

Marin Girls Softball League Parent's Code of Conduct

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your daughter and of her teammates. Your encouragement and examples ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline more than any other influence. What is important is not who wins or loses but how the game is played and watched. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game. It is expected that each parent will:

Support your child and the other players and be their biggest cheerleader

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays and do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game and teach your child to be gracious in victory and to learn from defeat.

Don't be a sideline coach or umpire

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout/scream from sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coaching staff should be the only sideline voice. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - do not openly question their judgment or honesty. Also, remember that many of our umpires are minors, who are not much older than the players. Any outward criticism of our umpires will likely result in ejection and/or future suspension.

Demonstrate a positive attitude toward all players on the field, as well as spectators and umpires

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good hospitality. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents, coaches or umpires. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

Remember that we are all here to have fun and express our love for the game

Your child is the one playing softball, not you. Children must establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

Carry yourself with respect and dignity

This is a family environment; do not consume alcohol in the stands or near the field during any game or practice. Similarly, never use inappropriate language during a practice or a game. If you have any questions for your coaches regarding your child's performance or playing time, make sure this communication takes place in private as opposed to during a game or in front of other parents / children.

Zero tolerance policy and implications of breaching this code of conduct

Marin Girls Softball has implemented a zero tolerance policy for any disrespectful, inappropriate, or improper behavior by parents, fans or coaches directed towards players, umpires, coaches, or other spectators. It is our belief that youth sports is not an appropriate place to criticize an umpires call, hassle a coach, give a player a hard time, or yell at another fan. Anyone found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to a warning or ejection from the premises, and/or a suspension from a future game or games. Any complaints received about such behavior will be evaluated by the Marin Girls Softball Executive Board who will determine the appropriate consequence.

This policy is especially sensitive to behaviors directly towards minors (including our junior umpires, players and fans). Any complaints found to be meritorious regarding behavior towards a minor will result in a minimum of a one game suspension.