



AZBCA

WHAT IS THE AZBCA?

The Arizona Baseball Coaches Association (AzBCA) is committed to advancing coaching expertise by offering professional development through our annual clinic, packed with valuable training and resources. We create opportunities for coaches to connect, collaborate, and build lasting relationships within the community. Members gain access to shared resources, including drills, strategies, and player development insights, along with the chance to vote for and participate in AzBCA all-star games. Ultimately, we are dedicated to fostering a strong, supportive community that promotes the growth of both baseball coaches and the sport.

COACH SPOTLIGHT

Building a Legacy of Excellence: Michael Deardoff Reflects on Coaching, Culture, and Success

Michael Deardoff, head baseball coach at Sunrise Mountain High School, has spent years cultivating a legacy of excellence on and off the field. His journey, marked by resilience, commitment, and a deep belief in core values, has shaped not just winning teams but also a thriving culture of discipline and integrity.

Reflecting on a Career-Defining Moment: For Deardoff, one achievement stands above the rest: winning the state championship in 2017 while coaching at Kellis High School. "The notoriety and everything it gave the school was amazing," he shared. The victory, coming in his ninth year at Kellis, validated nearly a decade of hard work and established a new standard for the program. "It didn't start in 2017," Deardoff emphasized. "It started when I began building there nine years earlier. The teams before that season paved the way and supported us along the journey." Entering the playoffs with a 16-11 record, his players exemplified perseverance, figuring out how to win when it mattered most. That championship season became the benchmark he strives to emulate in every subsequent year.

Creating a Winning Mentality: For Deardoff, success starts long before players take the field. "A lot of it has to play off the field," he said. Holding players accountable in their academics, social decisions, and personal conduct is central to his coaching philosophy. He challenges his players to go beyond the norms of typical high school students, promoting integrity and discipline in every facet of their lives. "Prom is a big event in the spring, but I ask my players to reflect on our core values," Deardoff explained. Establishing a strong culture is no small feat in an era that often emphasizes individuality, but the payoff is undeniable. Deardoff finds inspiration in lessons like an Urban Meyer clip on the importance of practice and being special, which he shares with his team. "You're not only in my program from 2:30 to 6:30 PM; you're in it 24/7," he tells his players.

Keys to Consistent Competitiveness: While talent ebbs and flows, Deardoff believes consistency comes from mastering the basics. "Make the routine play routine, have competitive at-bats, and let your training take over toward the end of the year," he said. His teams focus on daily fundamentals, knowing that spectacular moments emerge naturally when players trust their preparation. "We control what we can control," Deardoff added. By sticking to fundamentals and resisting the urge to overextend, his players remain grounded and effective. "Do the routine well, and everything else will fall into place."

Advice for Aspiring Coaches: To those hoping to leave their mark in high school sports, Deardoff stresses the importance of organization. "This day and age, people don't realize what head coaches have to manage between practice and games. Without organization, you'll drown." He also encourages young coaches to soak up knowledge while staying true to themselves. "I remember attending an AzBCA coaches clinic, taking in information, and tweaking it to fit my personality. Don't try to be someone else." Finally, Deardoff acknowledges the often-overlooked sacrifices of loved ones. "Our wives are the true champions," he said. "They allow us to coach until dark and spend hours watching film. Their support makes it all possible."

AZBCA CLINIC

December 14, 2024

Please register online to secure your spot. This year's lineup of speakers is packed with talent. The event will take place at Westwood High School from 8 AM to 4 PM. Here is the temporary registration link: <https://forms.gle/FkfUawFVKECzHKS6>

AZBCA ALL-STAR GAME

Nominations and Voting

All-Star voting will be conducted through our online nomination form, which will be available at the end of the season in April. Teams will be chosen by the regional representative during the All-State Meeting in early May.

The All-State voting will take place at Apollo High School on Sunday, May 4th.

NHSBCA

A message from Ty Whittaker, Executive Director

Hello AzBCA Coaches,

First and foremost, we would like to extend a warm thank you to the AzBCA for being part of the NHSBCA Dual Membership. The upcoming convention for 2024, December 5th-8th, in Sanibel Marriott Resort, Florida, is a momentous occasion. This year, we are thrilled to announce that we have crossed the 100,000-member mark. Since our inception, the National High School Baseball Coaches has been a unifying force for high school baseball in all 50 states. We invite all NHSBCA Dual Member states to the 2024 NHSBCA Convention for FREE to celebrate this milestone and our shared journey.

In honor of celebrating our NHSBCA 100,000 members, we will welcome two of Arizona's finest coaches to present our NHSBCA Convention, Scott Richardson from Tolleson High School and Matt Denny from Casteel High School, representing Arizona at the NHSBCA Convention.

YOUR AZBCA BOARD

Executive Board of Directors

- President - Garye LaFevers (Retired)
- Vice President - Tom Succow (Yavapai)
- Secretary - Cody Brassfield (CGCC)
- Northern Arizona Rep- Art Griffith (Retired)

Board of Directors

- Central Arizona Rep - Stan Luketich (CDS)
- Clinics - JR Langston (Westwood)
- All-Star Games - Phillip Miglio (Tonopah Valley)
- All-Star Games - Nick Swanson (Canyon View)
- Fundraising - Eric Godfrey (Retired)
- Hall of Fame - Mike Woods (Hamilton)
- Membership - Jerod Aker (Apollo)
- Special Assistant to Executive Board - Ron Davini
- Southern Arizona Rep - Fred Trujillo (Benson)
- Team Arizona - Matt Denny (Casteel)
- Team Arizona - Scott Richardson (Tolleson)

AZBCA WEBSITE

Coming Soon

Soon you can check out our new website! We've updated all features, including the ability to pay for your membership and clinic online. Plus, we've introduced a blog where you can ask questions about membership, All-Star games, and more.

