



Greenway Giants Baseball & Softball Club
PO Box 7, Cherrybrook, NSW 2126

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Develop players of all levels of ability to their fullest potential. It's a key plank of our club mission.

THE most fundamental development aspect of our players' development we impact as Coaches & Managers is their development as young men and women. Needless to say, the confidence and self esteem that is generated through playing sport will stay with children for the rest of their lives. But negative experiences can similarly echo throughout a child's life.

With this in mind, the Executive Committee requires all Coaches & Managers to sign a Prohibited Employment Declaration (Attachment 4) form at the start of every season (Ann Lincoln will visit you at either your first or second practice to ask you to fill it in), and requests that all Coaches and Managers:

- Use the B-E-L-L principle – be early, leave late – be the first one to training and practice to welcome children and parents, and the last one to leave – never leave a child behind.
- Never allow a child to wander off by themselves at the end of training or a game – they **MUST** leave with a parent. If parents are not cooperating with this, the Manager of the team should discuss with the parent concerned early in the season.
- Use drills to develop skills and capability – not as a punishment.
- Use the batting line-up and field positions to help the team win – not as punishment.
- Keep physical contact to a minimum, and only use it for encouragement (e.g. pat on the shoulder; high five) or to develop a particular skill. Never touch players in a way that might make them feel uncomfortable.
- Be encouraging and avoid putdowns – “sandwich” your correction in two slices of encouragement “bread” e.g. “Tommy, way to hustle to the ball – just remember to get your feet wide and your body height low when the ball is approaching, but hey, that throw you made to first was superb – terrific stuff”.
- Never isolate themselves with a particular player – ensure that there are plenty of people around at all times
- Adopt positive language and behaviour, particularly when talking to individuals. If stronger counsel is required, try to do it to the team, and save it for when the team is on a high. Generally be tougher on the team after a win, and more encouraging after a loss.
- Avoid transporting players to games and practices, except when:
 - other players/parents/guardians are in the vehicle or the ride has been approved in writing by parents/guardians; and
 - the ride is directly to/from sports or recreational activities.
- Blend a desire to be competitive with a desire to teach life lessons and respect for their team mates, opponents, officials, the sport and the community. See www.positivecoach.org.