



# MCAA

## Mill Creek Athletic Association

### Softball Coaches Code of Conduct

Mill Creek Softball is concerned about the conduct of all coaches and umpires during the games at all levels, from T-Ball through Travel Team play.

We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all the children and adults involved. A softball game should be friendly and unifying – a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, umpires and spectators.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct.

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the umpire.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them, *and you may need to be forceful and direct*, from yelling at players and the umpire.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, if you have a small issue, discuss it with the umpire calmly and patiently.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the umpire was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to Softball Board. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the umpire and ask your players to do the same.

**We Stress two points:**

Umpires – especially young and inexperienced ones are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the umpires by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting or even accepting your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the umpire, your players and their parents will notice.

If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the umpire harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well and will grow along with the enjoyment of all.

Coaches who do not follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

Ejection from a game by any coach will result in the following penalties:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Suspension from next game
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from next two games, not eligible to coach All-Star team and review by Softball Board for possible additional sanctions that may include losing coaching duties for the remainder of the season.

I have read the Coaches Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the code of conduct at all Mill Creek Athletic Association sanctioned events.

Coach's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_