



Asahi Baseball Association

Philosophy

The actions of players are a reflection of themselves, their team, the Asahi Baseball Association and their community, and the game of baseball. A player's involvement in baseball provides opportunities and experiences that are important to the development of a well- rounded individual; however, players must remember that their participation in baseball and functions as a member of the Asahi Baseball Association is a privilege, not a right.

The Asahi Baseball Association (ABA), we focus on spreading the Japanese way of baseball. We value the concept of team, discipline, and respect. Though it is important to improve as a player, without the other members of your team, you cannot play the game. It is important to think about how you can become better to raise the level of the whole team. The type of training that we do is to help raise the level of the players, to make the team stronger as a whole.

We do want each player to find and play their own individual style of baseball and bring that style and skill to contribute to the team.

"Always start with respect, and end with respect"

This is an important part of Japanese culture. Culturally, there is a belief that there is a soul in everything, from the mountains and sun, to your simple objects and possessions. Japanese have always treated inanimate objects and living creatures with deep respect as to not disrespect the spirit dwelling within. This belief transcends to baseball as well. The equipment, the ball park, and even your cleats all contain a soul. This is why we will not tolerate actions such as kicking the ball, throwing your equipment, spitting on the field, eating during games and practice.

The respect shown to inanimate objects is also given to the people that have helped you reach where you are. We must always show respect, gratitude, will and spirit in whatever we do. In action, we show these feelings by bowing. Bowing is not only something that you have to do because you have to. It's an important ritual that you do to communicate these feelings to others. This is the reason we bow to the opponents, umpires, coaches, and spectators, to thank them and to promise that you will give everything you have till the very end. Though it may be difficult at first, this is something that we hope the players will come to understand.

Respect also goes for your coaches and teammates. It is expected for the players to give coaches their full attention when they speak, respect their fellow players, to help with prepping and tearing down the field and dugout, and lining up at the beginning and end of every game and practice.