

# ELGAA

Elkhart Lake Glenbeulah Athletic Association

The primary function of the ELGAA is to provide sports and other activities for the families in our organization.

Our main focus is geared toward the youth of our communities and the surrounding area..

## Association Coach Bylaws

Original Draft 1998

Thank you for deciding to be a coach for youth sports in our community. Your dedication and commitment to the program as coach and mentor provides the opportunity for young athletes to grow and develop on and off the field. Your contribution sets the stage for becoming a positive influence in their development in sports and in life.

With every successful organization there are fundamental principals that must be adhered to consistently and without failure. These principals are directed by the leaders in our organization – you. As coaches you are the people that provide the leadership which becomes the foundation for us to achieve our mission.

Volunteering to be a coach is a rewarding experience that most of you have already enjoyed. With reward also comes responsibility. Listed here are the bylaws that the ELGAA board expects and requires of our coaches. They are not intended to burden you. The purpose is to control our costs and maintain budgets; establish fair and consistent management of each team and to provide enjoyable learning experiences for all participants. We encourage and expect that the Coaches will share these responsibilities with the Parents of the Players on your team. We ask that you take the lead with your families and not try to do all of this on your own. Families and players have as much if not more at stake – and we're all in this together.

### **EQUIPMENT**

Over the years, our association has invested many dollars in equipment between the baseball and soccer programs. Contributions, fundraiser's and players fees are used to keep the equipment updated. It can cost over \$1000.00 to field just one baseball team of association equipment alone. In order to keep track of these items and their condition, we are requiring that each team coach signs for all equipment assigned to the team. Coaches are responsible for the full return of all items at the end of the season. The association will provide storage and insurance coverage for its holdings. In addition, our organization will be able to better assess the following seasons needs.

- The designated head coach for each team will sign for exact equipment.
- Requests for additional or replacement equipment should be passed along in written form to the sport coordinator.
- Damaged equipment will be turned in to the sport coordinator for repair or replacement.
- Uniforms and equipment will be collected from each player and returned to the association within one week past the end of the season.
- Uniforms will be washed and any needed repairs must be logged and presented to the association.

**THE CONDITION AND INVENTORY OF EQUIPMENT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EACH PLAYER AND THEIR FAMILY. THE COACH WILL SEE TO IT THAT ALL EQUIPMENT IS TURNED IN AT THE END OF THE SEASON. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!**

### **STRUCTURE**

Coaches have the flexibility to recruit assistant coaches for their team. The association encourages any parent volunteer to become assistant coaches. Head coaches should not turn these volunteers away. Please make room for their participation.

- Head coaching duties can be shared among two people. (but not required)
  - Assistant coaches are encouraged to participate providing they do not interfere with the Head coach's plans.
  - Head coaches *will recruit* two (2) team parents for each traveling team. (one for instructional league teams)
    - The function of the team parents is to line up referee's and umpires, line up concession help for EACH home game, coordinate any fundraising activities required by the association, line up drivers for away games and help the coaching staff as required. Head coaches have first choice at being a team parent or making the selection for the position.
- TEAM PARENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH TEAM.**

- The duties of umpiring and/or refereeing for home and away games should be assigned to all team players parents. It's a simple rule – No Referee or Umpire --- No Game. Parents should be assigned to either fill the position for a designated game or line up an appropriate person who will do it. Remember that their child is a member of the team also.
- Head coaches are not required to umpire or referee games. You may do so if you choose.

## **SAFETY**

- Coaches are required to have available emergency information cards of each player for all practices and games.
- Coaches must also have on hand the Association provided first aid packages for minor injuries.
- Coaches should have an emergency plan laid out that can be acted upon without delay in case of a serious injury situation.

## **TEAM RULES**

ELGAA families and board members representing the majority or our membership feel there is a need to have specific guidelines that are conducted uniformly by each team. As paying members we all want our child to be able to develop in the skills of each sport. As an association we reserve the right to impose certain rules and requirements of our coaches.

- Coaches are required to utilize a positive approach and to keep the sport fun for the players. This isn't the pro's. We're not doing this for the money – we play the game for fun. Remind yourselves and the kids of that often.
- The responsibility of the coach is to teach the game so that each athlete's skills are exploited and they are given the opportunity to enhance themselves through competitive play.
- Players will receive equal playing time in competition. The value of winning is not worth the risk of missing the opportunity for a young athlete to develop their skills as a player. The association requires fair and equal playing time based upon **the individuals participation**. A player who misses all or most of the practices but shows up for the games should have their playing time reduced. Under this scenario coaches will be consistent in their implementation of reducing an athletes playing time. For the same reason, if a player is being punished for behavior problems such as poor sportsmanship or disruption to the team, their playing time should be reduced using the same philosophy. On the other hand, if a player is showing up each week and trying hard to be a team player they have the right to play as much as anyone. Coaches are required to play all team members equally regardless of individual ability. Exceptional coaches know how to strategically rotate all of their players during games to give the team the best chance of winning.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP “Being a good role model”**

The responsibility of maintaining good sportsmanship falls on the team leaders. Sportsmanship is measured by an individual's interactions between team members, game officials, opponents and fans.

- Coaches should provide a positive approach by keeping winning in perspective. “Athlete First - Winning Second”
- Coaches have the obligation of directing team players to be courteous and show respect to all parties involved in the sport;
  - \*Team mates\* \*Parents & fans\* \*Officials\* \*Coaches\* \*Opponents\*
- Coaches also have the obligation of setting the standard of proper sportsmanship for the fans. If your team supporters are out of line during a contest it is the coach's responsibility to calmly approach the parties involved and direct them to stop. Game officials can instruct disruptive fans to leave the park and can even cancel the remainder of the contest if the problem is not brought under control. Coaches are encouraged to take the initiative to confer with opposing team coaches and game officials about dealing with the situation in a direct and swift manner to avoid an abrupt end to the game.
- Disruptive sideline dialogue should be firmly dealt with by the coach. Swearing and temper tantrums should not be tolerated under any circumstances. ‘Warn’ on the first violation, ‘enforce penalties’ on any repeating situations.
- Never punish *mistakes*. Avoid lecturing or embarrassing a young player in front of his or her teammates.
- If your child plays on the team, treat them the same as all other team members. Sometimes players try to take advantage of their coaching parent. Likewise, coaches have a tendency to either overstate their child's talents by giving them more opportunities; or just the opposite, are extra hard on them in front of the rest of the players. Both techniques are bad news for coaches. Players lose respect and confidence in coaches when these situations repeat.
- Explain, coach, teach and make practices fun, that's what coaching is all about!
- Involve parents, listen to their comments and expect *them* to show interest in their child's activities. They are also an important part of the child's success.
- The best coaches embrace the philosophy of “Continuous Encouragement and Rewarding Effort”. The games that you win may be remembered, but the team you build will show the real success of the coach.

Vince Lombardi Jr. has said that his father was misquoted. His famous phrase correctly stated was:

“Winning isn't everything - but striving to win is.”