



# 612 Coach Pledge

**Coaching is a privilege that should elicit pride in the coach as well as in the athletes and families. It is a responsibility that demands extra commitment as a leader to the players on your team, the other coaches and 612 Fastpitch. I understand that my responsibilities as a youth coach are of great importance and that my actions have the potential to significantly influence the young athletes I coach. I promise to uphold the following pledge to the best of my ability.**

- 1. Develop a high level of professional coaching competence**
  - a. Commit to teaching the game with a view towards best practices.
  - b. Commit to development of my personal coaching skills by completing mandatory and optional trainings, as well as a background check.
  - c. Collaborate and partner with other coaches for personal and game improvement and to gain curricular consistency across the organization.
- 2. Achieve and maintain excellence on the field**
  - a. Maintain concern for the health and safety of the athletes.
  - b. Focus on mastery of skills over winning; effort over outcome.
  - c. Foster success through positive feedback, valuing teamwork and consistently providing support to players.
- 3. Demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the wellbeing and development of athletes off the field**
  - a. Concern myself with the development of the athletes as a whole person – emotional, physical and intellectual.
  - b. Understand and embrace my role as a mentor and role model.
  - c. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete and treat everyone equally regardless of background or ability.
- 4. Honor and respect the game**
  - a. Uphold the spirit as well as the letter of the rules of the game.
  - b. Understand I am a representative of 612 Fastpitch Softball. Respect all opponents, officials and opposing players.
  - c. Instill a love of the game to players.
  - d. Abide by the parent/guardian Code of Conduct.
- 5. Mentor inexperienced coaches**
  - a. Give inexperienced coaches meaningful roles and a positive early coaching experience.
  - b. Involve inexperienced coaches in all aspects of the game.
  - c. Instruct inexperienced coaches in the qualities of effective coaches/leaders.
- 6. Communicate effectively with players, parents, and the 612 board.**
  - a. Host a parent/coach/player meeting at the beginning of the season to introduce everyone, preview the season, discuss my coaching philosophy, answer questions, and align expectations.
  - b. Provide appropriate avenues for communication – player/parent conferences, access to conversation via email, phone, video, etc.
  - c. Refrain from communicating one-on-one with players electronically (text, social media, etc.)
  - d. Listen effectively, keeping in mind that both parents and coaches have the wellbeing of the athlete in mind.

- e. Endeavor to deescalate conflicts.
- f. Support the decisions made by the Player Selection Committee and will roster only those players that have been assigned to my team by the Player Selection Committee.
- g. Alert the 612 board Softball Director and/or Vice President if there is an issue that cannot be resolved between parents, players, etc.
- h. Coaches are responsible for communicating to the Softball Director at any point in the season where they feel participation in the state tournament would be at risk. Any decision to opt-out of the tournament needs to be approved in advance of the tournament by the Softball Director. If the Softball Director is unavailable, the Vice President will make the decision.
- i. Coaches are responsible for communicating to the Softball Director at any point in the season when a 612 team earns, is awarded, or decides to pursue Nationals Tournament participation. The Softball Director must sign off on any final decision to opt-in or opt-out and must provide the team's coaching staff a board approved set of protocols for the coaches to use when making their decision.

**I have signed this Coach Agreement to indicate that I understand this responsibility and will always strive to meet the commitments in this pledge.**

Coach  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_