

# NORTH MONTEREY COUNTY YOUTH SOFTBALL

## PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

### **Mission Statement**

The primary goal of North Monterey County Youth Softball Association (NMCYSA) is to create an opportunity for fundamental skills development in a positive, supportive, friendly, safe, fun environment for every player in our league.

### **Code of Conduct**

A major function of our organization is the preparation of youth for responsible citizenship. Our recreational softball league provides an opportunity for girls to improve their softball skills, learn to work in a team environment where they can depend on others and others can depend on them, build leadership skills, and have a social bonding experience outside the context of school.

All avenues shall be utilized to foster a positive environment for the participants. However, when misconduct occurs, the interventions that we employ are intended to help the participant learn to exercise self-control. These interventions include, but are not limited to, advising and counseling participants; parental conferences; the restriction of participation in a game; expulsion from the league.

### **Discipline Policy**

The NMCYSA Discipline Policy outlines the rules that shall be followed to provide a safe and orderly environment so that coaches can teach and participants can learn and play. Policies and rules are enforced fairly, uniformly and consistently without regard to race, beliefs, economic status, or gender. If a participant violates a league rule and/or policy, she may be issued a warning. Warnings can be issued for the following reasons, but not necessarily limited to: Drugs, alcohol, fireworks, explosives, flammables, weapons, theft, extortion, assault, battery, vandalism property damage, harassment, bullying, inappropriate dress, fighting, defiance of authority, cheating, failure to attend scheduled events, smoking/tobacco, profanity, possessing an inappropriate object, or any other misbehavior which disrupts team/league activities. Team managers, coaches, parents, or other participants must notify the NMCYSA Board of Directors when a rule or policy violation has occurred.

### **I. Disruptive Behavior**

The Board of Directors of NMCYSA is committed to the belief that adult coaches have a right to instruct and all participants have a right to learn. Participants who choose to be disruptive will be warned. If the disruption continues, the adult coach may elect to separate the participant from the group activity for the remainder of the scheduled event. The separated participant will be required to position themselves in a safe, secure, monitored location of the adult coaches choosing. The adult coach is required to notify the parents of the suspended participant and the NMCYSA Board of Directors of the suspension and the reasons for it at the earliest opportunity via phone and/or email. Any suspension may be appealed by the participant to the NMCYSA Board of Directors.

If disruption continues during subsequent events, a parent conference with the NMCYSA Board of Directors and/or the adult coach(s) will be arranged. The participant may also be suspended from one game.

Coaches have the authority to suspend a participant from one game for disruptive behavior. By NMCYSA policy, a participant suspended from a game may not attend that game in any capacity.

## II. Other Disruptive Behavior

The Board of Directors of NMCYSA is obligated to provide a safe and orderly environment for all participants. The behavior policies listed below will be enforced consistently and fairly.

**Minor disruptions or defiance.** The adult coach may choose to give a warning for minor disruptions or defiance such as talking during instruction, lack of reasonable effort, disrespectful comments or behavior, not exercising appropriate safety precautions, horseplay, etc. On the third warning for this type of behavior the coach will consult with the parents and notify the NMCYSA Board of Directors. More serious disruption or defiance may result in suspension. Continued and consistent disruption or defiance may result in expulsion from the league.

**Fighting.** Participants who engage in fighting will be suspended for at least one week. The NMCYSA Board of Directors must be notified immediately if a fight occurs. All parties involved in a fight may be suspended. One or more parties involved may be expelled from the league.

**Bullying, verbal threats and/or intimidation.** Participants who verbally threaten, and/or verbally or physically intimidate another individual will be suspended for at least one week and may be expelled from the league.

**Profanity and inappropriate language.** Participants who use inappropriate and/or profane language will receive a warning. Continued and consistent use of profanity or inappropriate language may result in suspension.

**Wearing inappropriate clothing.** Participants must attend practices and games in clothing appropriate for the activity. This includes rubber cleats, comfortable fitting shirt, baseball/softball pants or shorts, socks, and optional sliding pads for protection. Participants shall refrain from wearing any jewelry, garments exposing the torso, skirts and dresses, and clothing that make reference to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, or violent, oppressive and/or demeaning behavior. Participants not in compliance will be required to change or cover up the clothing. Subsequent incidents will result in a parent being called and asked to bring appropriate clothing to the participant. The participant will be required to position themselves in a safe, secure, monitored location of the adult coaches choosing until the parent arrives. Further offenses may result in suspension. Determination of appropriate clothing will be made by NMCYSA Board of Directors.

**Failure to serve assigned suspension.** A participant who fails to serve an assigned suspension could have that suspension doubled. Failure to serve the doubled suspension will result in expulsion from the league. Any suspension may be appealed to the NMCYSA Board of Directors.

**Dangerous objects or toys.** Possession of weapons, lighters, fireworks, poppers, cap guns, and other dangerous objects/toys could result in a one week suspension. Continued possession of such items could result in expulsion from the league.

**Cell phones, music devices.** Participants are **strongly** discouraged from bringing cell phones and electronic music devices to practice and games. These items are commonly lost or stolen. NMCYSA is not responsible for such items. Cell phones and music devices should not be **used** during practice or games. Any participant who chooses to bring such items may be asked to put them away in a secure location until the conclusion of the activity. If the participant does not do so the item may be confiscated by the adult coach for the duration of the activity.

### Summary

The primary goal of NMCYSA is to create an opportunity for fundamental skills development in a positive, supportive, friendly, safe, fun environment for every player in our league. A major function of our organization is the preparation of youth for responsible citizenship. We expect all adult coaches to provide every participant with the opportunity succeed to the best of their ability both athletically and socially. This code of conduct has been put in place to provide guidelines for both the participant and the adult coach to maximize that opportunity for success.