

STAKEHOLDERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Softball Ontario believes in fair play. Fair play is defined as much more than playing within the rules. It includes respect for others,... always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. Fair play is a positive concept. Fair play must be given the highest priority by all those indirectly or directly participating in the game of softball. Integrity, fairness and respect are the principles of fair play.

Softball Ontario has the right and the responsibility to publish clear guidelines on what is considered to be ethical or unethical behaviour and to ensure that, at all levels of participation and involvement, consistent policies and practices related to fair play are applied.

Softball Ontario is undertaking the Respect My Game 2010 campaign to raise the awareness of fair play and to reduce abusive situations in the game of softball. Softball Ontario is deeply committed to improving the sportsmanship and the behaviour of all participants. It is extremely important that all stakeholders be part of this commitment, and do their part to enhance a positive experience in softball.

Stakeholder's Code of Conduct

I WILL:

- act as a responsible person
- acknowledge and appreciate efforts made by all participants
- be respectful of athletes, coaches, officials and spectators
- respect the rules
- encourage others to enjoy sport
- respect the sport of softball and the facility where it is played

I WILL NOT:

- make any verbal comments or physical gestures about or toward anyone that could be considered offensive, derogatory, or abusive.
- engage in any action that might be considered to be verbally or physically abusive.

Consequences:

Offenders of the code will be reported to their respective executive or association for disciplinary action. Repeat offenders will be banned from participating for the remainder of the season.

Enforcement:

Local Softball Associations are responsible for enforcing the code of conduct.

Softball Ontario reserves the right to support the well being of the game of softball and the rights of all participants to be treated with respect.

CODES OF CONDUCT

FAIR PLAY CODE FOR OFFICIALS

I WILL:

- make sure that every athlete has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his/her abilities, within the limit of the rules.
- avoid or put to an end to any situation that threatens the safety of participants.
- maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
- foster the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.
- be consistent and objective in making all decisions.
- handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity and respect.
- accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play to all participants in softball.
- manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner.
- foster the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.
- prepare physically and mentally for my duties.

I WILL NOT:

- permit the intimidation of anyone by either word or action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward myself, other officials, athletes, coaches, or spectators.
- tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.
- in any way act to reward, to demonstrate personally, nor to condone in others unfair play.

Consequences:

An official who does not meet the standards of responsibility and behaviour expected by his/her league, association or Softball Ontario will face further disciplinary action.

Enforcement:

Member Associations are responsible for the initial administration of discipline.
Softball Ontario reserves the right to defend and protect all stakeholders from abusive situations.

PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

I WILL:

- play by the rules.
- never argue with the officials but will comply with umpires' decisions with dignity.
- control my temper.
- be a good sport.
- treat all players as I would like to be treated.
- co-operate with my coach, team-mates, opponents, and umpires, for without them we don't have a game.
- be a positive role model for softball at all times.
- accept responsibility for my actions.
- participate within the competition conditions and rules, and in the spirit of fair play.
- refrain from offensive or abusive language or gestures.
- refrain from making derogatory or demeaning remarks about any athlete, coach, umpire or participant.
- not tolerate, participate in or respond to acts of abuse, disrespect or aggression.
- remember that, as humans, we all make mistakes.
- sign the Athlete's Code of Conduct pledge.

I WILL NOT:

- by my actions support the abuse of any other player, coach, umpire or other official.

COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

I WILL:

- teach my players that rules of the game of softball are mutual agreements that no one should evade or break.
- develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of umpires and opposing coaches.
- be professional in my manner and accept responsibility for my actions by displaying high standards in language.
- display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved with softball including opponents, coaches, officials, umpires, scorekeepers, administrators and spectators and encourage team players to do the same.
- operate within the rules and the spirit of the game.
- abide by and respect the regulations governing softball and the organizations and individuals administering those regulations.
- be a positive role model for softball and my athletes.
- always respect game officials' decisions.
- sign the Coaches Code of Conduct pledge.

I WILL NOT:

- engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour to any other participant in the game of softball.

SPECTATOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

I WILL:

- be on my best behaviour and use appropriate language when communicating with players, coaches and/or game officials.
- respect the officials' decisions and teach young people to do the same.
- encourage players to always play according to the rules.
- support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from softball.
- condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- respect the rights of every participant in softball regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- be aware of and follow the Spectator's Code of Conduct.

I WILL NOT:

- publicly question the officials' judgment and/or honesty.
- use violence, harassment or abuse.

ADMINISTRATOR'S/LEAGUE OFFICIALS' CODE OF CONDUCT

I WILL:

- ensure that parents, coaches, spectators and participants understand their authority and their responsibility for fair play in softball.
- be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others.
- be professional in, and accept responsibility for, my actions. My language, presentation and manners should reflect high standards.
- demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility when dealing with persons under 18 years of age.
- resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through consistent, established procedures.
- maintain fairness and strict impartiality.
- be a positive role model for others.
- treat all individuals with dignity and respect while recognizing differences of opinion and experience.

I WILL NOT:

- discriminate against any other participant in softball.
- use economic methods to wrongfully exclude someone.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SOFTBALL ONTARIO UMPIRES

TRUSTWORTHINESS involves integrity and honesty

RESPECT is what we show each other through sportsmanship

RESPONSIBILITY is being accountable and prepared

FAIRNESS is making sure everyone competes honourably

CARING is showing compassion for each person's role

CIVILITY is having consideration for others while playing

By setting high standards of excellence for our own performance in the game of softball, we can exemplify the same pillars of character that we ask others to model.

Softball Ontario Umpires are committed to:

- Following the Code of Ethics, being professional, having the utmost integrity, and possessing an individual quest for excellence in preparation and performance.
- Being a positive part of the umpiring community, sharing and growing together for the betterment of umpiring and the game.
- Being a part of the educational process, assisting in the education of athletes through positive enforcement of sportsmanship guidelines, enforcing rules in a consistent manner, and working with our member associations to enhance the softball experience.

Our Purpose:

Umpiring is an integral part of softball. We must recognize that the need for trained and qualified umpires requires a great investment by instructors, evaluators and the umpires to steadily improve their skill sets.

- Aiding athletes, coaches, officials and spectators in acquiring thorough knowledge of playing rules in softball.
- Encouraging observance of the spirit and letter of playing rules and ethical codes on all occasions.
- Encouraging and assisting interested men and women to become qualified umpires.
- Fostering the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.

Umpires Code of Ethics

It shall be the responsibility of an umpire to follow the directions provided in the following Umpire's Code of Ethics. Violation of the Code of Ethics may result in a sanction to the offending party.

An Umpire Shall:

- Place the welfare of the individual athlete above all other considerations.
- Maintain confidence and control from the start of an assignment to the finish.
- Devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and creditable service in a fair and unbiased manner.
- Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an umpire to benefit oneself.
- Under all circumstances avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
- Constantly uphold the honour and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the athletes, coaches, directors, administrators, colleagues, and the public and to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.
- Be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations, and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the contest.
- Carry a responsibility to act in a manner becoming of a professional person. The conduct of any umpire influences the attitudes of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the umpire in particular.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR UMPIRES

I WILL:

- ☑ place the safety and welfare of players above all else while showing concern and caution towards sick and injured players.
- ☑ prepare myself both physically and mentally for my role.
- ☑ be impartial, consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- ☑ accept responsibility for my actions and decisions.
- ☑ accept responsibility for promoting respect for all participants in the game of softball.
- ☑ avoid any situations which may lead to or be construed as a conflict of interest, recognizing that anything that may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favours, economic advantage, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with an association or team that can compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating must be avoided.
- ☑ be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance and ensure my comments are positive and supportive.
- ☑ be a good sport because I understand that actions speak louder than words.
- ☑ always respect, remain loyal to and support other officials.
- ☑ keep up to date with the latest 'Laws of the Game', trends and principles of their application through clinics, exams and other means of professional development.
- ☑ display and execute superior communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal.
- ☑ refrain from any form of personal abuse towards players, coaches or other officials.
- ☑ respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, race, religion, ability or cultural background.

