

Kearsarge Mountain League

Mission Statement – Code of Conduct

(With permission from Weare Athletic Club)

The philosophy of the Kearsarge Mountain League is to promote the interest in and the growth of Babe Ruth baseball and softball for children of our member communities. Kearsarge Mountain supports a fun and positive atmosphere, building individual and team skills, positive reinforcement, and sportsmanship are more important than winning.

Sportsmanship

It is the obligation of coaches, players, parents, referees and spectators to practice the highest principles of good sportsmanship and to adhere to the ethics of friendly competition during all youth sporting events. Good sportsmanship is defined as behavior which displays courtesy and genuine concern for others. Negative or threatening comments from coaches, players, parents, referees or spectators will not be tolerated at any Kearsarge Mountain league event. This includes practices, scrimmages, games, or any other event sponsored by Kearsarge Mountain league. Problems should be brought to the attention of the local Town Director so that they may be addressed by Kearsarge Mountain league.

Coaches' Ethics

The coach must be aware that he or she may be either a positive or negative influence on the development of the athlete and the atmosphere of the game. In all of the coach's contacts with players, officials, parents and the public, the coach must strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Coaches must treat officials with respect; play all players in accordance with league rules; take control of his or her fans when they become unruly; and always demonstrate a positive attitude. Remember that players and fans are always watching and will emulate the coach's actions.

Parent Responsibilities

Make a commitment to your child's coach and team. The Kearsarge Mountain league does not discourage players from participating in other activities. However, if the child wants to be a true team member, both parents and child should make the effort to be at all practices and games. Support your child and team with positive cheers and praise. Never shout derogatory comments at referees, coaches, players or other spectators.

Never criticize or second guess coaches or officials during games. Support your coaches and officials--remember that most of them are volunteers and the league has a difficult time finding people willing to take on these positions. You are welcome to volunteer for one of these positions if you are not satisfied with the performance of others.

Understand that Kearsarge Mountain league emphasizes players participation and sportsmanship above winning.

If you have a problem with your coach, try to resolve it privately rather than through a public confrontation. If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your discussion, contact the local Town Director or the Kearsarge Mountain league President with your concerns. Never approach an official or coach with negative comments immediately following a game. This will only cause a confrontation. If you have a formal complaint, document it in writing and bring it to your coach or Town Director at a later time.

Kearsarge Mountain League

Drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, profanity, threats or physical violence will not be tolerated at practices, games or other Kearsarge Mountain league functions.

NOTE: Any parents or fans who are in violation of the above rules will:

- be notified that their actions will not be tolerated, or
- be asked to leave the Kearsarge Mountain league event, or
- be suspended for a game, the season, or indefinitely. Suspension means not attending Kearsarge Mountain games.

The above penalties shall be rendered by the League President in conference with the respective town director along with at the League President discretion and others who have knowledge of the violation.

Coach Responsibilities

Play your players fairly, following our league rules.

Promote self-confidence through positive reinforcement.

Teach and display sportsmanship.

Understand and follow the rules of the game.

Teach skills appropriate for the level of your players.

Understand that each child's skill level, learning ability, and behavior is different.

Ensure safety. Never deny your players water. Continually monitor each player's condition during drills. Be aware of any health concerns, such as asthma.

Ensure that parents and players understand your policy for tardiness and absences for games and practices. Kearsarge Mountain league strongly encourages adherence to the league rules in regards players play time, however, the coach may use his/her discretion in penalizing players for excessive absences (such as reduced playing time in games). Please make your league director away of any ongoing issues with a player.

Treat officials and other coaches with respect. If you have a question about a call, it should be handled privately and professionally. Remember that calls are rarely overturned and your players and fans are watching. Please keep in mind that most officials are volunteers just like you.

Try to work with parents to understand Kearsarge Mountain league policies. Avoid public confrontations with disgruntled parents. However, try to resolve any concerns with parents privately and swiftly, so the situation does not worsen.

Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, profanity, threats or physical violence will not be tolerated at practices, games or other Kearsarge Mountain league functions.

NOTE: Any coaches who violate the above rules will:

- be given a warning by the league, (if a second warning in a season – automatic suspension) or

Kearsarge Mountain League

- be suspended for a game, or
- be suspended for the season, or
- be denied a coaching position in the future.

The above penalties shall be rendered by the League President in conference with the respective town director along with at the League President discretion others who have knowledge of the violation