

# Team Philosophy

## 1. Be Present

This refers to both being at practice and being at the field mentally. We have limited time on the field and when instructions are being given we need you to be silent and to listen.

## 2. Hustle

As our time is limited, we hustle everywhere. This is non-negotiable. When you step on the field you will hustle everywhere. The only exceptions are injured players and the pitcher/catcher during games when entering/exiting the field. At every other moment, we hustle.

## 3. Humble

We allow our play to speak for itself. We celebrate with reason and purpose, never mocking the other team OR the game itself. If you have to question whether a celebration is problematic, the answer is yes. This does not mean we play as statues. Quite the opposite. We play with passion. And part of passion is understanding what this game means to this school, community, and country. We therefore respect the game and our opponents at all times.

## 4. Brothers In Arms

You are out here as a group of young men trying to accomplish a Herculean task. As such, understand that the best resource for most things is your peers. But this is a two-way street. You need to be a good teammate. This means equipment is taken down quickly. It means you don't leave the heavy stuff for others to get, you do it. It means when someone needs to throw BP you volunteer. When someone needs to feed a tee, you volunteer. Every player is a leader out here. If you see someone breaking from the ranks, doing something they shouldn't, or just struggling, you should be the one who goes out there and helps them. You need to go above and beyond every opportunity you get. Remember, we must be greater than the sum of our parts. Great teams are not fourteen men, but one entity pursuing a singular goal.

## 5. ANTICIPATE! ANTICIPATE! ANTICIPATE!

This will be applied to each section with specific details, but as a general rule, players who are anticipating what is going to happen next will be better than those who do not. Whether this is anticipating a fastball, a ground ball, or an overthrow, this element of your game is the easiest way to improve quickly.

## 6. The Small Things Matter

Taking an extra base on a lazy outfielder. Advancing a runner to third with one out on a ground out. Making a routine play in the 6th inning. Covering 1st base as a pitcher. Good teams have talent. Great teams get the details right because they understand that in close games, the small things are what come back to haunt the losing team.

## **7. Fear Invites Defeat**

We cannot be afraid. We cannot be afraid to fail. We cannot be afraid of the ball. We cannot be afraid of our opponents. Everyone is going to make a mistake, we just hope ours will happen in a 20-0 slugfest. We must stay confident even during the bad times, and we must have a short memory of the bad things and a deep longing for the good things.