



Cumberland Beavers Coaching Dictionary 26 letters that Define Us

A **Accept that when we win it was because of the kids. When we lose, it was because of us:** We will get too much credit when we win and too much blame when we lose. It's all irrelevant and we will share that with the kids as a model of accountability and taking self-responsibility.

B **Belief:** There is always a way, there is always hope. If nothing else, baseball teaches that the human desire to let the clock expire won't happen and that we never give up on team, a game, a season, or on ourselves and philosophies.

C **Communication:** We will over-communicate about our philosophies, recognizing and praising kids, and doing those things that highlight our young men. Every parent will get the daily practice plan and focus plan emailed to them. We will have a potluck the first week of the season in which the head coach will define the role of the coaches, the players and the parents. Parents are extremely important to our success and we must remember that they are living and dying through their sons. They love their sons and dream of them achieving great success. We have to communicate to them what their role is for our team and that we need them to let their sons communicate with us about playing time and other baseball issues and not themselves, because we are responsible FOR EVERY SON ON THE TEAM. We need parents and they need us too because there are fewer and fewer people willing to coach anymore, and the number one reason is parents. We have great parents but we will have to make tough decisions at times that they may not like but is still in the best interest of the team and their son. The spotlight is the example. We must ask parents to be patient and understand that we make our lineup out every day and if one kid outperforms

D **Diligence:** We can't miss opportunities to praise accomplishments or progress or teach or reteach things that aren't being done correctly.

E **Eagerness:** This is easy. We can't wait for the next practice, game and season.

F **Focus on the development of the young man first, the ball player 2nd:** Each kid is different so we can't treat them all the same way. Some need to be babied, some need to be challenged, all need some of each at times. We can't make rules that lock us into a position that becomes untenable. We discipline with common sense and what is in the best interest of the young man and the team as well.

G **Greatness:** Our goal everyday. Teach our players to not just be better than our opponents but to be as great as they can be.

H **Hard Work:** Demand the highest work ethic from ourselves and from our players. Be organized and enforce discipline. Team chemistry will be taught in every practice.

I **Impartiality:** We must ignore outside pressures and focus on our kids and the best way to do this is by communicating with our players. We might be accused of playing politics by people who are unhappy with the decisions we make but those accusations will be completely unfounded. Our responsibilities are to our kids and our teams.

J **Justification:** We must have a reason for everything we do or we shouldn't do it. That doesn't mean we are going to be right, it just means we will learn from our mistakes and then be able to justify those changes.

K **Kinesthetic:** Our players will learn how to do things correctly by repeated practice of skills. They learn by doing: kinesthetically. Give them purposeful drills that emphasize the correct way to perform that skill and repeatedly practice it. Teach even the smallest mistakes. If it's not right, it's wrong.

L **Loyalty:** The doors remain closed when it comes to talking to others about each other as coaches. Loyalty to our players must always begin by telling whomever it is we are talking about that he is a great kid and we have great hope for him. We will expect the same from our players. Absolutely no talking behind backs by anyone in the baseball family.

M **Mission:** We focus on the important things and either limit or ignore those distractions that keep us from our mission of teaching young men to become outstanding young men and exceptional baseball players.

N **Narcissism:** Any coach that has his son playing in the program is subject to more pressure because there is a perception that your son will receive preferential treatment. This is unfair. The only acceptable way to coach your son when we are between the lines is the same as all of our other baseball sons: no better or worse. Narcissism is unacceptable.

O **Open-mindedness:** Always look for ways to improve ourselves with clinics, books, videos, etc. There are thousands of hours of resources.

P **Parents:** Are an important part of the equation and we need parents on our side. We will achieve this by having great communication and doing everything to make sure their kids are not only safe, but also developing life-long skills. This is different than playing time, whose starting, and other game-management decisions. This we communicate with our players and our players communicate this with their parents if they so choose. See my sailing ship parable please.

Questionable calls: Are part of the game and we need to keep our emotions in check. The head coach is the only one of the staff that should communicate with the umpire(s) where there is a questionable call. Of course we are going to be upset at bad calls but I've never seen an umpire in my 45 of years of coaching baseball that screwed over my team on purpose. We need umpires and they are becoming an endangered species.

Responsibility: Model it at practice and expect from our players. Teach players that responsibility means not having to be told to do something: that they should account themselves whether we are watching them or not.

Sport: Teach our players to become baseball men. They are in this sport because they love it. Find ways to teach the history and strategy of the game so that they some day may too teach this to their sons and daughters.

Teach: Coaches are teachers whether or not they are certified educational professionals. Teaching our players to be better men and better ball players is what we do and what we love to do.

Uniqueness: Get to know they individual kid on the team and what makes him unique. We are important men in their lives and we care for them but we also need to **show** that we care.

Variety: Today's kid get bored. We must come up with creative and competitive ways to keep practices motivating.

Work Ethic: We give ourselves a better chance to win by outworking everyone we will compete against. We expect this from ourselves and expect it from our kids.

Xenodochial: The term means friendly to strangers or guests, as in opposing coaches, players, umpires, etc. Baseball is a great game and assume everyone we either visit or host also loves the game and the competition. It's not a war but it is a chance for us to compete. Win or lose, we will be gracious.

You: Are making a difference in a young man's life. You are a leader and you are an important part of our staff.

Zealousness: Great enthusiasm and energy in pursuit of a common cause. That defines us and is a perfect way to end this list..