

London Mets Baseball & Softball Club

Code of Conduct – 2025

The London Mets are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for everyone involved in our sport. This Code of Conduct applies to all players, coaches, managers, trustees, volunteers, game officials, parents, and supporters.

1. General Principles

- All members must conduct themselves lawfully, ethically, and responsibly.
 - Behaviour that risks the safety, integrity, or reputation of the Club, the British Baseball Federation (BBF), or the sport of baseball will not be tolerated.
 - Criminal behaviour including but not limited to violent or threatening conduct, the use of prohibited substances, theft or vandalism will lead to disciplinary action.
 - All members must respect club property, facilities, and venues, and leave them in good condition. This includes away games at other venues.
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2. Expectations of Participants

- **Respect:** Treat teammates, opponents, coaches, umpires, and spectators with fairness and courtesy.
- **Teamwork:** Cooperate with teammates and officials to ensure the game is played fairly and safely.
- **Inclusivity:** Accept all participants regardless of age, disability, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, or background.
- **Safeguarding:** Protect children and vulnerable people; report concerns promptly to the Safeguarding Officer.
- **Fair Play:** Avoid abusive language, bullying (including online), harassment, or unsporting behaviour.

- **Anti-Doping:** Reject the use of performance-enhancing drugs and illicit substances, following UKAD rules.
 - **Alcohol & Substance Use:** Never play, coach, or officiate while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Responsible consumption is expected at all club events.
 - **Gambling & Integrity:** Members must not bet on baseball games, attempt to influence match results, or share insider information.
 - **Wellbeing & Mental Health:** Support teammates and fellow members, promote a positive sporting environment, and seek help or speak up if struggling.
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3. Social Media & Digital Responsibility

Members must use social media and digital tools responsibly:

- Do not post content that could be seen as representing the official views of the Club or BBF without authorisation.
- Never share confidential Club or player information.
- Do not post or share discriminatory, abusive, harassing, obscene, or violent content.
- Do not criticise or question the integrity of umpires or officials, or other clubs, their players, staff or members online.
- Do not promote illegal activity, prohibited substances, or gambling.
- Do not create or share misleading or harmful digital content, including manipulated images, deepfakes, or AI-generated material that misrepresents others.
- By participating in any league game, training session, Canal League, Fall Ball, Winter Training, Friday Night Baseball, or any other club event, adult members agree that photographs, video, and audio recordings of them may be used by the Club for social media posts, the Club's website, newsletters, and other promotional materials, unless they have explicitly opted out at registration.

4. Parents & Supporters

Parents, guardians, and supporters are expected to:

- Encourage players positively and respectfully.
 - Never abuse umpires, coaches, players, or other supporters.
 - Let coaches manage the team and avoid shouting instructions from the sidelines.
 - Promote fair play and enjoyment above winning at all costs.
 - Set an example for young players in behaviour and respect for others.
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5. Discipline and Enforcement

- Misconduct may result in sanctions, including suspension, fines, expulsion, or referral to the BBF.
 - Investigations will be conducted fairly, with the opportunity for individuals to provide evidence.
 - Disciplinary decisions may be appealed in writing to the Club's Board of Directors.
 - Serious cases will be reported to the BBF and/or authorities as appropriate.
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6. Reporting Concerns & Whistleblowing

- All members must promptly report any incident that may breach this policy, especially where criminal behaviour or safeguarding issues are involved.
- Concerns should be raised with the Club Welfare & Safety Officer or the Board of Directors.
- Whistleblowers raising concerns in good faith will be protected from retaliation.

- Failure to report misconduct may itself result in disciplinary action.
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7. Alignment with Governing Bodies

- The Club adopts and enforces the **BBF's Personal Conduct Policy** and the **UK Anti-Doping Rules**, which apply in addition to this Code.
- Participation in Club activities constitutes acceptance of this Code of Conduct