

CHATFIELD YOUTH FASTPITCH ASSOCIATION (CYFA) CODE OF CONDUCT

Last updated 6/27/2023

Parents:

The following are expectations and guidelines for all parents and adults attending Fireball activities. If there is not adherence to these expectations, the CYFA will take disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to: verbal warnings, written warnings, ejections, and suspensions or termination of participation of the athlete.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Parents stress the importance of respect for all participants including coaches, officials, players, and the opposing team and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the team and its success.
- Parents serve as role models, see the “big picture”, and support all players.
- Parents leave coaching to coaches and do not criticize coaching strategies or team performance or actively coach players from behind the fence or by approaching the dugout. Not only is it confusing for the players, but very disrespectful to our coaches, who train directly with our varsity coach to learn the latest, most proper techniques and strategy. They also encourage their child to communicate directly with the coach regarding concerns about playtime. They discuss any concerns in an appropriate manner privately directly with the coach. Parents are not allowed to approach the coach or other parents to discuss, analyze or compare other players. No negative discussion about other players on the sidelines, or in emails or any other form will be tolerated. If this occurs, action will be taken immediately by the board. “Mass copied” emails addressing concerns are not acceptable. Parents will speak directly with a coach regarding their concerns.
- Parents are to avoid putting pressure on their children about playing time and performance. Parents recognize this competitive organization offers equal opportunity and support of all roles but NOT equal play. Playtime decisions can be based on infinite possibilities. Parents are to trust the coaches appointed are taking all factors into consideration when determining play time. Parents are always welcome to ask a coach to discuss play time with their athlete, but both athlete and parents must be open to discussions, even when the coach’s opinion varies from their own.
- Spectators show good sportsmanship by acknowledging fine performances, demonstrating respect for all coaches, officials, and players, and by refraining from antagonistic behavior intended to interfere with an athlete’s performance.
- Parents learn the value of competition and how to handle success with grace and failure with dignity.
- Parents with concerns: Parents with concerns must first ensure their player has attempted to resolve

the issue with their coach themselves after a 24 hour wait period. If a resolution is not reached, the parent MUST WAIT 24 HOURS AFTER the practice or game before approaching the coach. (Again, the concerns discussed will be solely related to their own child, no comparisons, hurtful analysis or remarks will be tolerated and will result in action taken by the CYFA board.) If no resolution is reached between the coach, player and parent, then, and only then, can the parent approach the Association Board with their concerns.

OUT OF BOUNDS:

- Attitudes that stress the playing time or position played by their child over the success of the team.
- Over-involvement that includes sideline coaching, interventions, and conversations with their child during games or conversations with other fans about the performance of other players.
- Displays of disrespect toward officials, coaches, players, and/or fans through their words and actions.
- Unrealistic expectations and pressure that emphasize physical performance over personal health.
- Failure to report injuries or illness or absences of their child to the coach.
- Approaching a coach prior to the 24 rule (this is 24 hours from the end of the event)

Players:

The ultimate goal of participating in this program is to improve your softball skills, find a love of the game and team, and ultimately develop life skills. The Fireball program is a competitive youth organization providing both development and competitive opportunities for its players. Learning to play a role, value others' roles, and support your team in every way possible is the ultimate goal. Playtime or skill of an individual in no way reflects their value as a person, and it should be recognized that every role, every level of ability and every player are equally valued by the coaches and the program. The following are expectations and guidelines for all players. If there is not adherence to these expectations,

the CYFA will take disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to: verbal warnings, written warnings, ejections, and suspensions or termination of participation of the athlete.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Attend as many practices and games as possible, and inform your coach in advance when you are unable to attend.
- Commit to abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco and other illegal substances
- Participate in all training and conditioning, working on your skills both during practices times and on your own
- Learn the value of competition and how to handle success and failure with dignity. Learn to play the role that is best for the team. Roles will vary by team, age, etc. All roles are important and are to be embraced and played to the best of the players ability
- Every player is expected to give 100%, be positive, willing to learn, willing to work and hustle at all times. There will be focus in the dugout-no cell phones or distractions. No leaving the dugout or talking to people outside the dugout during the game. Games are a time to focus and participate in being a good teammate.
- Any player unhappy with their play time or position will approach the coach by asking what they need to work on to reach their goal. The approach will ONLY include a discussion about their own playtime, no comparisons about other players or where/why they play. The discussion will always be geared to that player. If they are not comfortable, the parent will participate with the player, but players should not send the parent to the discussion without participating, because only the player and coach have the information of what happens at every practice and event.
- Represent the Fireballs in a positive light both on and off the field. Support other Fireball teams and players, and care for and respect the equipment, uniforms and facilities they use.
- Pitchers will be given an opportunity to perform when the coach deems they are ready, consistent and it is in the best interest of the entire team. There should not be an expectation that every pitcher is given the same play time, or that they would be allowed to participate in games until they are at a level that allows them, their teammates and the opposing team to have a reasonable, quality experience.

OUT OF BOUNDS:

- Attitudes that stress the playing time or position over the success of the team including a lack of willingness to play a role and support teammates. Lack of understanding that playtime or positional placement is NOT a reflection of the players value as a person. The coach will place players in a position to succeed as a whole, and asks that players respect the decisions and embrace their role.
- Display disrespect towards the coaches, other players, official or other teams.
- Failure to report injuries or illness to their coach
- Failure to respect individual differences and diversity. Failure to respect the foundation of this organization-competitiveness, teamwork, 100% effort and positive attitude, playing a role and valuing all teammates.

COACHES:

The CYFA Coaches are volunteers, and dedicate countless hours to the program and improvement of every player. While their play time philosophy, approach to skills or strategy may be different than yours, they see the entire picture, including practices, off and on the field interactions, etc. All coaches will be trained by the Chatfield Varsity softball coach so as to fall as closely in line with our school program as possible. Questions regarding strategy, positional placement, etc. will not be tolerated, as those decisions are the coach's responsibility and prerogative. Coaches will discuss your child and any concerns you have only after it has been encouraged that your child have the discussion with their coach directly. This is a life skill for the child, and only fair and respectful to the coach that has dedicated their time.

EXPECTATIONS:

- The coach provides inspiration and positive communication and assists players to make good decisions. The coach will consistently communicate with players/parents throughout the season.
- The coach is a role model at all times, recognizing his/her profound influence on the players

- A coach is sensitive to the fact that different approaches will be needed for different individuals according to their needs and backgrounds. The coach will play players based on their objective opinion regarding skill, safety, work ethic, participation in practices, and overall benefit for the team and the spirit of competition. Playtime and position are NOT a reflection of a player's value and should not be misconstrued to be as such.
- Coaches will instill in their players the philosophy that while not all players are equal in skill or experience, and not all players will receive equal play time or position placement, there will always be equal opportunity to work hard towards their goals. All players are equally important and must learn to play their role for the team.
- Coaches are educators, first and foremost. They must strive to learn new and different approaches, and engage the players in the learning process. The learning goes beyond techniques and strategies to include teaching sportsmanship and effective communication with parents.
- Coaches are open and willing to communicate with a player. Coaches have honest and positive discussions with players about playtime, positions, skill improvement.
- Coaches teach the value of competition and how to handle success with grace and failure with dignity.
- Coaches will be organized and communicate with families on a weekly basis.

OUT OF BOUNDS:

- Coaches who lack self-control and display poor sportsmanship.
- Coaches who argue with officials.
- Coaches who display disrespect toward officials, coaches, players, and/or fans through their words and actions.
- Coaches who fail to respect individual differences and diversity.
- Coaches who use tobacco or alcohol anywhere around the players or the ball field.
- Coaches who do not uphold the values of the organization, including teamwork, role values, positive attitude, maximum effort, and love of the game.
- Coaches who do not consider the player's safety or follow appropriate concussion protocol.

Consequences for violating the CYFA Code of Conduct:

All serious violations will be reviewed by the CYFA board members, and will possibly result in taking disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to: verbal warnings, written warnings, ejections,

and suspensions of parents and/or players or termination of participation of the athlete. A ZERO TOLERANCE policy will be strictly enforced for any and all threatening or offensive behavior.

Immediately upon violations of the Code of Conduct at an CYFA event, and at the coach, Association's, umpire, or league official discretion, the manager, player, spectator, or coach may be ejected and if so, will be instructed to leave the grounds. If such person refuses to leave the grounds, the game will be forfeited to the non-offending team.

- Based on the seriousness of the violation, the offending person may/may not be warned before being ejected.
- After receiving the Umpire's report that a manager, coach, spectator, or player has been ejected, it will be the decision of the CYFA to suspend indefinitely or reinstate that manager, coach, spectator, or player. In the case of a spectator, he or she will not be allowed on the grounds until reinstated by the CYFA.
- Law enforcement will be called for any unlawful behavior by the coach, umpire, or league official. If an individual that has been ejected refuses to leave the grounds, law enforcement may also be called.

The CYFA supports the coach's discretionary right to act in the best interest of the players and team by addressing any offensive behavior exhibited by players or fans immediately during an event. The CYFA supports the coach's right to limit the parent attendance to practices, games, interaction in the dugout, etc., if the parents' actions are counterproductive to the core practices explained above.

Express Assumption of Risk, and Assumption of Liability and Internet Consent

1. To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to waive, discharge claims, and release liability the city of Chatfield, the Chatfield Youth Fastpitch Association, and their officers, directors, employees, agents, coaches, and leaders from any and all liability on account of my participation in the Chatfield Youth Fastpitch Association such as but not limited to: Practices, Softball Tournaments, Travel, etc. to be held in preparation and participation in the season. This release covers any injuries or damages that I may suffer, even if caused by negligence of the City of Chatfield, the sponsors of the Chatfield Youth Fastpitch Association and their officers, directors, employees, agents, coaches, and leaders in any way connected to the Chatfield Youth Fastpitch Association.
2. I further agree to hold harmless the City of Chatfield, the members of Chatfield Youth Fastpitch Association, their officers, directors, agents, coaches, employees, and leaders from any claims damages, injuries, or losses caused by my own negligence while participating in the Chatfield Youth Fastpitch Association. I also understand and intend this assumption for any minor accompany me to any events.
3. Parent Guardian Consent of Internet...CYFA would like to inform you that your child's

photo/image/name to be published on the Chatfield Youth Fastpitch Association Fireball Softball Facebook and Instagram site unless we receive a written email at chatfieldfireballs@gmail.com that you are not in agreement with this.

I have read this document in its entirety and freely and voluntarily assume all risks of such injuries and damages and notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Chatfield Youth Fastpitch Association and follow all expectations outlined. I further agree to abide by the terms set forth in the CYFA Code of Conduct and recognize that failure to do so could result in loss of participation.