

St. Ignatius Wildcats Girls' Softball Handbook

Mission Statement

As an extension of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, a Roman Catholic community, and the Saint Ignatius Athletic Association, the girls' softball program exists to supplement the Christian Values being taught to eligible girls of the parish through participation in softball. Through generously giving of our time and talents, we strive to make quality instruction and resources available to every player. We will provide participants with the opportunity to learn sportsmanship, build self-confidence and develop respect for themselves, their teammates, coaches, parents, and officials.

Guiding Principles

RESPECT for God and mutual respect from parents, teachers, coaches, peers, teammates, opponents, and officials.

INTEGRITY – Strict adherence to the standards and values established by St. Ignatius, the Athletic Association, coaches and teachers is expected.

SPORTSMANSHIP – Coaches, parents and players will abide by the rules of the game and conduct themselves with humility and grace, win or lose.

DISCIPLINE – All practices and games will demand a work ethic, respect for teammates and opponents. We will demand a commitment to observe all rules and a conduct code of good sportsmanship.

CHRISTIANITY – We as volunteers are here for the student athletes. Our goals, decisions and actions revolve around teaching good ethics and values. Prayer is expected at practices, games and team events.

COMMUNITY – We will instill in our players a sense of community by making them aware of the fact that their deeds and actions directly reflect upon themselves, their family and St. Ignatius. It should be self-evident from our conduct that we are a Roman Catholic organization.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- Any player, coach, parent, or fan exhibiting unsportsmanlike behavior may be disciplined by the Athletic Association, Softball Coordinator, or league. Unsportsmanlike behavior simply stated is any behavior other than what is expected of a Roman Catholic citizen.
- Any player, coach, parent, or fan ejected from a game (league or non-league) may be disciplined by the Athletic Association and/or Softball Coordinators. The penalty for St. Ignatius Softball is a two-game suspension. Circumstances surrounding the incident may be discussed to either increase or decrease the suspension.

- Immediate notification to the Athletic Association president must occur should a player, coach, parent, or fan be unwilling to serve a suspension. The Athletic Association president and board will determine the next action.
- It is expected that the suspended individual issue an apology to all affected parties.

Selection of Coaches

- Age Requirements:
 - Head coach must be 21 years of age or older
 - Assistant coach must be 19 years of age or older
- Criteria for selecting coaches:
 - *Virtues*: Lives the values of the Catholic faith whether or not a member of the Catholic Church
 - *Capabilities*: Knowledgeable in coaching children in the sport of softball
 - *Rapport*: Exhibits positive rapport with children and adults
 - *Maturity*: Exhibits appropriate maturity (i.e. level headed, able to control temper, etc.)
 - *Commitment*: Able to commit to necessary preparation, practices, and games
- Coach Requirements
 - Must be Safe Parish trained
 - Have a current Concussion Certificate
 - Complete basic CPR training
 - Adhere to the Athletic Association policies
 - Knowledge of the sport fundamentals and rules
 - Ability to communicate with children
 - Time availability and dependability
 - Ability to communicate with parents

Each head coach will have the opportunity to be involved in the selection of his/her coaching staff. This latitude is with the sole purpose as to promote fellowship and a positive environment for the players. Coordinators will have final approval of all selections.

HEAD COACH and ASSISTANT COACH SELECTION

The Coordinator(s) will make the final decision regarding coaches, based upon the criteria below. This list is in no particular order.

- Completion of the required Archdiocesan Training
- Character and sportsmanship
- Knowledge of the sport fundamentals and rules
- Coaching experience
- Ability to communicate with children
- Time availability and dependability
- Ability to communicate with parents
- Fairness to children and the program
- Adherence to the Athletic Association policies
- Ability to follow rules
- Commitment and willingness to volunteer for extra softball activities

The children of the head coach and one assistant coach will be guaranteed to be on the team. Any additional coaches will be chosen after the teams have been determined.