



# Western Loudoun Girls Softball League

## Coaches Code of Conduct

The conduct of all coaches and umpires is of utmost importance during games and practices at all levels, from T-Ball through Travel Team play. WLGSL wants to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all the children and adults involved. A softball game should be friendly and unifying – a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, umpires and spectators.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct.

- Before, during and after games and practices, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the umpire.
- During games or practices, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out at least long enough for her to calm down.
- During games, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players.

It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.

- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them, (*and you may need to be forceful and direct*), from yelling at players and the umpire.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- Encourage parents and players to bring issues to you away from the game field and not on game days.
- During the game, if you have a small issue, discuss it with the umpire calmly and patiently.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the umpire was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to the Board. Your issues will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the umpire and opposing team/coaches and require your players to do the same.

Umpires, especially young and inexperienced ones are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the umpires by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting or even accepting your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the umpire, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the umpire harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well and will grow along with the enjoyment of all.

Listen to any parent or player concerns. Try to avoid discussions on game day and at the game field and encourage parent and player conversations at other times. Issues that cannot be resolved by you should be elevated per the WLGSL issue resolution process to the Age Group Coordinator and if not solved there, elevated to the Board. The WLGSL Constitution and By-laws will be followed at all times.

**Coaches who do not follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed by the Board per the WLGSL Constitution and By-laws.**

I have read the Coaches Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the code of conduct at all WLGSL sanctioned events.

Coach's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_