

# Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball Code of Conduct

## CHARACTER COUNTS

### BOARD, MANAGERS, COACHES, PLAYERS,

### PARENTS, SPECTATORS AND VOLUNTEERS

#### CODE OF CONDUCT

#### Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Citizenship, Caring

Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball (RPYB), has adopted a *Code of Conduct*. All Members of the Board, Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, Players and Parents and/or Guardians of Players (collectively participants) must conform to this Code of Conduct for proper sportsmanship to occur in RPYB.

The RPYB Board mandates that every board member, manager, coach, player, parent, spectator and volunteer follow the guidelines listed below. No exceptions or concessions to this Code of Conduct will be permitted.

RPYB has developed three codes of conduct: one for parents, one for participants, and one for managers/coaches. All are similar, following the guidelines of the "Character Counts" initiative.

The RPYB Board of Directors is dedicated to ensure that trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, and caring are implemented into our community-based program. The Board will be responsible for dealing with violations of our code of conduct and any subsequent actions that may need to be taken.

These codes will be distributed to each player in our program, their parents or guardians, and all coaches prior to the start of the season. All participants, parents, and coaches will be required to sign the code of conduct and to adhere to the standards. Coaches will also be asked to discuss these codes with their players and their parents at their individual team orientation meetings prior to the start of the season.

If a person is in violation of the Code of Conduct, RPYB has a range of possible actions that may be taken, including:

1. WARNING
2. PROBATION
3. SUSPENSION
4. EXPULSION

Any person may have the opportunity to come to a RPYB board meeting to discuss incidents that may involve the Code of Conduct. Everyone has the opportunity to be heard. A person in violation may also be required to come to a RPYB Board meeting.

We encourage the handshake ritual after all youth games. This demonstration of sportsmanship and high standards of ethics is important in the development of good character. Building character through sports is a vital way of helping our youth today and tomorrow.

## **I. Appointments**

Managers and Coaches are selected by the Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball Board of Directors. Such selection is conditioned upon the Manager and Coaches adhering to all rules and policies of RPYB and the City of Rocklin Parks and Recreation. The Managers are responsible for the conduct of assistant coaches, players and spectators of his/her team. A Manager or Coach selection may be suspended or revoked at any time by the Board for violation of rules or policies.

## **II. Conduct**

Rules and policies apply to all Participants, Players, Coaches, Parents and Spectators. The manager is accountable and responsible for the behavior of his team and its spectators. Some examples of prohibited conduct are listed below. These examples are not intended to be exhaustive.

1. Arguing with umpires: Judgment calls are not subject to discussion or comment.
2. Making calls prior to the umpire. This is not only unsportsmanlike conduct, but in the case of younger umpires, can actually influence their calls.
3. Allowing or encouraging equipment violations. RPYB'S 'S rules require all players to meet specific equipment requirements.
4. Negative comments directed at Managers, Coaches, Players, Umpires and league staff will result in the immediate removal of the offender. If spectators are involved, they will be asked to leave the park immediately by any member of the Board of Directors or umpires that are in attendance. If an individual refuses to leave, the game will be **SUSPENDED** and the local law enforcement will be called to affect the removal. All Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball Participants understand and agree they must vacate the fields if asked. Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball is granted permission by the City of Rocklin to utilize the fields to operate the program. In return, Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball has the responsibility to manage the facilities in a safe and professional manner and has the **authority** to remove individuals from the park that create behavior problems that interfere with the safe operation of the facility.
5. Team personnel (managers, coaches and players) that are ejected from a game will automatically receive a minimum of a one (1) game suspension (The RPYB Board reserves the right to increase the number of games suspended). A second ejection in the same season will result in an indefinite suspension pending a hearing of the Board of Directors with the individual involved. A third infraction by the same individual will result in immediate termination for the remainder of the season. In addition, the individual will become ineligible for participation on any league all-star tournament team. The decision by the Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball Board of Directors is **FINAL**.
6. Any physical altercations involving spectators, managers, coaches, players, umpires and league staff will result in immediate removal from the park, expulsion and the possibility of criminal charges being filed. Offenders will **NOT**

be PERMITTED to return to any Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball game for the remainder of the season (includes regular, post season and All Star games and practices)

7. Parents are requested to NOT communicate excessively with players during the game. Coaching from the stands is not permitted.
8. Participants, Parents, family members, spectators, managers and coaches will at no time address the players of the opposing team in a derogatory manner. This includes, but is not limited to, making sounds or comments during the opposing team's at-bats as an attempt to disrupt the player's concentration.
9. Any Manager, Coach or Player that uses profanity that is directed to an umpire, player, coach, or parent will be immediately ejected from the game. "Trash Talking" will NOT be tolerated.
10. Any Manager, Coach or Player that uses profanity during a game will be suspended from the next game and possible further sanctions from the league pending a meeting with the League President, VP of Baseball Operations, and League Player Director.
11. The use of tobacco (smoking or chewing) products and alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches or dugout. Violations will result in a minimum one game suspension and possible further sanctions from the league pending meeting with the League President, VP of Baseball Operations, and League Player Director..
12. All Participants, Members of the Board, Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, Players and Parents and/or Guardians of Players shall, at all times, represent Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball in a positive manner, both on and off the baseball field. Any action taken by a participant in Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball that is reasonably likely to result in a negative impact upon Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball, our league, Board of Directors, League Members (including Managers, Coaches and Volunteers), sponsors or the Rocklin community, may be suspended or expelled from Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball. Actions warranting suspension or expulsion shall include, but not be limited to, fighting, excessive profanity, publicized derogatory comments including, without limitation, use of "Team Sideline", the internet, blogs, social networking websites, web pages, mailers, email, flyers and the like or interfering with the progress of a game.

Team Side Line is a product used by Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball to disseminate information to the league and its members. It may not be used as a blog for personal feelings, opinions (unless sought by the Board), attacks, advertisement or personal gain.

13. Participants will comply with the rules and decisions of league officials.
14. Participants will support the rules, regulations and bylaws as established or endorsed by the Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball Organization.
15. Participants will respect the facilities at home and away. Without them there would not be a place to play.

### III. Infractions

Any infraction or alleged infractions of the Code of Conduct should be reported immediately to the Umpire Coordinator, League President and/or League Player Agents. Regardless of the disposition of the infraction, whether or not it occurred at a game, the President of the Board shall be notified immediately by the League Official receiving the report. Infractions will be designated major or minor depending on the frequency and severity and during game(s) or otherwise. Upon the finding of an infraction, the President may:

#### **A) For a Major Infraction:**

- 1) Call an emergency meeting of the Board to discuss and vote on a response to the infraction. A vote may be taken and will be binding without a quorum of the Board, subject to final approval by a quorum of the Board. The quorum may reverse the emergency meeting's vote, but reversal shall not be retroactive.
- 2) If time permits, present the problem at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board for resolution. Normal rules apply.
- 3) Penalties set forth below may be imposed by the Board and may be in addition to any penalty imposed at the game(s).
- 4) Maximum penalties are recommendations only. Depending on the severity and/or frequency of the infraction(s), the Board may at its sole discretion, by simple majority vote, impose a greater penalty up to and including suspension or expulsion resulting in removal from the league. Penalties will be assessed on the Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator.

Infraction	Severity	Penalty
1st	Minimum	Written Warning and copies to Board and opposing manager.
	Maximum	One game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager.
2nd	Minimum	One game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager.
	Maximum	Three game suspensions and copies to Board and opposing manager.
3rd	Minimum	Two game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager.
	Maximum	Season suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager.

#### **B) For a Minor Infraction:**

- 1) Any response listed in Section below.
- 2) The League President, VP of Baseball Operations and League Player Director determine a resolution at their sole discretion. Such resolution must be reported and opened for discussion at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- 3) Penalties may be imposed by the Board, and may be in addition to any penalty imposed at the game(s). The Board must assess minimum penalties.



4) Maximum penalties are recommendations only. Depending on the severity and/or frequency of the infraction(s), the Board may at its sole discretion, by simple majority vote, impose a greater penalty up to and including suspension or removal from the league. Penalties will be assessed on the Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator.

Infraction	Severity	Penalty
1st	Minimum	Verbal Warning, Board advised at next scheduled Board meeting.
	Maximum	Written warning and copies to Board and opposing manager.
2nd	Minimum	Verbal Warning, Board advised at next scheduled Board meeting.
	Maximum	One game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager.
3rd	Minimum	Written Warning and copies to Board and opposing manager.
	Maximum	One game suspension and copies to Board and opposing manager.
4th	N/A	Treated as a Major Infraction. See Major Infraction section.

#### **IV. Compliance**

All Participants, parents, players, spectators, coaches, and managers are required to comply with the outcome of any disciplinary action rendered by the Board. A team whose parents, players, spectators, coaches, or manager ignore a suspension penalty imposed by an umpire or the Board will forfeit each game in which the offender ignores the suspension.

#### **V. 2011/12 Requirement**

In 2011/12, the RPB Board of Directors requires all Managers, Coaches, Parents, and Participants to sign this "Character Counts" Code of Conduct and to be bound by its terms. Managers will distribute this Code of Conduct for execution and collect the executed documents at team meetings. All Participants of Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball are subject to the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge the consequences of violating any of its term. Such consequences may lead to discipline or possible termination as deemed necessary by the Rocklin Pony Youth Baseball Board of Directors. All Participants agree to abide by these rules as part of their registration in the program. It is the responsibility of all Participants to be familiar with the guidelines set forth in the Code of Conduct.

I have read and understand the above Character Counts Code of Conduct and understand that it is my responsibility to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for the children. I also understand that violation of this Code of Conduct could result in imposition of the penalties set forth herein.