# NYSA Coaches’ Best Practice

# (As of 4 January 2024)

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1. NYSA is an ALL-Volunteer Association and EVERYONE is needed to help the association run properly.
2. Review NYSA Code of Conduct Policy – Coaching is a privilege, not a right, so do your best. Focus on the kids and their experience. Do NOT argue with umpires and parents. Keep the atmosphere fun and professional.
3. Park Philosophy – Focus is on player development, building good moral character/leadership, and then winning.
4. League Communication – Website: [www.nysasports.com](http://www.nysasports.com/) and Group Text Messages:
	1. Rainout notification - No news is good news – Commissioners will send a mass text message to coaches when the decision is made to cancel, which could be at game time. Facebook post will also be utilized.
	2. Complaints – Try to resolve any issues with your Head Coach first, then refer to your respective league POCs, and then the commissioner.
5. Background Check forms are required on all coaches, assistant coaches and team moms (download from website). Must be completed and turned in immediately to the Baseball Commissioner.
6. Every Team requires a team sponsor. The form is on the website. Team shirts may be provided with sponsorship. No sponsor plaque in fall.
7. Freeze forms (on NYSA website) – May freeze up to 3 players (Coaches must freeze their own child).
8. League Rules overview: Park Rules and GCYB rules are on the NYSA website.
	1. Bat rules – All bats must have USSSA/BBCOR/USA Bats Stamp. Alloy bats are allowed.
9. Division 8U is allowed no higher than Drop -10 bat (i.e. Drop -12 or -14 is not permitted)
10. Division 10U and 12U has no restrictions.
11. 14U is allowed no higher than a Drop -5; However, it's recommended to utilize -3 due to mandatory --3 bat usage at the High School level of play.
	1. Player/Coach ejections – suspended for that game and the next game as well.
	2. Rec/Select players are permitted to play travel ball simultaneously, **BUT** they must understand that their NYSA team comes first due to their commitment to their teammates and coaches. Rec Players are highly encourage to try out for Select team. Players and coaches violating this rule may be suspended indefinitely.
12. Field Set-up: **BOTH TEAMS ARE** responsible for setting up the field prior to play and turning the **LIGHTS** on **& OFF!!** Coaches should arrive and begin field preparation at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the game. Lay down chalk lines, drag/rake and smooth in-field and batter’s box 3x5 or 4x6. **Pitcher’s Mound Set-Up:** Both teams are responsible for maintaining the pitcher’s mound has sufficient clay and is smoothed prior to start of game. **AWAY TEAM** is responsible for maintaining the scoreboard. Coaches should designate a parent/volunteer to do one (scoreboard) or both. The visiting coach must accompany said parent/volunteer to concession stand to pick up and return the controller.
13. Standings: Standings will be maintained by the league’s Baseball Committee POC through a smartphone app. *Custom League Tables – Tournament Manager* is highly recommended. The **HOME TEAM** will post the outcome of the game in the league’s coaches chatroom (Posting the score is not necessary…simply “Rays defeat Braves” will do.) Committee POC will send out standing’s update to the league by Sunday through the coaches’ chatroom.
14. Baseball Gear sign-out & sign-in: There will be a sign-out sheet. Must be returned at the end of season.
15. Catchers: All catchers must wear a cup and supporter to play. Umpires are required to confirm catcher is legally equipped for the game.
16. Concession Stand & Trash Duty: Every team will be assigned dates & times to run the concession stand and perform trash duty. Four (4) adult volunteers are required to run concession stand properly and at least 2-4 for trash duty. The concession stand is how we raise money to improve our facilities, batting cages, purchase baseballs, catcher’s equipment, etc. Please take this opportunity seriously and remember that NYSA is an ALL-VOLUNTEER Organization. We cannot run a successful program without our volunteers. Thank you!