



[www.bethelathletics.org](http://www.bethelathletics.org)

Softball and Baseball

## Practice Guide & Plans



Spring 2017

## Introduction

Baseball/Softball games are fun. No matter our age, we enjoy testing our skills against others. Even the youngest players want to see how they compare to other players or teams their age. Learning to compete to the best of our ability at whatever we pursue and how to win and lose with grace and dignity are important life lessons that should be introduced at a young age. But to maximize a young player's enjoyment of the game and to provide players with the best opportunity to improve, organized and enjoyable practices are a must. So practices are definitely more important to player development than games. Kids want to have fun and play, and coaches want the kids to have fun and play the game properly. When kids play the game properly they have fun. The greatest source of pleasure for an athlete is to progress, being able to do something he or she was not able to do before. This is what we at Bethel Athletic Association hope our kids and their families think about and hopefully tell others about when the season is over. That being said, there are a few ground rules as coaches we all need to set up and follow. This will help provide your kids with the best playing experience possible while also helping other coaches around you. This manual will outline your responsibility as a coach at Bethel Athletic Association. We have set up a few rules regarding practices and games. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the board members. We will do all we can to help you in any situation.

We hope everyone has a fantastic season!

Sincerely,

Bethel Athletic Association Board of Directors

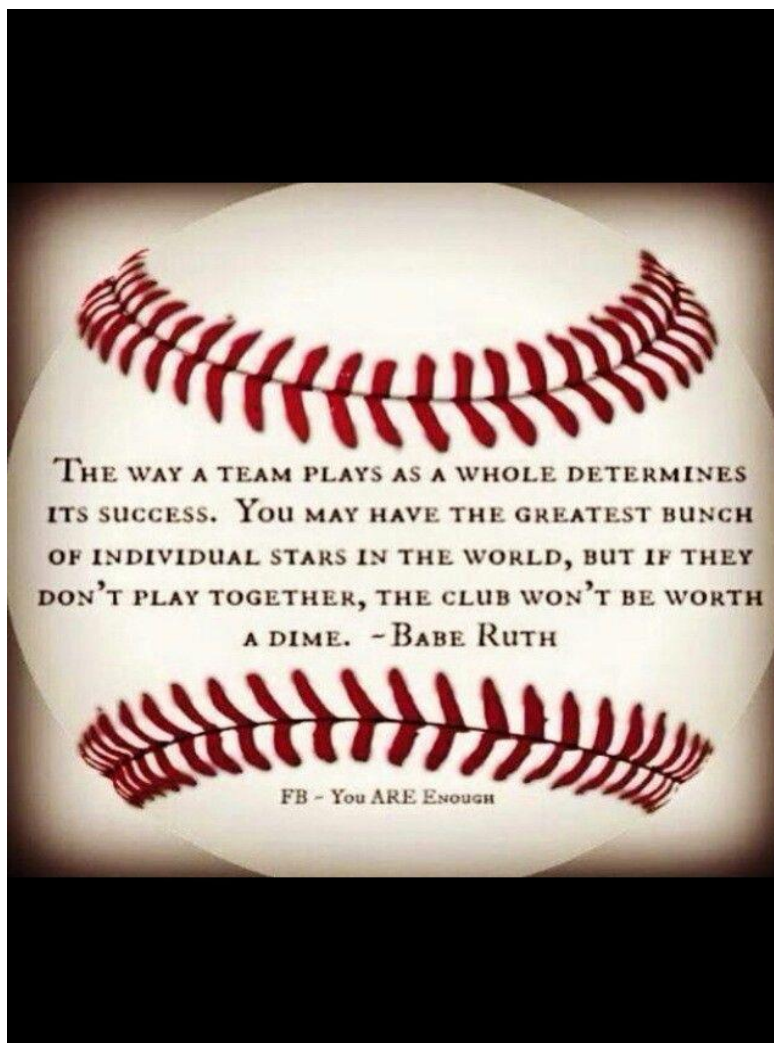
" The strength of the group  
is the strength of the  
leaders"

- Vince Lombardi

## Good Sportsmanship:

Instruct your players on good sportsmanship, not only during the games but also during practice times. Kids who have total support of their teammates thrive and perform much better than in an environment where they are afraid to make a mistake.

Also, instruct your parents that they are to provide the same encouragement to all players on your team.



## **Responsibilities for Practice Times:**

1. Please make sure you are at the field and ready to start on time. Practices need to end at the scheduled time so that the next team can take the field at their scheduled practice time. Since each team only has one hour of practice a night, we need to make appropriate use of the time.
2. Please make sure your dugout is cleaned out and all equipment and trash are removed before leaving.
3. It is your responsibility to keep up with all the equipment provided to you by BAA. If any equipment is not turned in at the end of the season, it is your responsibility to replace the equipment.
4. If, due to any reason, practices are canceled please contact your entire team to let them know.
5. In the case of inclement weather, we will follow the same rules set up by Cabarrus County for games. If there is lightning in the vicinity, practice is to be suspended and players take cover. Practice cannot resume for 30 minutes AFTER last lightning strike is seen.

## **Responsibilities for Games:**

1. Have your team arrive at least 30 minutes prior to start time. This will give you time for warm up and have everyone there and ready to play if the games are running ahead of schedule.
2. Make sure all equipment and trash are removed from your dugout as quickly as possible so that the next team waiting to play can set up.
3. If games are scheduled at Bethel, it is your responsibility to make sure that concession stand volunteers from your team are set up for the game prior to or after your scheduled game. If the volunteer fails to show up, the head coach will be benched for the next home game.

## **Who to contact when problems arise:**

If issues arise that you cannot handle on your own, please contact the coordinator of your designated sport. If the issue cannot be resolved, then the president of the organization will be contacted. Below are the names and contact information for the respective coordinators. Please try to be patient with us in getting back to you. Remember, we are all volunteers as well as you are. We all have jobs and families but will do our very best to get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you again for volunteering your time. We hope you all have a wonderful season!

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