



THE PARENT-PLAYER/GUARDIAN-COACH RELATIONSHIP

We are very pleased that your player has chosen to participate in baseball within the Spearfish American Legion Baseball program. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him. Possibly the most important ingredient to achieve this outcome is to insure that lines of communication are developed to allow for free and easy resolution of questions before they become conflicts. As a parent/guardian, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your player. This handout is intended to spell out all levels of communication so that parents/guardians, coaches and players are aware of the steps they should take if a problem arises.

Communication you should expect from your player's coach

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your player
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedure to follow should your player become injured during participation
6. Participant conduct code and discipline that results in the denial of your player's participation
7. Insurance information
8. Disposition of lost/outstanding equipment at the end of the season

Communication coaches should expect from parents/guardians

After your player has visited with his coach concerning an issue, parents/guardians should:

1. Express concerns directly to the coach **FIRST** (appropriate time and setting)
2. Notify the coach of any schedule conflicts **well in advance**
3. Specify concern(s) in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your player becomes involved in baseball through the Spearfish American Legion Baseball 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 player wishes. At these times a discussion with the coach may be desirable to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

1. The treatment of your player, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your player improve
3. Concerns about your player's behavior

It is very difficult to accept the fact that your player is not playing as much as you would want. Legion & Teener coaches make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all players involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your player's coach. Other things such as those which follow must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Inappropriate issues to discuss with coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Matters concerning other players (except as it relates directly to your player)

There are situations that may require a conference between a coach, the parent/guardian and the player. These are to be encouraged. It is important that all 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 a concern with a coach

1. Call to set up an appointment. Parents/Guardians should have received the coach's phone number from them.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact your Parent Rep who will arrange the appointment for you.
3. **DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before, during or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and even exacerbate the issue.**

TEAM EXPECTATIONS

1. **Play Hard:** All the time - especially on defense!! Defense is more effort than skill.
2. **Learn:** You should learn something new every time you take the field or watch a game. This will help you play smart.
3. **Teamwork:** You will make everyone better when you do the little things. A player will never yell at another player.
4. **Fun:** Enjoy your teammates. Enjoy doing your best. Be sure to thank your family and friends when they come to watch.
5. **Win:** When we do the first four things well, we will win most of the time!

COACH EXPECTATIONS

1. We have high expectations of each player. We will work to develop his knowledge, skills, attitude & habits.
2. We will *try* to make this a good experience for each player.
3. We will be open and honest with the players and parents/guardians and will treat everyone with respect.
4. We will *try* to mix up playing time the best we can based on the five expectations of the players.
5. We will listen and be open-minded with the players and parents/guardians.

PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

1. Attend the games whenever possible.
2. Find the positives in your player's game and leave the negatives alone.
3. Always remember: Coaches coach; Players play; Referees referee; Parents/Guardians enjoy, cheer, and support.
4. If something is bothering you or your player, talk to us. We may be overlooking something. Don't hesitate to call us.
5. Have the player at practices and games on time as per the coach's instructions. Call if your player is sick or for some other reason will not make it to the game or practice.

NOTIFICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

I have read the Spearfish American Legion Post 164 & Teener Baseball Player-Parent/Guardian-Coach Relationship handout and agree to abide by the expectations listed in the handout.

Player

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date

I understand that Spearfish American Legion Post 164 & Teener Baseball requires that parents/guardians and players volunteer throughout the season and off-season, including but not limited to the following:

- Sell season passes
- Sell Chili Feed tickets and obtain items for our live & silent auction
- Obtain Raffle prize items & sell Raffle tickets
- Work gate, field prep, announcing, scoreboard, cleanup, etc at home games
- Help with our golf tournament with registering teams, obtaining sponsors, obtaining silent auction donations, etc.
- Participate at Field Work Days
- Work several shifts at every home tournament – See Calendar of Events for tournament dates

Player

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date