



UGSA COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaching a youth sport program such as Town League Softball is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a Manager or Coach, appointed by the Union Girls Softball Association (UGSA) Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young girls in our community. We strive to foster, promote and advance the game of girls' softball. The UGSA provides a healthful recreation and promotes good sportsmanship, discipline, goal-setting and physical fitness – values the girls can use throughout their lives. The very nature of softball also teaches that while every player eventually strikes out, or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, the UGSA expects managers and coaches to adhere to the following Code of Conduct.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good softball skills, and have fun in the process.
- I realize, accept and will practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy and manner.
- I understand verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the UGSA fields at the discretion of an umpire or UGSA board member.
- I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
- I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player yell at an umpire, coach, fan or player.
- I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at the Softball Complex.
- I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all UGSA games.
- I understand that use of tobacco products on the softball fields and in the dugout is prohibited.

RULES AND POLICIES

- I will know and understand the rules and abide by them. I will instruct my team members in the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
- I will adhere to all UGSA safety guidelines.
- I will understand the UGSA participations rules for my division.
- I will fully comply with the Player/Parent Code of Conduct.

UMPIRES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- I recognize softball is a game of interpretations, and as a result, disputes will occur from time to time. However, it is important that players learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the umpire will be handled in a civil manner. The managers/coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the managers will make no further field protest. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Board of Directors per league policy.
- I understand most of the umpires are "in training" as well as the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position within the game deserves.

- I will be responsible in caring for equipment, for keys delegated for my use, for care of the fields prior to games and for cleaning up fields, dugouts and stands after games. I will make sure that all league-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

PARENTS AND THE LEAGUE

- I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous manner.
- I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of UGSA, i.e. UGSA is organized as a recreational league, meant for the enjoyment of all the players.
- I will ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at games sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.
- I will support (through participation and organization of parents) UGSA in all fundraising efforts and field improvement efforts along with other duties that may be assigned to teams from time to time.

THE TEAM

- I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
- I will focus on providing instructions with players abilities so all players have the opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further softball competition.
- I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- I understand that managers and coaches are appointed and approved by the league to be responsible for the team’s actions on the field to represent the team in communications with the umpires, opposing teams and league.

I, the undersigned, agree to follow the Code of Conduct and comply with all League rules, policies and procedures. I understand the violation of the Code will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action in accordance to the USGA By-laws Article XII ‘Code of Ethics and Whistleblower Policy’, and could include a warning, game(s) suspension or season suspension, as well as impact my opportunity to manage or coach in future seasons. I further acknowledge the authority of the Board of Directors of UGSA and understand that if permitted to manage or coach I serve solely at the pleasure of the Board, which permission may be revoked at any time. My failure to honor the authority of the Board and its members or to show them proper respect will deemed to be a violation of this Code of Conduct. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to speak to some or all of the Board at any time and that if called my failure to so attend could result in an immediate suspension. I understand that if I am suspended I will not be permitted to attend any league functions (practices, games, etc.)

 Signature
 Name (Printed)
 Date

THIS PAGE IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE UGSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS