



Coach Expectations & Code of Conduct

Purpose & Philosophy

Lincoln Rebels Inc. is a competitive, nonprofit program committed to the advancement of youth baseball in our area. We expect our coaches to lead by example, provide a safe and structured environment for player development, and represent Lincoln Rebels Inc. with integrity both on and off the field.

Dugout Authorization

Any person entering the dugout in a coaching capacity must have a cleared USSSA background check and be approved by the Lincoln Rebels Inc. Parent Board before the season begins. This applies to head coaches, assistant coaches, and any other adult in a coaching role. Coaches are responsible for ensuring no unauthorized adult enters the dugout during practices, games, or events. If this becomes an issue, notify the Board President immediately.

If a coach engages in behavior inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or organizational expectations at any point during the season, it must be reported to the Parent Board. Upon investigation, the coach may be removed from the dugout.

Required Training

All coaches must complete the following before the season begins. Proof of completion must be submitted to the Parent Board prior to your first practice. Coaches who have not submitted proof of completion will not be authorized to coach until both requirements are met.

- **Concussion Protocol Training:** Complete the CDC Heads Up online training at cdc.gov/heads-up/training/youth-sports.html. This is required annually.
- **Anti-Abuse Training:** Complete the Lincoln Rebels Inc. required anti-abuse training as directed by the Parent Board. This is required annually.

Coaching Responsibilities

Team Practices & Games

- Hold regular, structured practices during assigned field times.
- Begin and end practices on time; prepare organized drills and teaching plans.
- Ensure players are ready for games by arriving early and setting lineups in advance.
- Track player attendance and address unexcused absences; communicate concerns to parents and the Parent Board as needed.



Communication & Transparency

- Communicate consistently with families regarding schedules, expectations, and updates.
- Uphold the 24-Hour Rule: parents may not approach coaches about playing time, positions, or in-game decisions until 24 hours after a game. Coaches must respect this boundary and report violations to the Parent Board.
- Report major issues, including safety concerns, player conduct, or parental misconduct, to the Parent Board promptly.
- Use SportsPlus, GameChanger, and GroupMe as your primary tools for registration tracking, scheduling, and family communication.

Conduct & Role Modeling

- Be a positive role model, demonstrating respect, sportsmanship, and professionalism in all situations.
- Uphold appropriate behavior around youth:
 - Never be alone one-on-one with a player. Use a buddy system or ensure another adult is present at all times.
 - Avoid inappropriate language, jokes, or physical contact.
 - Maintain professional boundaries — coaches are mentors, not peers.
- Treat officials, opposing teams, and parents with courtesy and respect at all times.
- Refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct, arguing, or negative sideline behavior.
- Do not use social media or other electronic communication to disparage players, families, officials, or the organization.

Safety Expectations

- Follow concussion protocol and remove players immediately if a head injury is suspected.
- Maintain first-aid readiness at all practices and games.
- Follow weather and lightning safety procedures without exception. Fields must be cleared if lightning is seen.
- Ensure equipment is safe, properly maintained, and used appropriately.
- Never allow an unauthorized adult in the dugout. All dugout coaches must have a cleared USSSA background check and Parent Board approval.

Commitment to Player Development

- Focus on skill development, teamwork, and growth, not just wins and losses.
- Make decisions regarding playing time and positions based on ability, effort, and attitude, not favoritism.
- Encourage multi-sport participation in the off-season for well-rounded athletic development.



Scheduling & Organizational Responsibilities

Coaches are responsible for scheduling tournaments, games, fields, and umpires for their team. The organization does not manage this on your behalf.

- All teams are expected to participate in the Lincoln Rebels Rampage Tournament as part of their season schedule.
- Tournament registration should begin in late October/early November. Add tournaments to your USSSA cart and notify Rebels Accounting to process payment. See the Coaching Guide for the full procedure.

Reimbursements

Coaches are eligible for up to \$1,000 in reimbursements per season for mileage, hotels, and other coaching-related expenses. Alcohol is not reimbursable under any circumstance.

- Receipts are required for every item submitted.
- All submissions must be received no later than July 22, 2027. Nothing will be reimbursed after July 31, 2027.
- Submit requests here:
cognitoforms.com/LincolnRebels1/ExpenseReimbursement

End-of-Season Duties

- Return all team equipment to the organization.
- Finalize postseason communication with families, including next steps and tryout information for the following season.
- Conclude the season with a wrap-up message to families, reinforcing achievements and expressing gratitude for their commitment.

Organizational Alignment

- Uphold and enforce the Lincoln Rebels Inc. Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct.
- Represent Lincoln Rebels Inc. with integrity during practices, games, tournaments, travel, and community interactions.
- Support the policies and decisions of the Parent Board.
- Recognize that violations of these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspension, or removal from coaching duties.



Anti-Abuse Policy

Lincoln Rebels Inc. is committed to providing a safe, respectful environment for every player in our program. Abuse of any kind has no place in this organization.

Definition of Abuse

For the purposes of this policy, abuse includes:

- **Physical abuse:** Any non-accidental physical contact intended to harm, intimidate, or control a player.
- **Emotional abuse:** Persistent or severe verbal conduct that humiliates, demeans, threatens, or isolates a player, including yelling, belittling, or public shaming.
- **Sexual abuse:** Any sexual contact or conduct involving a minor, including inappropriate comments, images, or physical contact.
- **Neglect:** Failing to provide adequate supervision, safety, or care for players in your charge.

Mandatory Reporting — Nebraska Law

Under Nebraska Revised Statute 28-711, every person in Nebraska is a mandatory reporter. This includes all Lincoln Rebels coaches, volunteers, and board members. If you have reasonable cause to believe a player has been subjected to abuse or neglect of any kind, you are required by law to report it. You do not need proof. Reasonable cause to believe is the standard.

If a player is in immediate danger, call 911 first. Then report to:

- Nebraska DHHS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-800-652-1999 (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- Notify the Lincoln Rebels Inc. Parent Board as soon as possible after making your report.

You are protected. Nebraska law provides immunity from civil and criminal liability to anyone who reports in good faith.

Prohibited Conduct

All coaches and volunteers are prohibited from:

- Any form of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse toward a player
- Yelling at, belittling, or publicly shaming a player for any reason
- Any one-on-one unsupervised contact with a player
- Communicating with players via private messages, social media direct messages, or personal phone numbers outside of team channels
- Using alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances at any Lincoln Rebels event or while transporting players



- Retaliating against any player, parent, or volunteer who reports a concern in good faith

Internal Reporting

If you witness or suspect abuse by another coach, volunteer, board member, or parent, report it to the Parent Board immediately in addition to making any required report to law enforcement or DHHS. The Parent Board will investigate promptly and take appropriate action, up to and including removal from the organization. Lincoln Rebels Inc. does not tolerate retaliation of any kind against anyone who reports a concern in good faith.

Violations

Violation of this policy may result in immediate suspension and removal from all coaching duties, pending review by the Parent Board and, where applicable, law enforcement.

Commitment Statement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Lincoln Rebels Inc. Coach Expectations & Code of Conduct. I agree to uphold these standards and accept that failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Parent Board.

Coach Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Revised: 8/1/2026