

## Coach Certifications

Anyone interested in Managing or Coaching at Howell South Little League (HSSL) MUST be NYSCA Certified and have an approved State & Federal Background Check in compliance with [Howell Township Ordinance No. 0-11-21](#), Criminal History Background Check. HSSL will take every necessary precaution to ensure the safety of the children and will not allow any individual to coach the children without these two certifications.

On August 16, 2011, Howell Township (HT) passed the above referenced Ordinance and has placed the responsibility of overseeing coach's background checks into the hands of the individual organizations. Therefore, there is no longer an active central database for ALL Howell Organizations, although several clubs are working together towards developing one. HSSL cannot accept background checks from other sources that was not performed by the NJ State Police for State and Federal verifications. In an effort to ensure the safety of our children, HSSL unanimously approved the hiring of Instant verification, Inc. (IVI) to administer the background checks of all of our coaches. In the last ten years, Instant Verification has become one of the premier screening service providers for private, municipal and youth organizations. Currently, several HT organizations are using their services.

In order to verify your Background Check status, please check one of the following:

- 1) <http://www.instantverificationinc.com/> (follow the Howell Club links on right side of web page)
- 2) <http://www.ksrc.us/> (follow the Howell Township Recreation link)
- 3) If you are not on either the IVI or KidSafe lists and have had a State & Federal Background Check performed by NJ State Police for another organization and it is current (not older than 3-years by current seasons end), you will need to obtain a copy of your NJ State Police approval letter from that organization in order for you to coach here at HSSL, NO EXCEPTIONS.

In order to take the fields with the children, your background check status MUST be current and approved by HSSL. To have your background checked, you must be fingerprinted using MorphoTrak (formerly Sagem Morpho). Please click the HSSL IVI web site link <http://www.instantverificationinc.com/howellsouth.html> and then click the link labeled "**VOLUNTEER COACHES CLICK HERE TO PRINT FINGERPRINTING INSTRUCTIONS**" and follow their instructions. Our VRO Number is N12001.

In order to become NYSCA certified, you must go to <http://nays.org/> and go through the process for Initial Membership (if you have never been NYSCA certified) or Continuing Membership if you need to renew your membership.

Howell South Little League will NOT be responsible for reminding you to have your Background Check and NYSCA certifications up to date. Failure to be properly certified prior to Opening Day will nullify your Coaching privileges. Any questions regarding your status should be directed to [info@howellsouthll.com](mailto:info@howellsouthll.com).

## What Makes a Great Coach?

The differences between a good coach and a great one may be subtle, but they can make a world of difference to players. While knowledge of the game, ability to demonstrate drills and organizational skills are important, here are five traits that separate the best from the rest.

**Humility** – Every coach wants to win games, but not at the expense of skill development. Great coaches realize it's about the team, not the man in the dugout. The best coaches don't measure their success by their trophy case, but by the smiles on their players' faces, their improvement on the field and their passion for the game.

**Compassion** – Great coaches take the time to get to know their players, on and off the field. If the coach makes the effort to listen, understand and treat players with respect, they will return the favor. Great coaches know that their team is only as strong as its weakest player and works hard to give every player the chance to improve his or her skills.

**Communication** – A coach can have all the technical knowledge in the world but if he can't communicate and teach effectively, the knowledge is useless. Clear communication stems from realizing how each player learns and tailoring the information to reach its intended target. The best coaches are able to deliver criticism and praise in a way that players will take to heart.

**Passion** – When a coach has a passion for the game and the team, it makes the experience a positive one for everyone involved. Excitement for the game and improvement is contagious, and if the coach has it the whole team will catch it. However, the same goes for negativity. If a coach acts up in the dugout, there's a good chance his players will do likewise on the field. The apple, as they say, never falls far from the tree.

**Leadership** – Great coaches give their teams direction and motivation to help them to reach their goals. They have a plan, are organized and find a way to encourage their teams to believe and work together. The best coaches are those that will lead an enthusiastic, excelling, growing team by personal example.