

Doylestown Tigers

American Legion

Post 210

Code of Conduct

Player/ Parent

Policy Manual

11/2013

I. Introduction

A. **Mission Statement:** Participation in the Doylestown American Legion Baseball program is a privilege extended to the players who are willing to make the commitment to adhere to the rules that govern American Legion Baseball and Doylestown Post 210 Baseball. Participation in organized activities such as American Legion Baseball contributes to the all-around development of young men. Doylestown Post 210 sponsors American Legion Baseball for the purpose of giving players the opportunity to learn the importance of teamwork, discipline, leadership, having fun, and good sportsmanship, as well as an opportunity to develop their baseball skills, personal fitness, and leadership qualities. Doylestown Legion Baseball sees baseball and volunteer activities as a tool to help young men grow, learn to give back, and develop leadership qualities in our community, as well be prepared for the challenges ahead. Player development will include college recruiting advice and counsel, extensive connections to college baseball coaches and recommendations.

B. **Doylestown American Legion Board:** The Doylestown American Legion Baseball program is sponsored by Albert R. Atkinson American Legion Post 210.

C. **Board Appointments:** Each season the Legion Board shall appoint a parent to serve on the Legion Board as the Team Representative. The duties of each Team Representative include:

- 1) Assist with parent meetings
- 2) Coordinate and scheduling volunteer duties
- 3) Communicate information to player's parents as needed throughout the season
- 4) Meet with the Legion Board as needed
- 5) Meet with the team coaches as needed

II. Player Eligibility

A. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for Doylestown Post 210 American Legion Baseball, a player must satisfy all PA State and National American Legion rules.

B. **Suspensions appeal process:** 3 board members will be appointed by the baseball board chair. This appeals board will be set up at the start of the season.

III. Player-Parent Fund Raising

A. Each player will be required to:

- 1) Pay the \$500.00 per player team fee.
- 2) Assist in all team fund raising events (Beef N beer, Game 50/50, etc.)
- 3) Assist with our Post 210 volunteer duties.

IV. Player Expectations

A. All players are expected to attend and be on time for all scheduled practices, games, and team functions. It is the **PLAYERS** responsibility to communicate with their respective coaches any schedule conflicts. **All players are required to notify the head coach or his designee prior to any absences from team practice or game. Consequences for not doing so will be dealt with on an individual basis by the coaching staff.**

B. Any players involved in altercations with teammates, game officials, or opposing players will be subject to suspension as deemed appropriate by the head coach and the appeals board.

C. Any player who damages equipment/property that involves the "Post 210" baseball program or any part thereof will be required to pay the cost to replace/repair the equipment/property before being allowed to play in any future games.

D. All players are responsible to keep their individual space and team area clean and neat at all times (i.e. locker rooms, dugouts, team bus, eating and sleeping establishments).

E. All players are expected to follow guidelines set by the coaches for all road trips

F. Any player caught stealing property while participating for Doylestown American Legion Baseball will be subject to disciplinary action as well as possible reimbursement of all costs.

G. Players recognize the American Legion "Drug and Alcohol Policy". This states that each player agrees to remain alcohol and drug free throughout the Legion season. The enforcement provisions and

grievance procedure are identified in the policy. The policy applies to violations physically observed by the American Legion coaches and managers, or law enforcement officials.

H. Any continued violation of the aforementioned guidelines and expectations or any other conduct deemed to bring discredit to fellow teammates and American Legion Baseball may result in suspension and/or removal of the player from the program.

V. Parents Responsibilities & Conduct

A. **Parent Conduct:** Parents of all players are expected to be courteous and polite at all home and away games. Parents are a reflection of the entire Doylestown Post 210 Baseball program. Parents shall refrain from all forms of negative and combative cheering.

B. **Parent Work Schedules:** All parents are expected to work on a volunteer basis during the Post 210 seasons. At the beginning of each season, parent work schedules will be put together and given to the parents. If during the course of the season, parent(s) have unforeseen conflicts in their schedules and are unable to work their scheduled duties, the parent(s) is responsible to find a suitable replacement to work their schedule.

C. **Complaints and Grievances:** If a parent has a complaint that he/she wishes to make to a coach, the coach may agree to meet with the parent as long as the player is in attendance and only after the player has met with the Manager prior to this meeting to resolve this issue. Unresolved complaints should go to the appeals process as set up in player eligibility.

VI. Coaches Responsibilities & Conduct

A. **Rule and Regulation Compliance:** Coaches are responsible for reporting the player and parent rule infractions described in this manual to the team general manager.

B. **Conduct:** The coaches shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all practices and all games. This conduct extends to all on and off field situations while traveling.

C. **Timeliness:** Just as the players, all coaches are responsible for being on-time for all scheduled practices and games and communicating foreseen schedule conflicts to the Manager.

VII. Team Absences & Permission Requirements

A. Player Commitment

Due to the competitive nature of tryouts and subsequent selection to the Doylestown American Legion Baseball team, it is the expectation of both the coaching staff and board members that those players selected to play on our team have the highest level of commitment to their team and teammates in terms of attendance at practices and games. While we realize that a player may have other unavoidable commitments during the summer season, as a program it must be understood that a player's top priority will be to Doylestown American Legion Baseball and that he will make every effort to attend all practices and games. We do not seek to discourage participation in other sports or extracurricular activities or to put players in the position of having to choose between one activity vs another, but, ultimately, the invitation to play in the program must be given its due respect and priority.

B. Absences

Any absence from practices or games without prior communication, other than excused absences will be subject to a (2) game suspension for each game missed. Ongoing and habitual disregard for the above policy may be grounds for dismissal from the program, subject to the discretion of the coaching staff and board members. Please note that participation with teams other than local High School, and Doylestown Connie Mack are prohibited if you are on the roster of the Doylestown American Legion Baseball team. Local ITL teams are acceptable under strict regulations by Legion coaching staff.

VIII. Team Travel

Team Travel:

A. Local league games: All players will meet at our home field for batting practice and pre-game instructions. Players will then car pool to the away game. Parents must provide permission for minors to drive with adult players.

B. Travel Tournament games: The team management will assign players to specific parent and coaching staff drivers. Players will stay with the team appointed drivers to and from all tournaments. Parents must get prior approval from the manager to drive their son to or from these events.

IX. Alcohol and Drug Policy

A. **Purpose:** Each Doylestown American Legion Baseball player agrees to remain alcohol and drug free through the completion of the Legion summer season. Implementation of the drug and alcohol policy will serve the following purposes:

- 1) to emphasize concern for the health and well-being of our players;
- 2) to provide a chemical-free environment that will encourage healthy development;
- 3) to promote a sense of self-discipline among players;
- 4) to confirm and support existing state laws relative to controlled substances;
- 5) to emphasize standards of conduct for those athletes who, through their participation, become leaders and role models for their peers and younger players.

B. **Policy Duration:** This policy is in effect each year from the date of the first practice until the final game of the summer season.

C. **Player & Parent Notification of Policy Violation & Proposed Action:** If a determination is made that a player has violated this policy, the player and parent(s) or legal guardian shall be notified of the violation and proposed disciplinary action either in person or by telephone contact from the manager or coach, and in writing by the Board.

D. **Appeals:** A player may appeal a violation of the alcohol and drug policy to the Doylestown Post 210 American Legion Baseball Board of Directors. The Board shall appoint a three member grievance committee to hear the appeal. However, until the grievance committee makes a decision on the appeal, the penalty will be enforced.

X. Term of Suspensions.

The manager and/or coach will determine the duration of suspensions from competition for violations of this policy with concurrence from the Board.

The Doylestown American Legion Board is responsible for informing players and parents of this policy and its enforcement. Players, who elect to participate in the program, and their parents and/or guardians, are required to acknowledge reading and understanding this policy by signing this form. We have read, understand, and agree to abide by the above policy for the **Doylestown Post 210 American Legion Baseball** programs.

Player Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

This form must be signed and returned to the coach by _____.