



Trussville Girls Softball Association Code of Conduct

For Parents, Players and Coaches



Parents, players, coaches and fans represent the Trussville Girls Softball Association (TGSA) when our teams play and practice. The actions of one of us affect the image of all of us. As a reminder, borrowing a phrase from the TGSA Bylaws, we are dealing with “*amateur athletic recreation, strictly for enjoyment... not a life and death matter.*” This Code of Conduct encourages us to work together to play with good sportsmanship and to treat players, parents, fans, coaches, and umpires with respect. This Code also identifies the possible consequences we will encounter when we do not behave appropriately.

Treat Umpires with Respect

- There are no circumstances in which a parent or player should confront an umpire during or after a game. Coaches must engage umpires in a respectful manner consistent with the rules of the sanctioning body (e.g., National Softball Association, etc.).
- Do not verbally harass an umpire. If you disagree with a call, do so quickly, calmly and let it go. Umpires will make mistakes and it is only a game.
- Coaches will be held responsible for ensuring that parents comply with this portion of the Code of Conduct. A coach who, in the opinion of the Umpire Director, League Director, Coaching Director, or other TGSA Board Member, fails to control unruly parents / fans will be subject to suspension.

Treat Your Team with Respect

- Softball is not an individual sport – it is a team sport. Bear this in mind at all times.
- Ensure that your player and all of her/his equipment get to games and practices on time.
- Pick up your player promptly at the end of games, practices or other team functions. Do not make the coaches wait for you.
- Disagreements with the coach do not belong on the field before, during or after a game or practice. Questions and comments should be voiced later in an adult atmosphere.
- A coach's decision about playing time, position, strategy, tactics, etc., consistent with this Code of Conduct and the TGSA Bylaws, is final.

Treat Our Coaches, Players and Opponents with Respect

- Whether you win or lose, do so with class. When you interact with others, do so with class.
- Coaches are in charge of overall team direction and instruction during play and practice. Parental criticism or advice for other players is usually not well received by the player, coach or the player's parents.
- Never criticize or yell at a player on the opposing team. Consider how you would feel if you were that player's parent.
- Avoid confrontations or shouting matches with coaches, parents or fans of an opposing team.
- Constant yelling is very irritating to the people around you (even if you think your comments are positive).
- Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, profanity or fighting are never permitted at softball games or practices.

Treat Our Facilities with Respect

- TGSA is very serious about the quality and condition of the fields and other facilities.
- Only TGSA members may use the facilities, subject to the current status of the fields.
- If you are in doubt about the condition of a field, stay off the field and contact a board member.
- Obey all signage and instructions from board members and coaches regarding use of the facilities.
- Vandalism in any form will not be tolerated.
- Clean up after yourself and your children, especially in the restrooms. Do not allow your children to play in the restrooms.
- The softball complex is a sports facility - it is not a playground. Coaches and board members are not baby sitters. Keep your non-playing children under control. No unsupervised children are allowed in the pressbox, concession stand, maintenance building or equipment building.
- Outfields (fair or foul territory) are not areas for drills or any other type of practice (including pitching) that would damage the turf. Generally speaking, outfield activities are limited to throwing, catching and running. Always be watchful for wet or damaged turf spots and avoid those areas.

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Red Storm Teams

- Red Storm teams are competitive teams that play Class A and / or Class B travel ball. Players are selected for a Red Storm team at the sole discretion of the head coach.
- No guarantee of playing time, field position or place in the batting order will be made for any player.
- If a player quits or is removed from a Red Storm team for any reason, no refund of registration, sponsorship or other fees will be made.
- Parents of Red Storm players are expected to publicly support the coaches, the other players and the team as a whole at all times.
- Red Storm coaches and parents are required to work assigned shifts at TGSA travel tournaments. For each player you have on a Red Storm team, you are required to work a shift in the concession stand, at the gate or on facilities / field crew.

All Star Teams

- All Star teams are competitive teams that play in post-season All Star tournaments. Players are selected for an All Star team by the league head coaches.
- No guarantee of playing time, field position or place in the batting order will be made for any All-Star player.
- If a player quits or is removed from an All Star team for any reason, no refund of uniform, sponsorship or other fees will be made. If the player quits the All Star team, eligibility for future All Star teams may be forfeited.
- Parents of All Star players are expected to publicly support the coaches, the other players and the team as a whole at all times.

Grievances and Consequences

- The Player Agent is the first person you should contact if you feel a parent's, spectator's, player's or coach's behavior warrants corrective action. The Player Agent will attempt to resolve or correct the issue, but may refer it to TGSA's Fair Play Committee for further investigation and remedy.
- The Fair Play Committee (composed of the Vice-President, Recreation League Director, Coaching Director, Umpire Director and Commissioner) may impose penalties including reprimands and suspension of playing / coaching / spectator privileges. Any appeals shall be made to the TGSA Board of Directors Executive Committee.
- If the Fair Play Committee determines that the behavior in question warrants extended suspensions (e.g., an entire season) or expulsion from the association, the matter will be referred to the TGSA Board of Directors Executive Committee for further action. Extended suspensions or expulsions will be reviewed with the Trussville Parks and Recreation Department liaison prior to implementation.
- The National Softball Association (or other sanctioning body) may respond to certain actions that involve physical contact or verbal confrontations that take place during sanctioned events (e.g., league tournaments, travel tournaments, all star tournaments). The sanctioning bodies have the authority to impose suspensions above and beyond those imposed by the Trussville Girls Softball Association.
- In addition to the above consequences, note that Section 13A-11-144, Code of Alabama 1975 includes coaches in the definition of sports official and establishes up to a Class A felony status for the offenses of harassment or, menacing of, or assault on a sports official performing his or her official duties.
- In the event of suspension or expulsion from a team or the association, no refund of registration or sponsorship fees will be made.

Signature: As a coach or parent of a player in the Trussville Girls Softball Association, I acknowledge:

- That I have read, understand and will adhere to this Code of Conduct;
- That my continued participation in association activities, as well as the participation of my children, is contingent upon my ability (and that of my immediate and extended family) to adhere to this Code of Conduct; and
- That I will help my fellow parents and coaches when, in the heat of the moment, they need to be reminded of their commitment to this Code of Conduct.

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____