

Marin Girls Softball League

Coaches' Code of Conduct

In recreational girls softball coaches play a critical role in assuring the participants have a fun and meaningful experience. A coach's conduct directly affects the players experience but also affects the experience of the players and coaches of other teams, the spectators and families of the players. Marin Girls Softball (MGS) coaches must adhere to the following expectations on conduct and behavior as well as certain minimum requirements on a coach's deliverables to their team.

1. General Conduct.

I will be encouraging and supportive of all players and coaches in MGS. I will be respectful of all MGS officials, families and umpires. I will not discuss or incite others to discuss in a negative manner any other player, coach, family member or MGS official.

- I will not tease, taunt, threaten or humiliate any other player or coach.
- I will not participate in any gossip regarding another player or coach.
- I will not verbally abuse any player, fan, coach or umpire.
- I will not use profanity towards any participant, coach, umpire or league official.
- I will not use alcohol or condone alcohol use by the parents of my players in the stands or near the field during any practice or game.
- A coach who commits any act of physical violence upon another coach, player, umpire or spectator will be immediately expelled from the league.

2. Umpire Related Conduct.

- I understand that the head coach is the only coach who can enter the field of play, with the umpire's permission, to question a call.
- I understand that when I question a call and the umpire rules on the call, that the discussion on the call must end and play must continue without further comment from the dugout or anywhere else on the field.
- All coaches will totally familiarize themselves with MGS adopted rules and must have a general understanding of ASA rules. All final interpretations of the rules will rest with the umpire.
- All head coaches or their designee must be available to meet the umpire prior to game time for review of the playing field rules.
- Each team must provide a **new** game ball to the umpire prior to the start of the game.
- Any coach who is ejected from a game must immediately leave the field and the venue itself. If a 1st offense, the coach will be suspended from the next game at a minimum. The situation will be reviewed by the Rules and Conduct Committee and further action recommended to the MGS President if warranted. If a coach is ejected a 2nd time in a season, the coach will be banned from any participation in the league for the duration of the season. Any violation of the suspension or banishment will result in a forfeit of the team's next game.

3. Coaches' Conduct Toward Players

- Coaches must treat all players fairly and respectfully at all times.
- Coaches must, to the best of their ability, give all players equal attention at practice.

- Coaches must be sensitive to any physical, developmental or emotional issues a player may have. Accommodations must be made for these players in order to assure their experience in MGS is a good one.
- Playing time requirements in the MGS rules **must** be adhered to. In the older age groups where playing time requirements are not as specific, the coaches of these teams should try to give all players some infield playing time in every game, if possible.
- Coaches must teach and model the value of teamwork and good sportsmanship. They must emphasize that individual accomplishments are secondary to team accomplishments.
- Coaches must behave in a way that exemplifies the highest values including responsibility, integrity and respect.
- A coaching staff must do everything in their power to teach the fundamentals of the game and to seek help from others in MGS if they feel they need help or are not sure of the fundamentals.
- Coaches should emphasize to their players the importance of hard work and commitment to the team. Practices should be fun but they should also be instructive and require hard work.

4. Coaches' Trainings and Certifications

- All coaches in the dugout or on the field must complete the ACE Coaches' Certification and display their certification cards per MGS policy. This can be completed on-line. Instructions will be given annually at the mandatory coaches' meeting. Reimbursement of ACE Certification costs is at the discretion of each district. Failure to comply with the MGS ACE Certification requirements will result in fines and/or suspension per MGS policy.
- All coaches must attend the Mandatory Coaches' Meeting which is held each year in February.
- All coaches should try to attend the annual Stanford Coaches' Clinic usually held in February.
- Coaches should encourage their players and assistant coaches to attend the Tam and Redwood player clinics and other skill development clinics offered by MGS.

5. Other Coach Responsibilities

- Coaches should practice at least once a week in addition to their scheduled games.
- Coaches or at least a representative of the coaching staff should be at scheduled games 45 minutes early. This will allow for player warm-ups and field preparation if necessary. Normally a team from a particular district will be scheduled to play a visiting team. If this is the case, the district team is responsible for preparing the field. Every coaching staff should be prepared to assist in field preparation.
- Coaches should prepare their lineups and substitution plan the night before a game to assure that playing time and position play adheres to MGS rules. It also allows for a smoother transition from inning to inning.

An MGS Rules and Conduct Committee has been established. This committee will also serve as the MGS coaches' conduct review committee. Any concerns about coaches must be directed to the president of the district involved as well as to the Chair of the Rules Committee.

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