



THE BEARS WAY – July 2016

The North Sydney Junior Baseball Club (Bears) have implemented the 'The Bears Way' for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents must read, understand and formally accept this document prior to their children participating in our league. The club is managed by volunteer parents. It is expected that all parents will participate as volunteers to help the club.

The club adheres to the Baseball Australia Member Protection Policy.

<http://baseball.com.au/Portals/27/Policies/BA%20MPP%20Version%20Six%20Aug%202013.pdf>. This includes ensuring that all club officials, coaches and managers complete Working with Children checks. Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and will face both the North Sydney Junior Baseball Club and Manly Warringah District Baseball Association Disciplinary Committees. Violations may result in a single or multiple game suspensions, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games. Offenders may lose their club membership status and the rights outlined in the constitution.

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- Good Citizenship

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."
I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
4. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
5. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
6. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
7. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
8. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the club and league.
9. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
10. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
11. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
12. I will not encourage any behaviours or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
13. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
14. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, colour, sex or ability.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
18. I will adhere to the content of the North Sydney Junior Baseball Club's constitution.
19. I will accept the rulings of the North Sydney Junior Baseball Club and MWDBA Disciplinary Committees.

I the undersigned agree, understand and am bound to the above code

Parent/Guardian Signature _____!

