



# Youth Baseball Coaching



## My Coaching Philosophies Brian Conger

1. It's all about having some serious FUN learning how to play winning baseball: Winning is important but secondary to learning. We are going to try to win every game and we are going to strive to learn every time we take the field. Someone once said, "It's not whether you win or lose but, how you play the game". I will constantly focus on the "how you play the game" part. I will do a thorough job of teaching the kids not just what to do, but how to do it and why they should do it a certain way.
2. We are a team: We need to work on things together. We can't do that if you aren't here, and here on time. On time for practice means 5 - 10 or more minutes earlier than the stated start time. That way we will all be ready to start practice at the same time: when practice is supposed to start. We will all learn the proper way to warm up to avoid strain and injury. If you arrive late, you will be responsible to run through the proper warm up before joining practice.
3. On time for a game means at least 45 minutes before game time in full uniform and ready to play. We warm up together as a team before a game and we can't warm up properly if the team is not there. Any player showing up later than 30 minutes before game time will not start.
4. Attendance: You cannot learn to play the game well if you are not at our practices. I will design practices that are fun, exciting and challenging. I will work very hard with the players who attend. If you have to miss a practice or a game, I ask that you let me know at least two days before the event or more advance notice when possible. We have a short roster and every player is important. If I see that absences are beginning to be a problem, I will let you know.
5. Play with Honor: Always hustle, run out every ground ball and pop up, encourage your teammates, especially after an error, bad pitch, or a strike out, carry yourself with pride and dignity. Do not, in frustration, throw equipment. Do not ridicule another team or an opposing player's name, physical appearance or skill. Do not taunt. Do not distract an opposing player with low-level antics. Be positive with teammates. Never ridicule or criticize your teammates. They need your encouragement the most immediately after they have made a mistake. Show your teammates, your opponents, the entire world the values you hold dear by how you play. All I ever ask is your best effort every time.
6. Mistakes will be made: I will make them. You will make them. As long as we are learning from our mistakes, I won't worry about it for a minute, so you shouldn't either. In order to succeed you must be free to fail. In order to be free to fail, you must understand it is perfectly OK to fail as long as you are

giving your best effort. The team is a place where it is safe to fail.

7. No Excuses: Do not blame teammates, umpires, coaches, fans, or the position of the moon for your performance. Take responsibility for what happens on the field. Stand up, make no excuses and refuse the excuses that others might offer you. Excuses get in the way of learning because mistakes are denied. Be accountable. Remember you are not expected to be a perfect performer. No one is. Baseball is not an easy game to play.
8. Listening is very important: You promise to listen to the coaches, and the coaches promise to listen to you. If you think something's not right, don't be afraid to say so, especially to the coaches.
9. Try and keep a positive attitude at all times. That makes it fun, and makes it easier to learn
10. When you look and feel like a ballplayer, you will play like a ballplayer. A player should always come to a practice or a game dressed correctly. Athletic supporter and cup are mandatory for every practice and game. Do not wear shorts (unless otherwise directed by the manager in advance). Dress in layers at the early practices when the weather is cold. Always wear your hat correctly and with pride. Wear your complete uniform during games.
11. The best players are the best learners: Players who are coach-able are always trying to learn more about being successful ballplayers and people. They listen and apply what their coaches and teachers suggest. Are you coach-able? If you are, you are a winner. If you are not, you are a loser, regardless of what the scoreboard says.
12. Play the game one pitch at a time: Focus on the current pitch. If you are a pitcher, what are you throwing now and where? If you are a fielder, what are you going to do if the ball is hit to you? If you are a base runner, what are you going to do on a fly ball, line drive, ground ball, to the right side, to the left side? If you are a batter, what are you trying to accomplish on this pitch? If you are on the bench, how are you helping your team be successful?
13. Grades: Baseball is a sport, a game, a pastime, it is not everything. You must keep your grades up in school! There will be many practices and games in the coming months. Learn to budget your time between the things you have to do (school work) and the things you like to do (baseball, games, having fun)