

## **Organizational Values**

A. Madison Baseball Association (MBA) maintains a high standard as it applies to organizational values, which include:

1. Maintaining a **culture** that supports our student-athletes to reach their full potential in school, allow all participants of MBA to be good citizens and role models for others in the community, and encourage anyone participating in MBA to understand it is for the betterment of the program before themselves.
2. Support an **environment** that allows for open and honest communication among all, including having student-athletes and coaches communicate with each other pertaining to player's role on the team, the coach's expectations for the player, and opportunities to improve for the betterment of the program. Parents must accept their role is to not interfere with a player/coach relationship and be supportive of the process.
3. Building a **team first** approach that recognizes student-athletes, parents and coaches for leadership, attitude, and ability to contribute for the greater good.

## **Code of Conduct**

A. General Conduct. It is the responsibility of all MBA board members, officers, directors, volunteers, players, and coaches to adhere to and assist in the enforcement of all adopted rules, regulations, and policies of MBA.

1. The MBA Board will ultimately oversee compliance with the Code of Conduct and administration of penalties.
2. The MBA President will be the point of contact for any alleged violations of the Code of Conduct.
3. The MBA Board will be responsible for investigation of any violations of the Code of Conduct and will provide a determination on any potential penalties.
4. Complaints or violations of the Code of Conduct will require visual proof (e.g., a citation, photograph, etc.) or corroboration from an adult witness before it will be pursued. Corroboration will be defined and determined by the MBA Board.

Within the confines of privacy and any legal restrictions, the parties directly associated with any violation of the Code of Conduct will be notified by MBA President of any action taken by the MBA Board.

B. Coach Conduct. At all times, coaches will represent MBA, their respective teams and the communities MBA serves in such a manner that sets an example for all. Coaches will abide by the following:

1. Ensure the safety of players at all times.
2. Not reprimand a player in a demeaning manner but communicate with them in ways that will provide the greatest opportunity for growth and development.
3. Treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans, and tournament officials with respect.
4. Promote good sportsmanship with parents, umpires, opponents, fans, and tournament officials at all times.
5. Dress appropriately for the game of baseball, which includes full game uniforms from 14U and up.
6. Not use tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs during games, practices, or any time when coaches have responsibility for their team.
7. Address player misconduct timely and appropriately, which may include the removal of a player from a game for throwing a bat, helmet, and/or glove, or using profane language.
8. Report repetitive misconduct by an individual player, parent, volunteer, or other board member to the MBA President. In the event that the MBA President is involved, reports should be made to the MBA Vice President.
9. Absolutely not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, parent, or fan.
10. Not engage in any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.

11. Follow the MBA, league, state, and national rules and policies relative to regular season and tournament play, including any player participation policy and pitch-count rules.
12. Coaches are expected to establish reasonable rules and expectations with their team(s) prior to the start of the season or during a team's first practice and clearly communicate those expectations to players and parents. The MBA Board may ask for those rules and expectations in writing. No rule or expectation implemented by a coach may conflict with the Code of Conduct.
13. Coaches will be held accountable by the MBA Board for lack of appropriate disciplinary action for violations of the Code of Conduct.

C. Player Conduct. Players are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times—before, during, and after practices, games, and while traveling out of town. At all times, players will conduct themselves in such a manner so as to represent the MBA and its values well. Players will abide by the following:

1. Treat teammates, opposing players, parents, umpires, fans, and tournament officials with respect.
2. Dress appropriately for the game of baseball.
3. Listen to and learn from coaches.
4. Maintain the appropriate attitude and work ethic at all times. Understand and respect your role on the team and in the program at all times.
5. Be on time and ready for practice, games, and meetings. Coaches must be notified of absences, prior to the practice or games. Failure to do so may result in a reduction in playing time or other consequences implemented by the coach.
6. Respect the equipment and facilities.
7. Good sportsmanship and behavior are required at all times.
  - a. No use of profanity
  - b. No throwing of helmets, bats, or gloves
  - c. No taunting of any player, coach, game official, or fan.
  - d. No derogatory comments about players, coaches, game officials, or fans from either team. This includes comments made on any social media platform.
  - e. No physical altercations. Players may be allowed to defend themselves as appropriate.
  - f. Proper disciplinary action will be taken immediately by any coach that witnesses any of the actions listed above.
8. Proper disciplinary action by the offending player's coach(es) for any of the actions listed above may include benching the player involved, suspending the player from subsequent games, and potentially expulsion from the team. Any suspension or expulsion requires the approval of the MBA.
9. Coaches have the ability to increase the level of discipline beyond the rules of the game or umpire's action.

D. Parent Conduct. Parents are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner so as to represent the MBA and the communities it serves in a sportsman-like, first-class manner. Parents will abide by the following:

1. Be a positive role model for the players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, officials, and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
2. Parents attitude and comments will have a positive and/or negative effect on their child's experience.
3. Treat coaches with respect. In many cases coaches are volunteers and not major league managers. Concerns regarding coaching should be brought to the MBA President.
4. Treat umpires with respect and understanding. They are human too and many times are young umpires just getting started or even volunteers.
5. Parents need to inform the coach of any physical ailment or injury that may affect the safety of the player or the safety of others.
6. Support the teaching of the rules to all players and the ability to handle the emotions of a competitive environment.

7. Demand that your child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
8. Provide encouragement and support but refrain from coaching your child or others during a practice and games, unless you are serving as one of the official coaches of the team.
9. Refrain from making derogatory comments about other players, teams, coaches, or umpires whether in public or on social media.
10. All parents are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** from being in the dugout, batting cages, bull pens, or playing field prior to, during, or immediately after a game/practice unless they are part of the coaching or support staff. Parents may deliver items to their player outside the dugout. Exception: Parents or guardians and volunteers with medical training may enter the dugout in the event of a severe injury.
11. Respect the officials and their authority during games and never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field. Give yourself the 24-hour rule. If you still have an issue after 24 hours from the conclusion of the game, arrange a time to speak with the coach face-to-face if appropriate.
12. Demand a sports environment for your child that is free from drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes, and alcohol.

E. Fan Conduct. Fans must treat players, parents, umpires, opponents, fans, and tournament officials with respect. Violators may be required to leave the park by umpires or tournament officials. Coaches also have a responsibility to keep fans in control and may require fans behaving inappropriately to leave the park. Umpires may suspend or even forfeit games if fans asked to leave fail to accommodate. Additional penalties can be implemented by the MBA Board. Any fan that is ejected from a MBA contest by an umpire, coach, tournament official, or MBA Board Member is suspended from all MBA events for a 24-hour period. Violation of the 24-hour suspension will result in further action by the MBA Board.

F. Policy on Mood Altering Chemicals. Use, possession, buying, or selling of mood-altering chemicals—which include alcohol, drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes, marijuana, and others—is expressly prohibited except as prescribed for personal use by a doctor. This includes violations and non-violations of South Dakota Codified Law. It is important to note that neither violations nor non-violations of SDCL require formal conviction. Evidence may include a citation, physical evidence (e.g. photographs, social media posts, etc.), or testimony from adult witnesses. The following consequences will be adhered to for violations by any player:

1. First Violation—Suspension from all official games for a period of two weeks from initial suspension date. Practice participation will be subject to approval by the MBA Board.
2. Second Violation—Suspension from all official games for a period of six weeks from initial suspension date. Practice eligibility will be subject to approval by the MBA Board.
3. Third Violation—Suspension from all games and practices for a period of one year.
4. Important Notes:
  - a. This policy applies to all MBA activities including both in-season and out-of-season practices, workouts, games, etc.
  - b. Penalties for violations incurred during out-of-season activities will be carried out in the subsequent season.
  - c. A suspension that is not completed by the player during one season carries over to the next season. A full season is both spring and summer baseball. Suspensions will carry over from the high school season to the summer season if necessary and the player participates in both during the same calendar year. A player that did not participate in spring ball and committed a violation during summer ball may not fulfil the suspension the following spring season.
  - d. All violations brought to the MBA will be shared with the Madison High School Activities Director.
  - e. Any penalties issued by the MBA may be above and beyond penalties administered by Madison Central School District as their code of conduct is separate and in effect 365 days a year.

## G. Criminal Investigations

1. MBA will cooperate with any investigation involving legal authorities, including, but not limited to Madison Police Department, University Police, Department of Criminal Investigation, State Attorney's Office, and others.
2. The MBA Board will have discretion on any punishment involving a player during and after an investigation.

I have read and understand the MBA Code of Conduct policy and will abide by the code and encourage my child to do the same. I have also read and discussed the code with my child who will be participating in MBA activities during the 2026 season.