Mankato Basketball Association Code of Ethics

Purpose and who this applies to

The Mankato Basketball Association (MBA) exists to give young athletes a safe, positive place to grow as players, teammates and people. This Code of Ethics sets the standard of behavior for everyone connected to MBA.
It applies to every player, parent, guardian, family member, spectator, coach, team manager, volunteer and board member. It covers practices, games, tournaments, team travel, team events and team communication, including texts, group chats and social media.

Our core values

Everything in this code comes back to the MBA motto: **Show up. Work hard. Play together.**

- **Show up.** Be present, on time and ready, and show up with respect for everyone in the gym.
- **Work hard.** Give full effort, accept coaching and keep improving.
- **Play together.** We win and lose as a team. Every player is a teammate, whether or not they are a friend.

All coaches, parents and players shall exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.

Player code of ethics

As an MBA player, I will:

1. Treat coaches, teammates, opponents and officials with respect, on and off the court.
2. Play as a team. I will support every player on my team, regardless of personal friendships.
3. Accept my coach's decisions, including playing time and substitutions, without arguing, eye-rolling or disrespectful gestures.
4. Use appropriate language at all times. No swearing, put-downs, trash talk or obscene gestures.
5. Never use or tolerate slurs, bullying, threats or physical intimidation toward anyone.
6. Attend practices consistently and tell my coach ahead of time when I will be absent.
7. Win with humility and lose with dignity, including shaking hands after every game.
8. Bring concerns to my coach privately and respectfully, or ask my parent to follow the communication process.
9. Take care of facilities, equipment and uniforms, and follow the rules of every gym and hotel we visit.
10. Remember that I represent MBA and my community whenever I wear an MBA uniform.

Parent and spectator code of ethics

As an MBA parent, guardian or spectator, I will:

1. Model good sportsmanship. My child learns how to act by watching me.
2. Cheer positively for all players on our team, not just my own child.
3. Leave coaching to the coaches. I will not give instructions from the stands or the bench

area.
4. Respect officials and never yell at, argue with or confront them.
5. Never yell at, insult, threaten or confront a player, coach, parent or official. This includes other teams and their families.
6. Never use slurs or any language that targets a person's race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or background.
7. Never discipline, correct or confront another family's child. I will bring concerns to the coach or the Board.
8. Follow the 24-hour rule and the chain of communication for any concern (see below).
9. Keep team issues out of group chats and off social media, and avoid gossip that divides the team.
10. Encourage my child to respect the coach, play as a team and include every teammate.
11. Support the coaching staff and volunteers who give their time to make this program possible.
12. Follow the rules of every facility, including the ban on noisemakers at MBA events.

Coach code of ethics

As an MBA coach, I will:

1. Put the safety, well-being and development of every player a priority.
2. Pass an annual background check (annually) and keep my concussion training and child safety current (every three years).
3. Treat every player fairly and with respect. I will not single out, humiliate or embarrass a player in front of the team.
4. Handle player discipline privately and calmly. Team-wide messages focus on expectations, not on one player's words or mistakes.
5. Notify parents when I bench a player for discipline: in advance for a pregame benching (with the reason and length), and after the game for an in-game benching.
6. Follow MBA playing time guidelines for my age group.
7. Model respectful language and behavior toward players, parents, opponents and officials.
8. Hold a team meeting at the start of the season to review this code and team expectations with every player and at least one parent.
9. Make sure my family members and anyone traveling with the team follow the parent and spectator code.
10. Report any safety concern, injury or serious incident to the Coordinator or Board right away.
11. Account for all team and tournament funds and return unused money.
12. If a technical foul was called on any members of the coaching staff, I will inform the board within 24 hours.

Zero tolerance: discrimination, harassment and threats

MBA has zero tolerance for the following, by anyone, at any MBA activity or in any team communication:

- Racial slurs or any language or gesture that targets a person's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability or background
- Bullying, hazing or harassment, in person or online
- Threats of physical harm or invitations to fight

- Physical violence or intimidation

Any of these may lead to immediate removal from the event and Board action, up to and including permanent dismissal from all MBA activities. This applies equally to players, parents, family members, coaches and volunteers.

Communication and concerns

MBA requires a **24-hour waiting period** after a game or incident before raising a concern. This gives everyone time to cool down so the conversation can be constructive.
After 24 hours, bring concerns forward in this order:

1. **Coach.** Request a private conversation, never during or right after a game.
2. **Coordinator.** If it is not resolved with the coach, contact the Boys or Girls Coordinator.
3. **Board.** If it is still not resolved, contact the MBA Board. A Board member can help facilitate a meeting.

Safety concerns are the exception. If anyone's safety is at risk, contact the coach or MBA immediately.

Violations and consequences

Violations of this code are handled by the Board at its discretion, based on how serious the behavior is and whether it has happened before. Consequences may include:

- A verbal or written warning
- Required meeting with the coach, Coordinator or Board
- Removal from a practice, game or event
- Suspension from one or more games or events
- Suspension of a coach
- Dismissal from all MBA activities, without a refund

The Board may act without prior warning for serious violations. Consequences for a parent or spectator may include being barred from attending MBA events. Appeals must be made in writing to the Board, and the Board's decisions are final.

Acknowledgment

By signing below, we confirm that we have read this Code of Ethics, understand it and agree to follow it. We understand that violations may result in the consequences listed above.
Team: _____
Player name: _____ Signature: _____
Date: _____
Parent/guardian name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
Coach name: _____ Signature: _____
Date: _____