

# Scottsdale Miss Softball Parent and Coach Code of Conduct

Rev 12/31/23

- 1. I understand that girls' recreational softball is a game and that it is a privilege to sit in the stands.** Just as I do not yell and scream, curse, create a public disturbance, threaten officials in the office, at the Motor Vehicle Department, at my child's class play, or during other public activities, I understand that such behavior will not be tolerated on the sidelines while my child plays softball.
- 2. I understand that constant coaching from the sidelines by a variety of people is counterproductive, since it distracts the players from their decision making on the field.** Scottsdale Miss Softball enjoys the participation of many positive and supportive parents. Cheering and positive encouragement from parents, siblings and other spectators is a natural part of softball. Negative comments and coaching directed at players on the field from team, substitute players, or coaches will be subject to discipline by the umpire or the Scottsdale Miss Softball Board of Directors.
- 3. I understand that my role on the sidelines is to be a role model of sportsmanship for the kids.** I agree to be positive with my comments regardless of the outcome of the game. I agree to remind other parents, coaches, etc. who may get out of hand from time to time, why they are at the game.
- 4. I agree to be tolerant of the umpire's calls** (and the coaches calls in the Instructional, Mini-2 and Mini-3) whether I agree with them or not, and encourage my child/player to do the same. I agree that I will not berate them, threaten them, curse at them or in any way physically or verbally abuse an official of any age. Should I have a complaint about the umpire, I understand that there is a system in place to report the complaint and I will follow those procedures.
- 5. I understand that at no time during the course of the game will any coach enter the field of play without the express permission of the home plate umpire (and never in the instructional, mini-2 and mini-3 divisions).** I realize that all persons on the sideline must be at least three yards back from the sideline to allow the coach unobstructed access and view of the sideline. I understand that the umpire (or coach in the instructional, mini-2 & mini-3 divisions) is not obligated to delay the progress of a game to explain their calls to anyone, including me.
- 6. I understand that the coaches, parents, substitute players, and spectators from opposing teams will occupy opposite sides of the playing field and will remain on their respective sides during the entire course of each game.**
- 7. I understand that the enjoyment of the kids playing the sport they love is much more important than the outcome of the game.** I will encourage my children to play hard, play fair, respect the umpires and other officials, and congratulate their opponent at every game. I agree to try my best to make each and every softball game, practice, scrimmage, and tournament a positive experience for my child and all those around me.
- 8. I understand that the head coach is responsible for the behavior of the parents, substitute players, and spectators at the fields.** If the umpires detect unacceptable behavior on a particular sideline, they will caution the coach to deal with the individuals involved. Failure to do so may result in discipline of the coach in addition to discipline of the individual involved.
- 9. I understand that profanity and fighting are expressly prohibited at all SMS functions.**
- 10. As a parent, coach, assistant coach, team parent, business manager, or other affiliate of my child's softball team, I understand that according to Scottsdale Miss Softball, I am a member of SMS.** As a member I understand that I am responsible for complying with all the rules and regulations in the bylaws and can be held accountable for my actions. Additionally, I understand that abusive emails and verbal confrontations towards coaches, parents and board members will result in suspension.

**11. I understand that violation of any of these principles may result in punishment by the Board of Directors of Scottsdale Miss Softball.** Such punishment may include suspension from participation in SMS activities (including attendance at games). SMS is the named lessee of the facilities where its activities occur and, as such, has the legal right to exclude persons whose conduct is disruptive from those facilities during SMS activities, up to and including having those persons removed by police as trespassers. All rules and regulations are provided to each coach within SMS and will be made available to any other parent, player sibling or other spectator upon request.

**12. I agree that if I act in a way that interferes with game play, which will be decided at the sole discretion of the game officials or coaches (in Instructional, Mini-2 & Mini-3), that I will be asked to vacate the field area immediately, and I will do so quickly and without delay.** Furthermore, I understand that I may also be subject to filing of criminal charges should my actions endanger or threaten the safety of players, spectators or Game Officials. Scottsdale Miss Softball will enforce a Zero Tolerance Policy relative to abusive or threatening behavior at any Scottsdale Miss Softball sponsored event. The Field Officials can and will call upon Law Enforcement to ensure the safety of everyone.

**13. I understand that any violation of the SMS Code of Conduct or SMS Rules & Regulations can be reviewed by SMS Board and/or its Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee has the sole discretion as to whether any discipline or punishment is necessary and warranted, up to and including permanent removal from participation in the league.