



Parent - Code of Conduct / Expectations

2023-2024 Season

The following codes of conduct are intended to promote good sportsmanship and support the overall goal of the Geneva Foxes Softball Organization. We are dedicated to providing young women with a positive “player centered” environment to learn and enjoy the game of fastpitch softball. We offer female athletes the opportunity to learn life lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, perseverance, commitment, loyalty, self-discipline, accomplishment, competition, responsibility, and fair play. It is the requirement of the Geneva Foxes Executive Board that all spectators, participants, coaches and players abide by the following codes of conduct.

Parents play a huge role in the development of a successful softball player. Your role is every bit as important as that of the coaches, and every bit as difficult. That is why we welcome your presence at every practice and game to observe. Any direct involvement in these activities will be at the request of the coaching staff only.

1. Encourage your daughter to communicate with the coaches. It is very important that the players build the confidence to interact with and establish a healthy interactive relationship with their coaches.
2. Make sure your daughter is on time to all team activities. Always know, if you as parents cannot get your daughter to an event, we are a team and we'll help coordinate transportation.
3. Communicate with the coaching staff regularly. Respond to emails and texts so the coaches know that you received the information provided.
4. Please approach the Head Coach/Team Manager if you have any thoughts, ideas or concerns. Your input is vital. If we cannot help, we will explain why and work with you to find another way to address your concerns.
5. Parents play their role at home and outside the softball field. On the softball field, allow the coaches to play theirs. Please do not coach your child during practices or games. Your comments detract from what the coach is doing and it interferes with the development of the player/coach relationship. Also, you may place your child under additional stresses should your directions be at odds with the instructions of the coach.
6. Please refrain from visiting the bench area during games. Make every effort to ensure that your daughter has everything she needs prior to the start of the game (water, equipment, etc.). If your daughter needs something, the coach may give her permission to leave the bench area or request a parent's assistance.
7. Do not approach the coaches during a game. They are volunteers and will make mistakes. Please follow the 24-hour rule: if you have a complaint or concern about a game we ask that you wait 24 hours after the occurrence to give you time to think about your concern as well as provide a “cool down” period. If you still feel you want to address the issue with the coaching staff then feel free to discuss it with the coach. The rule is designed to help prevent all parties involved from saying something out of haste or emotion that may be regretted later.
8. Be prepared for tournament weekends. Tournament play often starts very early in the morning (8:00 AM) and can last all day. At times, games may be played back-to-back and while others may require the team to wait several hours between games. Coaches will communicate tournament schedules as soon as they receive them; however game times are not always set until just prior to the tournament. Tournament weekends can be a great time to interact with other Foxes families and build an atmosphere that allows the girls to develop “team chemistry”, a winning quality that cannot be coached. If you are new to tournament softball, please ask the coach and other parents for advice. It can be great fun, but if not prepared, it can be a challenging experience.



Parent - Code of Conduct & Expectations, 2023-24 Season (cont.):

9. Be supportive of your daughter regardless of game result. Parents need to support their daughters by allowing them to experience their frustrations, failures and successes both on and off the field.
10. Parents are expected to comply with all park and school district rules for all games (home or away) and practices.
11. Any fees paid are non-refundable.
12. **Injuries will be taken seriously.** It is important that players have open and honest communication with coaches regarding injuries. Playing with soreness and slight pain is part of sports, however, playing injured is not. Your daughter's health is paramount. If she is injured, you are required to visit your physician. A doctor's note will be required, and the doctor's orders will be followed by the coach. Injured players are still required to attend practices and games.
13. Competitive play can evoke strong emotions and your attitude is essential in helping your child put these emotions in perspective. Make sure that your child knows that win or lose, you appreciate her efforts and are proud of her performance.
14. Focus on your child's effort and overall development rather than the outcome of any particular game. Winning and losing are a byproduct of playing the game of softball and generally aren't a direct reflection of your daughter's effort, attitude and growth as a player. Try to be completely honest to yourself about your daughter's athletic capability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level. Do not develop unrealistic expectations, as inability to match such expectations may be interpreted as failure by your daughter.
15. Try not to relive your athletic youth (or lack thereof) through your daughter's experience in a way that creates pressure. Let your daughter make her own decisions on the field. Do not pressure your daughter based on your personal pride. This is her time.
16. Get to know your daughter's coaching staff so that you can be assured that their philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are supportive and in agreement on most viewpoints.
17. If a problem develops between a player or parent and a coach, discuss the problem with the coach first. If the problem is not resolved at that level, contact a Foxes Board member.
18. Once committed to playing for the Geneva Foxes, players may not be "rostered" on any other travel/club softball program for the same season. "Guest Player" status will be allowed upon approval of team's head coach and/or Foxes Board Member.
19. We manage the Geneva Foxes Softball League organization with a highest level of integrity and with the knowledge that we are a regional reflection of the City of Geneva and its residents. Therefore, parents and players will conduct themselves with the utmost sportsmanship, appropriate language and behavior towards their team's coaching staff, and the opposing team's coaches, players, parents, and umps. Strict penalties for any parent and/or player that cannot conduct themselves accordingly will be imposed, beginning with but not limited to:
 - **1st offense:** Verbal warning to Parent(s) and/or Player immediately following the occurrence with a written confirmation to follow.
 - **2nd offense:** Five (5) game suspension of Player.
 - **3rd offense:** Suspension from the organization for the duration of season without refund. Re-application to the organization to the Foxes the following year will be subject to review by Foxes Executive Board.