

Coach/Manager/Volunteer Code of Conduct and Ethics

All players deserve a right to fairness, respect and caring. Players should learn the fundamentals of softball while having an opportunity to compete at their own age level, form friendships, learn discipline, good sportsmanship, fair play and tolerance of those around them, as well as having fun. The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship.

Remember that this season is for the players and not for coaches, managers, or parents!

I declare that:

- I will be knowledgeable in the USSSA and Social Girls Fastpitch rules and will teach these rules to my players.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development within the same age group and will use coaching techniques appropriate to the age and skills of the girls.
- I will recognize the cultural, ethnic, religious and financial differences of the players within my team and all others in the league and respect them, and teach my players to show respect as well.
- I agree to support and work with my team throughout the season holding regular practices, be present at scheduled games and practices.
- I will refrain from and provide an environment that is free from the use of foul language, drugs, alcohol and tobacco during practices and games.
- I will communicate with parents and players. I will welcome their feedback and support. I will inform players and parents of team rules and provide a schedule of games and practices.
- I will not verbally or physically abuse or harass players, opponents, umpires, parents, spectators, etc. during games or practices, and I will try to prevent others from doing so.
- I will not use any form of physical punishment as players may be disciplined by suspension from one or more innings of play for violation of team and/or league rules.
- I will refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct towards opponents, coaches, umpires, spectators, etc. such as name calling, threats, or physical altercations.
- I understand that disagreements with other adults can be settled in a civilized manner and out of earshot of players and fans.
- I will review and practice basic first aid principals needed to treat minor or major injuries of players until professional medical treatment is available
- I will never knowingly allow an injured player to participate in or return to game play without proper medical attention and/or medical release.
- I understand that any equipment issued does not become my personal property and I will return it in good or decent condition at the end of the season or when requested by the league equipment supervisor.
- I will report unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent officials to the league Umpire in Chief or a league board member to file a formal complaint.
- I will report any misconduct by a coach, manager, umpire, parent or league official in order to be handled appropriately and properly to avoid inappropriate confrontation.

I acknowledge that I have read the above code of conduct and ethics and agree to abide by these standards. I understand that failure to comply with one or more of the above expectations may result in suspension from one or more games or from the season.

Coach/Manager/Volunteer Signature

Date