

NORTH PENN BASEBALL

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the North Penn coaching staff, I would like to congratulate you on your son making the baseball team at North Penn High School. We are grateful of the time, money, energy, and support that you have given your son in order to enable him to make it to this level of play. 35-40 players make up the rosters of both the JV and Varsity squads. It is quite an accomplishment to be selected due to the fact that there are over 3,000 students to choose from. We know that you have played a big part in your son's success and should be commended.

We at North Penn would like to see your continued support during this season and in future seasons as well. With this in mind, we would like to address some issues that concern both players and their parents. Below we have briefly outlined our philosophies in a few areas. Each of these topics will probably be expanded upon at our parents meeting usually held in the early stages of the season. Our goal is to create a positive playing and learning experience for all the boys who play baseball at North Penn. We ask your cooperation with the following:

Playing time: The coaching staff at North Penn tries our best to put players in situations where they can be successful as well as help the team. Every coach at the high school level struggles with the issue of getting enough playing time for all their players. Different players have different roles. Players and parents need to be aware that playing time is determined by the coaching staff only. Priority is given to what is best for the team and not necessarily for any one member of the team. It is our policy to not discuss playing time with parents. All coaches will discuss the areas that need improving and ways to improve them. Understand however, that improvements do not always guarantee increased playing time. A further explanation as to why coaches do not discuss playing time will be passed on at the parent meeting.

Grades: All players are expected to perform according to eligibility regulations set forth by the PIAA and the North Penn School District. Players cannot afford to miss practice and/or games as a result of being ineligible. All the players have been told of their responsibilities in this area and should do everything in their power to avoid problems with their grades. Student/athletes of all ages need to develop proper time management skills to accommodate both practice time and school work. One should not interfere with the other if proper planning on the part of the player is exercised.

In-School Behavior: All players are expected to behave appropriately at North Penn High School. The entire faculty and staff at NPHS have been provided a baseball roster and are asked to keep an eye on the players that they come in contact with. If any player is to step out of line, the teacher has been asked to let a coach know. Improper behavior by any of our players at NPHS will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action by the coaching staff. All players have been told of their responsibilities as young adults in school.

Out-of-school Behavior: North Penn baseball players need to be aware of their behavior responsibilities away from NPHS as well. Actions off the field can and do have an effect on their status on the baseball team. In order to tryout, all players had to sign a North Penn Athletic Code of Conduct which indicated that they understood the possible consequences of poor out-of-school decisions. All players are frequently told of the importance of proper behavior out-of-school.

Practice/game attendance: Players are expected to attend every practice and game. There are, of course, legitimate reasons for a player having to miss a practice or game. If a parent or player sees a possible conflict which might pose a problem, please inform the coach as soon as possible in order to discuss the issue.

Fan support: We as coaches know that parents will make up the majority of fans at our home and away games. We thank all of you in advance for the sacrifices you make to attend games both near and far. Please continue to cheer on the boys and give as much positive encouragement as possible. We ask that you please consider the following when attending games:

1. Criticizing umpires in any way does MORE damage to our team and your sons.
2. Criticizing North Penn players can cause serious rifts between both players and parents. Please keep negative comments to yourself.
3. Talking to players during games can distract them from their duties and responsibilities. Please keep a safe distance from the players' bench area.
4. Responding to opposing teams' parents' and players' comments can lead to ugly events. Please ignore comments that come from the other side.

Once again, the coaching staff thanks you for all your support. We hope everyone associated with North Penn Baseball has a fun and successful season. Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the numbers/e-mails below.

Coach Bob McCreary
School – 215-368-9800
e-mail – mccrear@npenn.org