

Coaches Code of Conduct – Seymour Flames Fastpitch Softball

- Always keep the **best interest and well being of the children** as the highest priority.
- In both victory and defeat, the behavior of the coach shall model **grace, dignity and composure**.
- Treat referees with respect.
- Stress **fair play and good sportsmanship** whether winning or losing. During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, 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 the players and the referee.
- Coaches shall model **inclusive behavior**, actively supporting cultural diversity while **opposing all types of discrimination**, including but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of the game.

Recommended Coaching Best Practices

- The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of their players.
- Always remember, it's not about winning but developing mature and well-adjusted children.
- Make it fun — if it's not fun, re-evaluate how you are teaching.
- Don't over coach — the children learn through playing.
- Provide positive reinforcement and build esteem — every practice, every game.
- Remember, attitude is learned, both positive and negative.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the umpires.
- After the game, thank the umpires and ask your players to do the same.

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| Coach's Signature | Date |
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