



GBSA Coaches' Handbook

ABOUT GBSA

MISSION STATEMENT

GBSA encourages youth development by providing opportunities for personal and athletic growth. GBSA promotes sportsmanship, self-esteem, and the development of life skills through engaging youth in sports while providing a safe, healthy, positive environment where the youth of our community can learn the fundamentals of baseball/softball.

STRUCTURE

- Volunteer Board consisting of:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Softball Commissioner
 - Baseball Commissioner
 - League Representatives
- GBSA leases fields from Grandview Parks & Recreation.

BOARD CONTACTS

All current board members and contact information are listed on the GBSA website at www.gbsa.net.

THE ROLE OF A GBSA COACH

- Teach the sport
- Support development of youth
- Manage the team - parent communication and scheduling
- Facility/Game Management

COACHING REQUIREMENTS

Any community member may volunteer to be a coach within GBSA. To formally be accepted as a volunteer coach, all volunteers must meet the following three requirements:

1. Pass a federal background check;
2. Complete the National Federation of State High School Association' (NFHS) Concussion in Sports training; and
3. Sign the GBSA Coach's Pledge.

HOW DO I COMPLETE THE BACKGROUND CHECK?

All background checks will run through Teamsnap and a company called Checkr. After you complete the Coach's Pledge, you are officially registered as a GBSA Coach. As a registered coach, an email will be sent to you through Teamsnap. Follow the instructions from the email and provide the information requested. Clickr will alert GBSA that the background check has been completed along with the results. GBSA will contact you only if there is a need to for further discussions.

HOW DO I TAKE CONCUSSION IN SPORTS TRAINING COURSE?

This is a mandated training for all coaches working with youth in the state of Ohio. We must have a copy of your completed concussion course prior to your team's first practice.

1. Each coach needs to visit <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>.
2. Complete the training.
3. At the conclusion of the training, it will give you a prompt to download your certificate. Download the certificate.
4. E-mail your certificate to one of the board members responsible for Coaches' Clinics.

This training lasts for three years. If you have completed it in the last three years, GBSA already has a copy of your certificate and you will not receive an e-mail. If you are unsure, please just check in with your league rep.

WHAT IS THE PLEDGE I NEED TO SIGN?

The GBSA Coach's Pledge is an agreement with GBSA that you as a coach will abide by a set standard of behavior. Specifically, this pledge will ask you to attest:

- I have been provided a copy of GBSA rules for all leagues and age levels.
- I have been provided a copy of GBSA safety rules, policies, and Covid safety protocols.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group. I will not verbally, emotionally, or sexually abuse any player. I understand these actions are not covered by the GBSA insurance policy.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I promise to review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will not cheat or engage in any form of unethical behavior that violates GBSA rules.

- I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I have been provided the rules and will be knowledgeable of the rules of and will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for all of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults
- I understand that transporting youths to activities is not covered by the GBSA insurance policy.
- I will not allow players who are not registered with GBSA participate in GBSA activities.
I understand that players that are not on a roster are not covered by GBSA insurance policy.
- I will follow all GBSA policies related to health and safety including COVID-19 safety protocols.

To sign the pledge, visit:

<https://grandviewbaseballandsoftballassociation.teamsnapsites.com/teams/coaches-corner/coaches-pledge/>

LEAGUE OPERATIONS

LEAGUE RULES

- League rules on website
(<https://grandviewbaseballandsoftballassociation.teamsnapsites.com/teams/league-rules-policies/>)
- Rules differ by league
- Be Knowledgeable
- Questions should be directed to your league representative
- Rules were voted and developed by Board
- All changes to rules must be approved by Board

PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Every effort is placed to schedule the same number of practices for each team. Weather and Middle School/High School Baseball/Softball schedules may force changes to our own schedules, resulting in less practices. If you would like to have extra practices please contact your league representative. They will look at the schedule and let you know if a park is available. If you are unable to reach your representative please be considerate of other teams when adding a practice. Teams that are on the schedule have first priority. There is the possibility that the GBSA practices are scheduled but a school event has been rescheduled at that time. During the school season, the school teams have first priority on the fields.

GAME SCHEDULE

We work with the city and games are scheduled by the league. The GBSA will make every effort to reschedule canceled games. Please note that coaches cannot unilaterally schedule, cancel or reschedule your games. Issues with schedules will need to be discussed with your league representative.

TEAMSNAP

GBSA has purchased a TeamSnap subscription to help with league management. All coaches are expected to use TeamSnap to manage their team and communicate to families. Instructions on how to use TeamSnap are on the GBSA website under Coaches' Corner. If you have questions, please ask Becky Mdivanian.

UMPIRES

Many of our umpires are Grandview residents, students, GBSA/GH alumni and GHHS baseball/softball student athletes. Please respect their calls and decisions. Issues or concerns with umpire calls or behaviors please contact the umpire representatives first (Tigran Mdivanian at tmdivanian@gmail.com or 614-783-0540) and then your league representative.

Umpire's Decisions

- Judgment calls by the umpire (such as whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, a hit is fair or foul, or a runner is safe or out) are final.
- If there is reasonable doubt about a decision being consistent with the rules, the coach may ask that the ruling be reviewed. The umpire making the decision may ask the other umpire, or league commissioner, if present, for more information before making a final decision.
- A coach in disagreement with the final decision may continue the game under protest, but must notify a GBSA board member in writing, within 24 hours of the protest. After 24 hours all game results are final.
- If a protest is upheld, the game will be resumed from the point of protest.
- If the umpire rules on any play there was intent by a player to cause injury to another, the player will be ejected from the game.
- A coach, player or fan may be ordered to leave the playing field area by the umpire or a league representative if they violate the GBSA rules of conduct.

Umpire's Authority to Stop the Game

- Once a game has started, the umpire will be responsible for stopping play in the event of curfew, rain, or lightning which is thought to be dangerous. Many of our umpires are young. Please help them with this decision.
- If lightning can be seen and heard there will be a 15 minute wait period from the time of the last visible lightning strike. Only the umpire can allow a game to continue after the wait period. Many of our umpires are young. Please help them with this decision.

- If a tornado siren is sounded play will be halted immediately, and all persons must leave the field and seek shelter. Play will not be resumed after a tornado warning.
- If a coach removes his/her team from the field of play and no stoppage of play has been called by the umpire, league representative or commissioner, that team will forfeit the game.
- If a player, fan or coach is asked to leave the playing area and does not, the umpire can call the game a forfeit.
- Please note that for the minor and mosquito leagues that umpires do make calls and count pitches. Please respect that they are preparing our athletes for future leagues and games. Allow the umpires to make calls and have interaction with the players.

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

FIELD MANAGEMENT

The city will line all fields before the games. GBSA has field representatives but please note you will also be required to help maintain fields. Please come down, grab a rake and help out! Most help is needed when rain occurs within a few hours of game time. Please make sure to have a couple people from your team come to help. If a field is not acceptable to play on due to rain/thunder/ lightning/mud, please inform your league rep as soon as possible. Notifications can then be made via Teamsnap to parents and other teams.

- Home team coaches are responsible for preparing the fields for game day.
- Field lock boxes contain the keys for the storage, concession and bathrooms. Codes are only to be used by the head and assistant coaches. KEYS need to go back in the lock box when you are finished with your game. If you take them home you may receive a late night call!
- Setting Up Bases: This year Park and Recreation is requesting that all bases be left in! You should not have to set-up or tear down bases before and/or after a game.
- Lights: The City lights are on timers. If for any reason, the lights go out, please contact your league representative. If you anticipate the games running longer than expected, give your league rep advance notice to prevent the lights from turning off.

CONCESSION STANDS AND RESTROOMS

- In April and May all concession stands will be cleaned and prepped for Opening games. PLEASE do not store equipment in the concession stand area. For example, at Buck, please put the equipment in the equipment room, not thrown on the floor or slung on the counters.
- Each game will require 1-2 parents from the home team to staff the stand. NO CHILDREN are permitted to work the stand "in place" of a parent. Parents only to work the stand.
- After each game, each GBSA player will receive either a popsicle or an ice cream sandwich. There are NO "substitutions".
- Please try your best to guesstimate how many hot dogs to make so that there is as little waste as possible at the end of each game.
- There will be instructions posted in each stand detailing how to open/close the stand. It is a very simple process. Do not stress.

- Each day the cash box will contain a start up fund. Leave all cash in the box when done with your game/night. Those will be collected at a later time.
- First home team will open the concession stands. The last home team is to close the concession stands. If you are the only game that evening you are responsible for opening and closing the concession stand and restrooms. Just follow the instructions posted at each stand.

EQUIPMENT

GBSA will provide baseballs and softballs, catcher's gear, and batting helmets for all leagues and infield face guards for Softball Intermediate and Major leagues. Each coach will receive a bucket of 24 balls - 12 of the balls are for game use and may be given to kids after the game as "game balls." Coaches and players need to respect the equipment. No throwing helmets or bats. ALL equipment must be returned to the league representative at the end of the season. If equipment is missing or needs to be replaced please contact your league representative. All bats used for all baseball leagues must be marked with "USA Baseball" or be 2 ¼" barrel or less.

Electric Pitching Machine Instructions:

- DO NOT ALLOW PLAYERS TO OPERATE THE PITCHING MACHINE!!!!!!
- Pitching machines should be set to the appropriate distance for each league.
- Plug in the cords to the machine and outlet in the concession stand.
- Regular baseballs and softballs can be used but the dimpled balls work the best.
- Flip silver switch to "on"
- Set speed (silver dial 1-10) and adjust height and plane of the ball coming in (knob at the bottom adjusts height).
- Pitch 5 to 6 balls BEFORE the batter comes to the plate.
- Turn off power and put the machine and cords back in the concession stand.
- DO NOT ALLOW PLAYERS TO OPERATE THE PITCHING MACHINE!!!!!!

Manual Pitching Machine Instructions:

- Information on how to set-up the manual machines along with a videos can be found at: <https://grandviewbaseballandsoftballassociation.teamsnapsites.com/teams/coaches-corner/post-513/>

SPECIAL EVENTS

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

This is the official kick-off of the GBSA season and one of the most exciting days of the summer! All leagues will be participating in the opening day parade. Teams are driven in trucks along the First Ave

parade route. As a coach you are responsible for providing a truck for the parade. Signs and candy are not needed but recommended! The route starts at Cambridge Blvd and First Ave and ends at Pierce Field. Once at the field please have your team in the outfield. Please make sure the kids are not throwing candy or wrappers on the field or stepping on the lines on the field. The field will be ready for games that day. Teams will be called out and they will run the bases. After they run the bases they are free to go. Coaches are required to attend this event. Details will be sent out closer to the event by your league representative.

PICTURE DAY

None

CLIPPERS DAY

TBD

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

GBSA's behavior standards are to be followed during practices, games and tournament games.

GBSA rules of conduct provide that coaches, players and fans:

- Shall not engage in physical altercation
- Shall not intentionally violate or refuse to follow any GBSA rule
- Shall not use or consume tobacco or alcohol at the playing field
- Shall not engage in grossly unsportsmanlike conduct, including but not limited to: throwing equipment, using profanity, arguing with an umpire, or directing degrading or distracting remarks to a player, umpire, coach, or fan.
- For Intermediate and Major Leagues, Coaches are responsible for not allowing non-players, including parents, on the playing field, behind the backstop or in the dugout during games.
- It is important to control your team's parents. Please talk to a parent during or after the game if someone is being too vocal. If a parent is using foul language, ask the parent to leave and call your league representative. Parents/players/coaches caught using foul language or unacceptable behavior may/will be suspended from the GBSA.
- Coaches, players, or others in attendance shall not make derogatory remarks about other players. An example of this would be telling a batter the pitcher is having trouble throwing strikes, so do not swing at the pitch, in a voice that the pitcher can hear. The coach can say something more neutral, like "take the pitch" or discuss strategy quietly with his or her players. A player does not need to be reminded he or she is struggling.
- Please instruct your team to be respectful to the other teams when cheering.
- As a GBSA coach *you are in charge of your players' parents*. Please make sure they are showing good examples of sportsmanship. This is very important. If you feel there is a situation where good sportsmanship is not happening please talk to the umpire and speak to the parent.

- ANY PLAYER EJECTED FROM A GAME MUST SERVE A 2 GAME SUSPENSION. ANY SUBSEQUENT EJECTION OF THE SAME PLAYER WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION FOR THE SEASON.

FAN/PARENT EXPECTATIONS

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