

Marin Girls Softball League Coach's Code of Conduct

In recreational softball coaches play a critical role in assuring the participants have a fun and meaningful experience. A coach's conduct directly affects the players experience but also affects the experience of the players and coaches of other teams, the spectators, and families of the players. What is important is not who wins or loses but how the game is played. While winning is exciting, playing well, exhibiting good sportsmanship, developing skills, and building a lifelong love for softball is paramount. It is expected that each coach will:

Encourage and facilitate the development of our players, and promote the principles of teamwork and fair play

Being an MGS coach is a trusted position, with the primary goal of making sure every participant in our league has a positive experience. Work to be a positive role model and reinforce similar behavior in others. Applaud good plays and do not criticize any child's performance. Spend time in practices and games teaching our players the fundamentals of softball, and emphasize the importance of teamwork and effort. Show an appreciation for all players, regardless of their ability, and in particular be sensitive to any physical, developmental or emotional issues a player may have.

Respect our umpires

Remember that many of our umpires are minors, who are not much older than the players. Treat them with honor, dignity and respect. While they may be in a position of power, you must remember that they are still kids, and talk to them the same way you would talk to a player on your team. They are working hard and doing their best – if an issue arises during a game, please follow the MGS protocol for contesting plays, whereby the head coach is the only person on the field who can contest a call, and must respect the umpire's final ruling. Any outward criticism of our umpires or aggressive behavior will likely result in ejection and/or future suspension.

Demonstrate a positive attitude toward all players on the field, as well as spectators and umpires

Opponents are not enemies. Make an effort to show the opposing team respect and good hospitality. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing coaches or parents. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

Carry yourself with respect and dignity

As a coach, you are responsible for the conduct of your fans / spectators / players. This is a family environment; never use inappropriate language during a practice or a game. Focus on positive outcomes and avoid criticizing your players, umpires, or the other team. Do not condone the consumption of alcohol or any other illicit substances by anyone in proximity to our games or practices.

Maintain all relevant accreditations, and strive to be knowledgeable, organized and well-trained

Amidst our busy schedules, please keep all of your training and accreditation current and attend the annual MGS coaches meeting, which is rich with content. Know the USA Softball and local MGS rules.

Zero tolerance policy and implications of breaching this code of conduct

Marin Girls Softball has implemented a zero tolerance policy for any disrespectful, inappropriate, or improper behavior by parents, fans or coaches directed towards players, umpires, coaches, or other spectators. We believe that youth sports is not an appropriate place to criticize an umpire's call, hassle another coach, give a player a hard time, or yell at a spectator. Anyone found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to a warning or ejection from the premises, and/or a suspension from a future game or games. Any complaints received about such behavior will be evaluated by the Marin Girls Softball Executive Board who will determine the appropriate consequence.

This policy is especially sensitive to behaviors directed towards minors (including our junior umpires, players, and fans). Any complaints found to be meritorious regarding behavior towards a minor will result in a minimum of a one game suspension and could result in expulsion from the league.