

FGFS Code of Conduct

The Board of Directors of Framingham Girls FastPitch Softball has created this “Code of Conduct” for the sole purpose of ensuring a safe and fun environment for all children in the organization.

I hereby agree:

General Guidelines:

- At no time during the course of an event, will a parent/spectator confront a coach for any reason. However, In the event of an emergency regarding the physical well-being of a participant, parents/spectators should address a coach or game official.
- At no time during the course of an event will a coach allow themselves to be drawn into a confrontation in the presence of his/her players.
- At no time during the course of an event, will a coach, parent, or participant use profanity or lewd gestures.
- At no time during the course of an event will a coach, parent or participant misuse or damage any equipment/facility.
- At no time during the course of an event will a parent involve themselves in a discussion of the rules or calls made by officials.
- At no time during the course of an event will a coach, parent, or participant be involved in an abusive verbal or physical confrontation with another coach, parent official or participant.
- At no time during an event will a coach, parent, or participant indulge in the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, or appear at an event under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Regarding Electronics:

- Electronic devices are defined as phones, tablets, iPads, music players such as iPods, or any communication devices that are utilized electronically.
- The Playing Area is defined as the field of play, anywhere between the lines on the field of play, the dugouts, on deck spaces, player benches, etc.
- At no time during the course of an event, will electronic devices be utilized in the “playing area” by any player, coach, or adult affiliated with the team.
- Electronic devices may be used away from the “playing area” prior to, or after the game
- In the event of an emergency situation, electronic devices may be used to aide in the process of addressing the emergency.

Player Expectations:

- Sportsmanship will be observed at all times.
- Each player, teammate or opponent, coach, parent, and official, must be treated with respect at all times.
- Players are expected to be with their team for the full amount of time of their game time. Players sitting on the bench during innings, are not permitted to leave the field and sit with friends or family outside of the field of play. The expectation is that players stay with their teams at all times.

Family Expectations:

- Only CORI'd and approved FGFS coaches/instructors may be in the field of play, including the dugout or on deck space, at anytime.
- Parents, family members, nor friends may enter the field of play, including the dugout, or on deck space at anytime during the course of an event unless there is an emergency situation or an identified need defined ahead of the event time.
- Parents, family members, and friends are not permitted to offer instruction, nor interact with players in anyway other than offering encouragement from the sidelines during the course of an event.

Consequences for violating any of the above outlined Code of Conduct:

- Physical abuse violations will result in an immediate and lifetime dismissal from Framingham Girls FastPitch Softball in addition to a lifetime ban from events, facilities and fields operated by Framingham Girls FastPitch Softball.
- A 1st violation, other than for physical abuse, may result in an immediate suspension handed down by Board of Directors of FGFS. Violators may be suspended from all Framingham Girls FastPitch Softball operated events, facilities, and fields until a majority of the Board of Directors of Framingham Girls FastPitch Softball reviews the infraction and sets the suspension duration.
- A 2nd violation may result in the immediate dismissal from all Framingham Girls FastPitch Softball operated events, facilities and fields for 12 consecutive months. The 2nd violation will have no time limitations on the prior infraction. Infractions are cumulative and lifelong.

All infractions will be reviewed by a majority of the Board of Directors of Framingham Girls FastPitch Softball within 1 week of the incident to determine any and all consequences. Consequence decisions made by the FGFS Executive Board are final.

By signing this document I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the above code and its related consequences. I (as a coach, parent or participant) will adhere to the code and agree that any violation (by myself or my guests) can and will result in my suspension, and or termination from the league for up to a lifetime term as determined by the Board of Directors of Framingham Girls FastPitch Softball.

PARENT:

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLAYER:

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

TEAM LEVEL: _____ **TEAM COLOR:** _____ **TEAM COACH:** _____

Some additional points of emphasis every parent should consider/remember regarding youth sports:

- Children participate to have fun and the game is for them, not the adults.
- Be a positive role model for your child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or event.
- Do not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
- Do not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- Demand that your child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability, and teach your child to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Learn the rules of the game and the league, and teach your child to play by these rules.
- Teach your child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so they will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- Praise your child for competing fairly and trying hard. Make your child feel like a winner every time.
- Never ridicule or yell at your child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Promote the emotional and physical well-being of all athletes ahead of any personal desires for your own child to win.
- Respect all officials and their authority during games. Never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and only speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- Demand an environment for your child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and refrain from their use at all youth events, fields and facilities.
- Refrain from coaching your child or other players during games and practices unless you are one of the official coaches of the team or have been asked to assist by an official coach of the team.

Board Approved April 3, 2017