



WEXFORD AGINCOURT BASEBALL LEAGUE (WABL) CODE OF CONDUCT

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I. Purpose

Wexford Agincourt Baseball League (WABL) is committed to providing all players with a safe environment to play baseball that fosters a love for the sport, integrity, respect, trust, fair play, and leadership.

The WABL Code of Conduct is to ensure that all participants — players, coaches, parents/guardians, volunteers, umpires, and spectators contribute to a positive, inclusive, and respectful environment for everyone.

II. General Principles

WABL Participants are defined to include: all registered players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, Members of the Board of Directors, parents/guardians, sponsors, and members of the general public attending as spectators.

Participants are encouraged and expected to:

- Demonstrate the greatest level of respect for all players, coaches, parents/guardians, umpires, volunteers, and spectators, regardless of race, gender, age, ability, or background.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship on and off the field and always act in a manner that promotes fair play, teamwork, and integrity. Celebrate the success of others and learn from defeats.
- Ensure the physical, emotional, and mental safety of all participants and report any incidents of unsafe behaviour or practices.
- Encourage an environment that is welcoming and inclusive to all, regardless of race, gender, ability, background, or skill level.
- Focus on the personal growth of all players, fostering skills development, confidence, and a love for the game.



III. Expectations for Players

- **Effort and Attitude:** Players will always give their best effort and maintain a positive attitude, both on and off the field. Remember that winning is not everything. Having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing their best are also important.
- **Respect for Coaches and Umpires:** Players will listen to and respect their coaches, teammates, and umpires. Disagreeing with a decision should be done respectfully. Players will also play by the rules of baseball and in the spirit of the game, treat their teammates, opponents, umpires, and spectators with respect and . remember that coaches and umpires are there to help players. Players will accept their decisions and always show them respect.
- **Teamwork:** Players will do their best to be a true team player. They will encourage and support their teammates. Baseball is a team sport, and everyone plays an important role.
- **Behaviour:** Players will always display good sportsmanship. Bullying, inappropriate language, or any form of aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated. They will not use email, text, or social media in a negative manner to express their opinion or concern. Any concerns should be raised through the proper channels.
- **Commitment:** Players will attend practices and games regularly and notify coaches in advance if they are unable to attend. Players are participating because of their desire and love of the game, not because others, including parents/guardians or coaches, are forcing them to play.
- **Respect for Equipment and Facilities:** Players will treat all equipment and facilities with care and follow the rules of the field.

IV. Expectations for Coaches

- Meet all requirements set out by [Baseball Ontario](#), including Baseball Ontario's volunteer screening policy.
- **Role Model:** Coaches will be a positive role model for players, umpires, volunteers, parents/guardians, and spectators by demonstrating respect, patience, sportsmanship,



integrity and leadership. They will always act in a manner that reflects the values of the organization. Coaches will maintain a calm, patient, and professional demeanor in all interactions with players, parents/guardians, umpires, opposing coaches, and volunteers.

- **Fair Treatment:** Coaches will treat all players equally, fostering a supportive environment where every child can try their best, develop their baseball skills, have fun, and grow. The coaches will respect the rights, dignity, and worth of each person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
- **Fair Play:** Coaches will understand, respect, and promote the principles of fair play.
- **Respect Decisions of Umpires and League Officials:** Coaches will respect the umpire's decision, understanding they are final. During a game, only the head coach may respectfully approach the umpire to seek clarification on a ruling. Arguments, shouting, or confrontational behaviour are prohibited. If a disagreement persists, the game will proceed, and the issue can be addressed through the proper conflict resolution process, after the game. Coaches must act appropriately at all times, understanding that younger umpires are still learning the game.
- **Skill Development:** Coaches will provide age-appropriate instruction and work to develop each player's individual skills as well as teamwork. They will focus on teaching fundamental skills and strategies appropriate for each player's age and ability level that provides opportunities for all players to grow, regardless of their skill level. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience, and ability of players.
- **Communication:** Coaches will maintain clear, open, and respectful communication with players, umpires, parents/guardians, and other coaches. They will keep open lines of communication with players and parents/guardians, informing them of schedules, expectations, and any issues that may arise. They will be open to feedback and questions, handling concerns with professionalism and care. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches should clarify with the player (and, where appropriate, their parent/guardian) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.



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- **Safety:** Coaches will ensure that all practices, drills, and games follow safety protocols, including proper use of equipment and adherence to league rules. They will address injuries or concerns immediately, prioritizing the well-being of players. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance. Coaches must always promote the appropriate Code of Conduct and positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) to players, parents/guardians, and spectators alike and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game, or relevant rules and regulations.
 - **Confidentiality:** Coaches will maintain confidentiality regarding any sensitive information regarding players, parents/guardians, or volunteers.
 - **Encouragement and Positivity:** Coaches will create an environment where players feel supported and encouraged to give their best effort. They will avoid overly critical feedback or favouritism; instead, offer constructive and actionable guidance. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance. Coaches must cooperate fully in the best interests of the player.
 - **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** Coaches will not tolerate verbal, physical, or emotional abuse of any kind. Coaches will address any inappropriate behaviour immediately and report incidents to league level convenors.

V. Expectations for Parents and Guardians

- **Support your children:** Parents/guardians will encourage their child to give their best effort and support their teammates.
- **Show Respect:** Parents/guardians will be respectful of all players and coaches by avoiding criticizing players, coaches, or umpires before, during, or after games. Parents/guardians will cheer for all players, not just their own child, and celebrate efforts, not just results.
- **Positive Attitude:** Parents/guardians will maintain a positive attitude towards the game, coaching staff, and umpires. They will avoid criticism or negative comments during games and practices. They will let all children play for the fun of the game and do not



deprive children of the fun of the game. They will focus on accomplishments during the game (e.g. “great catch”, “nice hit”, “awesome play”) versus the outcome of the game.

- **Respect for the Game:** Parents/guardians will support the rules of the game and encourage their child to do the same to help them understand that winning is not everything but learning and enjoying the game are the primary goals.
- **Involvement:** Parents/guardians will volunteer when possible, to help with team activities, events, or other aspects of the organization.
- **Communication:** Parents/guardians will keep lines of communication open with coaches. If concerns arise, they will address them respectfully, in private, and at an appropriate time.
- **Safety:** Parents/guardians will ensure that their child arrives at practices and games safely, that they are properly equipped for each session, and are picked up in a timely manner so that they are not left alone at the park. They will monitor their child's physical and emotional health and alert coaches to any issues. Parents/guardians will support the league's policies on safety, including adherence to rules regarding behaviour and conduct.
- **Respect Boundaries:** Parents/guardians will allow coaches to coach and umpires to officiate without interference from the sidelines. They will address concerns privately and appropriately to coaches or the convenor of that age group, to resolve any conflict.
- **Be a Role Model:** Parents/guardians will demonstrate sportsmanship by treating all participants, including opposing teams and umpires, with respect. They will avoid engaging in disruptive behaviour, such as yelling, arguing, or using inappropriate language.
- **Commitment:** Parents/guardians will ensure players attend practices and games on time and are equipped with the necessary gear. They will communicate promptly with coaches regarding scheduling conflicts, injuries, or other concerns.
- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** Parents/guardians will not tolerate verbal, physical, or emotional abuse of any kind. Parents/guardians will address any inappropriate behaviour immediately and report incidents to league level convenors.



VI. Expectations for Volunteers

- Meet all requirements set out by [Baseball Ontario](#), including Baseball Ontario's volunteer screening policy.
- Supportive Environment: Volunteers will assist coaches and players in creating a positive environment for children to grow, both as athletes and individuals. They will foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for players, families, and other volunteers. They will handle challenges or conflicts calmly and respectfully, escalating concerns to the appropriate person (e.g. coach, convenor) as needed.
- Respectful Conduct: Volunteers will treat everyone involved in the program with respect, following the principles of fairness and inclusivity.
- Assistance with Tasks: Volunteers will help with administrative duties, event organization, or other team needs as requested. They will assist coaches and league umpires as necessary, by setting up fields, organizing equipment and players, scorekeeping, or coordinating schedules. They will encourage and support all players, contributing to a positive and enjoyable atmosphere.
- Confidentiality: Volunteers will maintain confidentiality regarding any sensitive information regarding players or coaches.
- Dependability: Volunteers will fulfil their assigned roles, such as team manager, scorekeeper, event organizer, field duties with reliability and professionalism. They will arrive on time and prepared to carry out their responsibilities.
- Adherence to Policies: Volunteers will follow the WABL's rules and guidelines, including those related to safety, conduct, and conflict resolution. They will serve as role models for players by demonstrating respect, fairness, and sportsmanship.
- Zero Tolerance for Abuse: Volunteer conduct should always remain free from any form of abuse, discrimination, or misconduct.

VII. Expectations for Umpires

- Abide by all rules set out by the Umpire-in-Chief.
- Meet requirements for umpires outlined in [code of conduct by Baseball Ontario](#)



Preparation and Consistency: Umpires will arrive on time, dressed appropriately, and fully prepared for the game. They will strive to make accurate and consistent calls throughout the game.

- **Maintain Neutrality:** Umpires are responsible for enforcing the rules of the game impartially and without favouritism. They will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition. Umpires will be consistent and objective in calling the games, regardless of their personal feelings toward a team, coach, or individual athlete.
- **Promote Fair Play:** Umpires will ensure games are conducted safely and in accordance with league rules. They will make sure that every athlete has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of their ability, within the limits of the rules. Umpires will treat all players, coaches, parents/guardians, volunteers, and spectators with dignity, avoiding confrontational or dismissive behaviour.
- **Communicate Clearly:** Umpires will make calls confidently and explain decisions when appropriate to both teams, while avoiding unnecessary arguments or debates. They will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.
- **Model Sportsmanship:** Umpires will exhibit professionalism, composure, and respect toward all players, coaches, parents/guardians, and spectators. They will accept their role as a role model for fair play, while performing their role as an umpire.
- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** Verbal or physical abuse of umpires by players, coaches, volunteers, parents/guardians, or spectators will not be tolerated and may result in immediate disciplinary action. Umpires will also not tolerate verbal or physical abuse in between the other teams, players, coaches, volunteers, parents/guardians and spectators.
- **Conflict Management:** Concerns about an umpire's performance should be addressed through the Umpire-in-Chief rather than during or immediately after games. Umpires will avoid, or put an end to, any situation that threatens the safety of the athletes. Umpires will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.

VIII. Zero Tolerance for Misconduct

- WABL is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants. Any behaviour that jeopardizes the well-being, dignity, or enjoyment of the



game for players, coaches, parents/guardians, volunteers, umpires, or spectators will not be tolerated. Violations will result in immediate action, including warnings, suspension, or permanent removal from the organization, depending on the severity of the misconduct.

IX. Prohibited Behaviours

- **Bullying and Harassment:** Any form of bullying, intimidation, or harassment, whether verbal, physical, emotional, or online (cyberbullying), is strictly prohibited.
- **Discrimination:** Discriminatory remarks or actions based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ability, or any other personal characteristic will not be tolerated.
- **Abuse (Physical, Emotional, or Sexual):** Any form of abuse or inappropriate behaviour toward players, coaches, umpires, parents/guardians, spectators, or volunteers is strictly forbidden. Adults must maintain appropriate boundaries with all minors, ensuring interactions are professional, respectful, and safe.
- **Substance Use:** The use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products during practices, games, or any events involving minors is strictly prohibited for coaches, umpires, volunteers and league officials.
- **Disruptive or Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Disruptive or unsportsmanlike conduct during games, practices, or tournaments are strictly prohibited.
- **Retaliation:** Retaliating against anyone who reports misconduct or raises concerns in good faith will not be tolerated.

X. Reporting Misconduct

- **Players:** Speak to your coach or a trusted adult if you experience or witness misconduct.
- **Parents/Guardians:** Report any incidents to the coach or division convenor.
- **Coaches and Volunteers:** Immediately document and report any observed misconduct to league leadership.



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- Umpires: Report any conflicts or incidents to the Umpire-in-Chief immediately after the game.

XI. Disciplinary Actions

The WABL is committed to maintaining a respectful and supportive environment. Any individual (player, coach, parent/guardian, umpires, or volunteer) who violates this Code of Conduct may be subject to:

- Investigation: The league leadership will investigate reports of misconduct promptly and impartially. This may involve gathering statements from witnesses, reviewing evidence, and consulting relevant policies.
- Interim Actions: Depending on the severity, individuals involved may be temporarily suspended during the investigation to ensure the safety and integrity of the program.
- Disciplinary Measures: Disciplinary actions will be determined by the WABL Board of Directors, based on the severity of the violation, and in consultation with relevant parties. Depending on the situation, disciplinary measures may include:
 - Verbal or written warnings, mandatory apologies, or required training
 - Suspension, expulsion, or permanent removal from the organization
 - The involvement of law enforcement
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- Appeal Process: Individuals subject to disciplinary action may appeal decisions by submitting a formal request to the Board of Directors within 30 days of disciplinary measures.
 - Appeal request must include documentation to support reversal of the decision, which may include infringement of an SBA or OBA rule.



XII. Acknowledgment

By participating in the Wexford Agincourt Baseball League (WABL), participants agree to follow and abide by the rules set forth in this Code of Conduct. WABL's goal is to create a positive, supportive, and inclusive environment that fosters a love for the game, respect for the sport and allows every individual to thrive.