



ST. JOHN'S MINOR 'A' BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

FAIR PLAY POLICY

April 2017

INTRODUCTION

St. John's Minor 'A' Baseball Association Inc. (SJ MBA) has always stated that the organization adheres to a FAIR PLAY policy. Although over the years our Board of Directors has placed significant importance on the principle of Fair Play in their deliberations and decisions, SJ MBA has never produced a document detailing the main tenets of our policy. This document will do just that.

SJ MBA MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide opportunities and exposure in youth baseball and instill discipline, teamwork, a sporting attitude, honesty and integrity. Our baseball programs teach players to respect the game, work hard and play hard. Through proper guidance and exemplary leadership from our Board of Directors, staff, coaches and on-field officials, our programs will champion the virtues of character, courage and loyalty designed to not only develop superior athletes but also superior citizens.

GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Fair Play Policy will detail the principles that we want our participating groups (players, coaches and parents) to display at all games, practices and events. The Game Management Policy will outline the actual rules, regulations and guidelines that we want all groups (players, coaches, umpires and parents/spectators) to follow in the actual execution of all SJ MBA activities.

REVIEW BOTH POLICIES

We expect that all players, coaches, parents and umpires will make sure that they are familiar with both the Fair Play and Game Management Policies. Ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.

FAIR PLAY POLICY – PLAYERS

Note: All players as a condition of registering with St. John's Minor Baseball Association agree to abide by the Fair Play Policy approved by the SJ MBA Board of Directors. The main tenets of the policy for our players are:

- Know the rules of the game and play by them. (SJ MBA publishes rules of play on our web site for each division that requires them i.e. Rookie, Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam and Midget.)
- Show respect for all participants – teammates, coaches, opposing players, umpires and spectators. Bullying will not be tolerated.

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- Be positive with your teammates and coaches.
- Direct your concerns to your coach in private.
- Communicate any absence for games or practices via e-mail or telephone to your coach.

FAIR PLAY POLICY – COACHES/MANAGERS

Note: All coaches as a condition of registering and/or agreeing to coach or manage with St. John's Minor Baseball Association agree to abide by the Fair Play Policy approved by the Board of Directors. The main tenets of the policy for our coaches are:

- Know the rules of the game and play by them. (SJ MBA publishes rules of play on our web site for each division that requires them i.e. Rookie, Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam and Midget.)
- Treat all players equally re: playing time, batting opportunities and position preference. (SJ MBA Game Management Policy will provide additional guidance re: this item).
- Display respect for all participants – players, coaches, umpires and spectators.
- Encourage mutual respect and support amongst your players. Be observant for any signs of bullying or negative attitudes and deal with them immediately. Stress the importance of 'the team'.
- Ensure you have a safe environment during practices.
- Strive for improvement and encourage players to do the same.

FAIR PLAY POLICY – PARENTS/SPECTATORS

Note: All parents as a condition of registering your child with St. John's Minor Baseball Association agree to abide by the Fair Play Policy approved by the Board of Directors for our parents and any guest spectators that attend our games, practices or events. The main tenets of our policy for parents and spectators are:

- SJ MBA welcomes constructive criticism. Parents are free to discuss and resolve in a respectful manner any concerns they may have with the coach.
- If an issue cannot be resolved with the coach or if an issue is more league related (e.g. rules, playing conditions, fees, umpires, etc.) then complaints should be made to your Division Convenor or the Executive Director. However, there is a mandatory 24 hour 'cool down' period before filing a complaint.
- Always be supportive of your child; look for the positive aspects of his/her game.

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- When attending games, practices or events respect all participants – players, coaches, umpires and other spectators.
- Promote the 'team theme' and good sportsmanship to your child.
- Promote a safe and healthy baseball environment i.e. tobacco, alcohol and drug free at the field.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- **THIS IS MINOR BASEBALL – THESE ARE KIDS.**
- **BASEBALL IS A GAME – IT SHOULD BE FUN FOR ALL.**
- **COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS**
- **OUR UMPIRES ARE STUDENTS AND HUMAN – THEY MAKE MISTAKES.**
- **DON'T ALLOW YOUR BEHAVIOUR TO EMBARRASS YOURSELF OR YOUR SON/DAUGHTER.**