little things. A player will never yell at another player.
- Fun: enjoy your teammates. Enjoy doing your best. Be sure to thank your family and friends when they come to watch.
- Win: when we do the first four things well, we expect to win.

### **COACH EXPECTATIONS**

- We have high expectations of each player. We will work to develop a player's knowledge, skills, attitude, and habits.
- We will try to make this a good experience for each player.

- We will be open and honest with the players and parents and will treat everyone with respect.
- We will try to mix up playing time and starting rotations the best we can based on the five expectations of the players.
- We will listen and be open-minded with the players and parents.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

- Attend the games whenever possible.
- Find the positives in your son's game and leave the negatives alone.
- Support the team.
- Be ambassadors of our community and show guests and hosts the integrity of our city and program.
- Volunteer your time to support the needs of the organization.
- Always remember: Coaches coach; Players play; Umpires umpire; Parents enjoy, cheer, and support. Be careful to not over-coach your son once you're back in the car together...your son is learning at a new level and must process message and expectations.
- If something is bothering you or your son, talk to us. We may be overlooking something. Pick up the phone and call a board member. All board members have phone and email contact information listed on our website [www.stevenspointsixers.com/about](http://www.stevenspointsixers.com/about).
- Have the players at practices, at the bus, and to games on time. Call if your son is sick or for some other reason will not make it to the game or practice.

## **Baseball Wisdom**

*"The game of baseball is very much like life. Watch it closely, and you will learn about things like courage, beauty, strength, finesse, chance, fallibility and loyalty".*

*"Though the distance between bases has always been a perfect 90 feet, and home plate has remained 17 inches wide, baseball is forever new; a new season, a new game, a new batter. It is constantly surprising, endlessly fascinating, and alternately enrapturing or heart-breaking."*

*"Baseball is caring. Player and fan alike must care, or there is no game."*

*"I think I'll have more value at anything I do later on for having been a baseball player."*