

COACHING

Purpose and Objective:

The purpose of this League is to establish organized softball with ultimate objectives of social, physical, mental, and moral development of girls aged 5 -15 years. A program of friendly competition with the goal of educating players about the ideals of good sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, courtesy, courage, integrity and reverence so they may be finer, stronger, and happier girls who will grow to be good clean healthy adults. All adults will exemplify examples of these ideals, whether involved in HGSL activities or as a spectator.

The coaches, parents, and spectators shall bear in mind at all times that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary and that the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.

Conduct of Coaches and Players

All league coaches and players shall promote and maintain good sportsmanship at all times, including at all league practices, games, and any additional league functions. Coaches shall comply with the coaches' code of ethics and any additional league rules set down by the Executive Board. Coaches shall treat all players, league officials, and umpires with courtesy and respect. Players, likewise, shall treat all coaches, league officials, and umpires with courtesy and respect.

Coaches shall be volunteers from the community who are willing to instruct players in the fundamentals of softball and the ideals of good sportsmanship. A Coaches application form must be completed by anyone desiring to be a Coach along with a completed Cori form & license.

NO SMOKING will be allowed by anyone within the field of play or within the team dugout area.

Application Process

Completion of a Coach/Assistant application form does not guarantee that the applicant will be assigned a team. All Coaches/Assistants positions are filled as vacancies occur and require Executive Board approval. All Coaches/Assistants must attend the Coaches/Assistants meeting scheduled by the Executive Board. Failure by either a Coach/Assistant to attend this MANDATORY meeting can be grounds for rescission of his/her position, unless notification is given and satisfactory just cause is demonstrated to the Board prior to the meeting.

Coaching Philosophy

- A. The Leagues coaching philosophy will be approved and modified if needed. Approval will be retroactive at the end of the meeting as voted on by all board members present.
- B. People coach for many different reasons. Some coach because they love the sport, some because they enjoy developing and influencing young people, some because they have a child who will play on the team. They are all good reasons to coach youth softball. In fact, no matter why you choose, taking the time to help young athletes learn softball is an important contribution to their development and, consequently, to our community.
- C. You are now facing the upcoming softball season. Have you coached softball before? Have you thought about what you plan to do? Have you ever worked with beginning players? Do you know how to teach specific skills? Even if the answer is yes, you will need to upgrade and be informed on the most current information. If you are determined to help the players on your teams have a POSITIVE and SUCCESSFUL Softball experience, you must take the time to attend the League clinics, study and keep up with the League, and tournament rules. As a result you will be on your way to a successful season.
- D. It is important for every coach to establish a COACHING PHILOSOPHY. For this philosophy will help you and the League determine common goals and allow all of us to head in the same direction. You should think about how your goals support the goals of the League and how you plan to, along with the League, accomplish these goals.
- E. You may want to consider one of two major coaching philosophies. You might choose to emphasize winning as the most important objective, or you might stress participation, fun, and skill developments as the most important objective.

This is the League's philosophy:

- F. We advocate through our program ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND. By this statement we mean that every decision you make as a coach should first be in the best interest of your young athletes, and second the desire to win. The League hopes that helping young girls to develop physically, psychologically, and socially will always be more important to you as a coach than winning at all cost.
- G. ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND does not mean winning is unimportant, or said more accurately that striving to win is unimportant. You should instill in your players a desire to win, to strive to do their best, to pursue excellence. However, the outcome of the game, the winning or losing, is not the most important objective. The most important objective is that your players try to win, that they try their best and have fun! If they do their best, they will have been successful regardless of the outcome of the game.
- H. This philosophy is reflected in how you present yourself to the players on your team. As a coach, you are in an influential position. Thus, HOW you teach will be as important as WHAT you teach. To implement the League philosophy, consider the following points:

- I. Be a good role model. Present a model for behavior that you want emulated. Set positive examples at practice and games.
- J. Everyone is important. Treat each player as an important human being. Each player will have a different personality and different needs. Be sensitive to these differences and show interest and concern for each team member.
- K. Consider the age and skill levels of your players. Your athletes will be full of energy and eager to try many skills. However, they are also young and not yet capable of performing as adults. This means you must approach your athletes at their skill level. Do not expect them to play at your level.
- L. Consider individual differences. Teach fundamental softball skills according to the ability of each player. Some players will be fast learners with whom you can progress rapidly. Other players will not learn, as quickly, so you will need to progress more slowly with them.
- M. Keep everyone active. Organize your practices and games so that each player is able to participate as much as possible. Young players want to play softball for many reasons; one of the most important is to have fun participating. If they are not kept active in practices, or allowed to play in games, they will quickly lose interest.
- N. Include athletes in the decision making process. Young athletes should have input as to what skills they practice and how to practice them. Ask your players what they need to work on, how they want to be grouped for practice, and what positions they would like to play. Naturally, young athletes should not control the practice, but do consider their interests and ideas when designing practices and playing games.
- O. Be patient. You will need to have patience with beginning players who are learning softball. Softball skills require timing, coordination, and glove control that can only be developed by repeated practice. Encourage your players to develop their skills, and reinforce players for their effort and skill development. When young players learn new skills, both you and your players will be proud.

Disciplinary Action

Enforcement of playing rules at League games shall be the sole responsibility of the umpire(s) who have been assigned to the game.

Enforcement of additional League conduct rules shall be the joint responsibility of the umpires assigned to the game, the Division Commissioners, any Executive Board members present at the game, and any other League officials who have been given authority by the Executive Board. For any incidents regarding a player, coach, spectator, or umpire, the League Commissioner shall inform and consult with the Executive Board.

Dismissal of any volunteer shall be decided only by an Executive Board vote.

Violations of League conduct rules for coaches and players include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Fighting;
- Foul language;
- Derogatory remarks made to umpires, coaches, or Board Members;
- Improper decorum in the dugouts or on the fields;
- Cheating or fraud of any kind;
- Destruction of League or city property;
- Continued use of improper equipment or wearing of an improper uniform after being warned;
- Malicious conduct of any kind.

If there is an incident report on file from the previous season(s) between Coaches/Assistants and a player/ player's parents, the incident will be discussed prior to the draft with the affected Coaches/Assistants. If the Coach/Assistant feels the situation would be disruptive to the team, the card will be marked as such.

The President may immediately suspend any person with a serious enough charge against them to warrant such action, until after a special meeting is held. Persons who fail to comply with all rules and regulations set forth in these bylaws or who falsify any records or applications are subject to disciplinary action. Every effort will be made that such action will not be at the expense of players. It is the responsibility of Coaches/Assistants to inform all players and parents of the rules.

Coaches/Assistants, or Spectator Ejection

- A. An umpire may eject a player, Coach/Assistant, or parent from the game when in their opinion the individual is intentionally placing themselves or someone else in jeopardy, creating a safety hazard or displaying un-sportsmanlike conduct.
- B. If a coach, player, or spectator is ejected from a game for any of the aforementioned violations, he/she must leave the playing field immediately and the park within ten (10) minutes of the ejection.
- C. A coach or spectator may only return to the park to pick up a player once the game is completed.

- D. Within 24 hours of the end of the game, any game Umpire who ejects a, Coach, or spectator will, in writing, report the incident to the Umpire-In-Chief and/or the Commissioner, identifying the ejected individual and the team with which the individual is associated.
- E. Within 48 hours after being notified by the game Umpire, the Umpire-In-Chief and/or Commissioner will, in writing, report the incident to the President, at which time the President will notify the ejected Coach, or spectator of the term and conditions of his/her suspension.
- F. If it is his/her first ejection of the season, any Coach, or spectator ejected from a game by the game Umpire will be suspended from the next game played by his/her associated team, in addition to the game from which the Coach, or spectator was ejected.

1st Offense - Suspension for the next game.

- G. If it is his/her second ejection of the season, any Coach, or spectator ejected from a game by the game Umpire will be suspended from the next three (3) games played by his/her associated team, in addition to the game from which the Coach, or spectator was ejected.

2nd Offense - Suspension for the next three (3) games.

- H. If it is any Coach, or spectator's third ejection of the season, they will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

3rd Offense - Suspension for the remainder of the season.

- I. If during the term of his/her suspension, a Coach, or spectator is present at any game played by the team with which the individual is associated, any completed game(s) will be forfeited to the opposing team.
- J. Additionally, the League may pursue criminal trespass charges if the police are required to remove someone from the park.
- K. If the offense occurs in the last game of the season, the suspension will be effective for the following season or the next season that the violator participates in.

Adult Responsibility

A. Coach

1. Coaches will be women/men at least 18 years of age. She/he may have one assistant of either sex. No team functions will be held unless an adult woman is in attendance.
2. Each coach should have a team parent meeting at the beginning of the season to explain safety, discipline, substitutions, League activities and their own goals.

3. For disciplinary reasons only, the coach may suspend a player from game play, not to exceed one full game, but must notify the opposing teams coach and the Player Agent prior to the game, along with the President and Umpire-in-Chief and record the action in the scorebook. This is the only form of discipline by a coach permissible.
4. Allows only team personnel and players on the team bench.
5. The coach will be given an "Injury Form" for all of her players and must have these forms in his/her possession at all practices and games. These forms are needed should a player need medical aid.
6. Team coaches must request an additional player from the Player Agent within 24 hours when a player drops from the team. No team may fall below the minimum number of players determined by the Executive Board for each division.

B. Team Organization

1. Obtain a chaperone and scorekeeper, if you desire.
2. Understand your team players and your responsibilities
3. Select a team captain, if you desire, be fair, assign duties for safety, cleanup etc.
4. Establish good sportsmanship, whether winning or losing, set a good example.
5. Maintain a good Umpire image.
6. Keep bats, balls and other equipment away from the playing area.
7. Know rules of the game,
8. Be prompt to games, practices and meetings. Promote parent participation, promote your sponsor and arrange for the team banner to be made (optional).
9. Work with the assistants on lineup, positions and strategy.
10. Prepare lineups properly and have them ready for scorekeepers before game time.

C. Equipment

All equipment received from the League at the beginning of the season must be kept in good condition and returned at the end of the season. Do not loan equipment to other coaches. If additional equipment or repair is needed, contact the Equipment Coordinator.

D. Assistants

1. Assistants will help teach the players softball fundamentals.
2. Work together with the coach to prepare the team lineups, positions, and strategy.
3. Know the rules.

4. Be fair, impartial, and patient. Give constructive criticism and advice to all team players.
5. Promote safety and instill good sportsmanship and respect. Conduct his/her self with professional and sportsmanlike conduct at all times.
6. Attend team function, coaching clinics and League meetings.

E. Chaperone (if selected)

1. Assist the coach in assigning treats and snack bar duty, making phone calls and help with team pictures, picnics, parties, and fundraisers.
2. Assist with any player needing first aid.
3. Work with coach to achieve a good team organization.
4. Be aware of safety hazards, and stress safety at all times.
5. Encourage sportsmanship, cooperation, and good team spirit.

F. Scorekeeper (if selected)

1. Will keep accurate records of each game, keeping the scorebook neat and legible using a pencil at all times.
2. Know lineups and position numbers, keep accurate changes. Spell names correctly, using both first and last names to alleviate any confusion over similar names.
3. Keep track of balls, strikes, and outs and may assist Umpire when asked.
4. Record all illnesses, absences, benching, suspensions, and injuries in the scorebook.
5. Know the game.
6. Errors should be recorded for Majors, AAA, and AA only. Instructional will not be recorded.

G. Parents

Parents should conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times. They should support the League, players, umpires, coaches, and assistants. The League is a voluntary organization of people who work together to make it successful.

ENCOURAGE – don't DISCOURAGE. The presence of parents is encouraged by the League and is a source of encouragement to do well.