

Empire Softball - Code of Conduct

Every coach and player participating in a Empire Softball game, as well as their guests, are required to adhere to this Code of Conduct in addition to any rules or regulations set forth in the Empire Softball Rulebook.

The mission of Empire Softball is to provide a fun, safe and friendly atmosphere in which all players can enjoy the social and health benefits of an organized sport. Empire Softball works hard to maintain a fun, friendly, recreational and evenly competitive softball league where all players feel welcomed, safe and comfortable, and as such will not tolerate or allow any individual or team to jeopardize this fundamental aspect of our organization.

All coaches and players are expected to respect the integrity of the judgments of the umpires and the decisions of the league officials.

The following guidelines stress appropriate behavior while maintaining the integrity and spirit of competition:

MANAGERS / COACHES

- Are not only responsible for their own behavior, but are also responsible for the behavior of the players and guests of their team. They are expected to display good sportsmanship toward all participants (umpires, players, coaches and guests on both teams) at all times.
- Are the sole representative of the team when dealing with the umpires or league officials. They can question an umpire's interpretation of a rule, but cannot argue an umpire's judgment call. The team manager and coaches are the only people on the field that are allowed to communicate with an umpire about a disputed call or other controversial play.
- Displays of temper or use of foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Must be forceful in removing any of their players that are displaying inappropriate behavior.
- Displays of verbal or physical abuse, whether acted upon or implied, will not be tolerated.
- Are responsible for the safety of their players on and off the field. Managers are expected to stay at the field or complex after a game until all their players have left.
- Are expected to know, teach, and follow the rules of Empire Softball.
- Before a game, introduce themselves to the opposing coach, umpire and scorekeeper, exchange lineups and discuss foul lines and other game related details.
- Are to pay umpires prior to the start of the game.
- Should thank the umpire after each game and encourage their players to do so.
- Best effort should be made to hold practices before and during season, in order to field a team that is as competitive as possible.

- Must have a basic medical kit at all games and practices.
- Are required to maintain an accurate scorebook.
- Will not allow any players to participate in any game that are intoxicated.
- Will not under any circumstances allow anyone under 18 to participate.
- Report scores in a timely manner, and ensure accuracy of standings.
- Must delegate all of these responsibilities to an assistant coach in their absence.

PLAYERS

- Are expected to support their teammates while exhibiting good sportsmanship toward the opposing team, before, during and after the game.
- Are required to be knowledgeable of all Empire Softball rules including batting, pitching, running the bases, etc. Ignorance of the rules is never a defense.
- May not dispute an umpire's call. Refer to the coach if there is an issue.
- Are prohibited from the use of foul or abusive language.
- May not display acts of physical or verbal abuse toward the umpires, coaches, players or guests of either team.
- Displays of unsportsmanlike conduct on any level will not be tolerated and violations will result in warnings, ejections and/or suspension as necessary.
- Threats of violence, at any level, will not be tolerated. Attempting to incite another person, through name calling, aggressive play, or the like is grounds for suspension.
- Are prohibited from throwing or abusing any team equipment during or after a game.
- Are prohibited from playing while intoxicated or while under the influence of drugs.
- Are expected to be courteous to their coach and teammates by being on time or providing as much notification as possible in the event they will miss a game.

By playing or coaching in this league, all participants are agreeing to this code of conduct and agree to be bound by the decisions regarding disciplinary actions that are enacted and enforced by the Empire Softball league coordinators.