

## Coach and Volunteer Code of Conduct



UNDERSTANDING that my responsibilities as a coach or volunteer are of great importance and that my actions directly influence the participants of the game I'm involved in,

MINDFUL that children participate in youth sports programs for numerous reasons, and that the number one reason is to have fun,

RECOGNIZING that as a coach or volunteer I am obligated to honor the game's rules, opponents, umpires, and teammates, and to teach the players to do the same,

AWARE that any violation of these codes may jeopardize my privilege to be a coach or a volunteer,

ACKNOWLEDGING that I have read, understood, and will do my best to fulfill the promises made herein and are therefore eligible to lead or assist teams for Saratoga Miss Softball League (SMSL) on the following terms:

1. I will create an environment for participants that:

- 1.1. Focuses on safety, fun, skill development, and education.
- 1.2. Has a positive lasting impact on our community.
- 1.3. Promotes building character and learning life skills.
- 1.4. De-emphasizes a "win-at-all-costs" attitude.
- 1.5. Is fair, consistent, and best meets the emotional and physical needs of all participants.
- 1.6. Builds a culture where winning is defined by the individual needs of all the participants, not by the outcome of the competition.

2. I will act responsibly and to do my best to ensure that:

- 2.1. I adhere to the player participation policy listed in the rules for my division of play.
- 2.2. I educate players regarding the importance of teamwork, effort, having fun, and playing fair, while properly instructing age-appropriate fundamentals and skills.
- 2.3. I am familiar with the objectives of the program.
- 2.4. I strive to achieve the program objectives and to communicate these objectives to my players and their parents.
- 2.5. I cooperate with Saratoga Miss Softball in the enforcement of all rules, policies, codes of conduct, and regulations.
- 2.6. I avoid and report irregularities that violate sound competitive practices to appropriate SMSL Board Members.

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- 2.7. I provide a healthy and safe environment for my players in accordance with the league's safety procedures.
  - 2.8. I do not indulge in conduct that would incite players or spectators against the other team or the umpires.
  - 2.9. I maintain my composure in both victory and defeat and do not publicly criticize the decisions of umpires and league officials.
  - 2.10. I treat each league official, umpire, coach, player, parent, and sponsor with respect and dignity, and refrain from using profanity, intimidation tactics, and inappropriate language in-person and on social media platforms.
  - 2.11. I uphold the authority of league officials and umpires assigned to the contests in which I coach or volunteer and will assist them in every way to conduct fair and impartial contests
3. I will not at any time, whether from the bench, the coach's box, on the playing field, social media, or elsewhere:
- 3.1. Incite, or try to incite, by word or sign a demonstration by spectator.
  - 3.2. Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, coaches, sponsors, an umpire, or any spectator.
  - 3.3. Commit any act while the ball is live or in-play for the obvious purpose of trying to distract or interrupt the players during the game to gain a competitive advantage.
  - 3.4. Make intentional contact with the umpire in any manner.
4. I understand that any violation of the following codes in Section 4 will result in immediate termination of my privilege to be a coach or a volunteer.
- 4.1. I will never coach under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
  - 4.2. I will never initiate or participate in any form of verbal or physical assault on any league official, umpire, coach, player, parent, sponsor, or any other spectator, or use social media platforms to facilitate any such attack. Ejections and Suspension Policy 1.
  - 4.3. In the event a coach or volunteer is ejected from any game, the individual –
    - a. Must leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game.
    - b. Must either leave the park or take a seat well removed from the vicinity of the field.
    - c. Will not be allowed to coach in the following game, nor will they be allowed at the field for that game during the suspension.
    - d. Members of the team's coaching staff are required to inform SMSL Executive Board Members of the coach's ejection prior to the teams next game. SMSL Executive Board will review the matter and has the right to immediately terminate the individual's privilege of being a coach for the remainder of the season.
  - 4.3. If a coach is ejected from 2 games that coach's privilege of coaching will be immediately terminated for the duration of the season.
  - 4.4. The Board of Directors reserves the right to immediately terminate any coach or volunteer when it deems it to be in the best interest of the participants or of the program