



**San Patricio Girls Softball Association  
Coaches' Code of Conduct & Ethics**

This code of conduct and ethics applies to any person affiliated with a San Patricio Girls Softball Association (“SPGSA”) team in any of the following capacities: team managers, head coaches, assistant coaches, and any other similar position (collectively “coaching personnel”). This code of conduct and ethics is mandatory for all coaching personnel and must be accepted via electronic acknowledgement in the coaches registration process. Violations of this code will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein.

**Code 1: I will adhere to the SPGSA Bylaws and the SPGSA Rules, Policies, and Procedures. I will not solicit others to violate the SPGSA Bylaws or the SPGSA Rules, Policies, and Procedures**

**Code 2: I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.** The following are examples of Code 2, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 2:

- Using appropriate language in appropriate tones when interacting with players, league officials, game officials, parents and spectators.
- Treating all players, league officials, game officials, parents and spectators with dignity and respect.
- Playing all players according to the equal participation rules established by the league.
  - Including all players in team activities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, body type, national origin, ancestry, disability, ability, or any other legally protected classification.
- Allowing reasonable excused absences from practice.

**Code 3: I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.** The following are examples of Code 3, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 3:

- Recognizing the differences of each child and treating each player as an individual while demonstrating concern for their individual needs and well-being.
- Encouraging all players, regardless of skill level, to be included as a member of the team and to remain involved in sports.

- Recognizing that some physical tasks, drills and demands are not appropriate for all youth.
- Recognizing that youth may vary greatly in physical, social and emotional maturation and considering these factors when setting up competitions and when interacting with youth.

**Code 4: I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.** The following are examples of Code 4, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 4:

- Maintaining a high level of awareness of potentially unsafe conditions.
- Protecting players from sexual assault, sexual molestation, unwanted advances, assault, and physical and/or emotional abuse. This includes reporting to league officials and local authorities any known or suspected forms of prohibited behavior identified in the previous sentence.
- Correcting or avoiding unsafe practice or playing conditions.
- Using appropriate safety equipment necessary to protect all players.

**Code 5: I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.** The following are examples of Code 5, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 5:

- Keeping or ensuring you have access to basic first aid supplies available in all practice and game situations.
- Recognizing injuries/ailments and administering basic first aid to an injured player.
- Demonstrating concern for an injured player, notifying parents and cooperating with medical authorities.
- Protecting the players' wellbeing by removing them from activity when injured, if continued playing could result in further injury.

**Code 6: I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.** The following are examples of Code 6, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 6:

- Establishing practice plans that are interesting, varied, productive and aimed at improving all players' skills and individual abilities.
- Devoting appropriate time to the individual improvement of each player.
- Conducting practices of reasonable length and intensity appropriate for the age and conditioning of the players.

**Code 7: I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.** The following are examples of Code 7, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 7:

- Teaching and demonstrating that it is our basic moral code to treat others, as we would like to be treated.
- Abiding by and supporting the rules of the game as well as the spirit of the rules.
- Providing an environment conducive to fair and equitable competition.
- Using the influential position of youth coach as an opportunity to promote, teach and expect sportsmanship and fair play.

**Code 8: I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all SPGSA events, including games, practices, opening ceremonies, closing ceremonies, & tournaments.** The following are examples of Code 8, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 8:

- Being alcohol and drug free at all team activities or in the presence of players.
- Refraining from the use of any type of tobacco products at all team activities or in the presence of your players.
- Ensuring parents refrain from the public use of tobacco products or alcohol at team activities.

**Code 9: I will be knowledgeable in the rules of softball, and I will teach these rules to my players.** The following are examples of Code 9, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 9:

- Becoming knowledgeable, understanding and supportive of all applicable game rules, league rules, regulations and policies.
- Teaching and requiring compliance of these rules among players.

**Code 10: I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.** The following are examples of Code 10, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 10:

- Teaching techniques that reduce the risk of injury to both the coach's own players and their opponents.
- Discouraging illegal contact or intentional dangerous play and administering swift and equitable discipline to players involved in such activity.

**Code 11: I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for the kids and not adults.** The following are examples of Code 11, each example is a mandatory behavior expectation that will be followed by all coaching personnel, violations of any of these examples will subject any coaching personnel to the disciplinary actions outlined herein, while these examples are intended to provide guidance they should not be construed as a limit to the scope of code 11:

- Maintaining a positive, helpful, and supportive attitude.
- Exercising your authority/influence to control the behavior of the fans and spectators.
- Exhibiting gracious acceptance of defeat or victory.
- Accepting and adhering to all league rules and policies related to the participation of adults and youth.
- Allowing and encouraging the players to listen, learn and play hard within the rules.
- Placing the emphasis on fun and participation.

**Code 12: I have a duty to report violations of this code to any of the following individuals in the following order depending on the circumstance of the violation and to skip any person in the following chain of reporting if that person is the one I am reporting:**

1. Head coach (if an assistant is reporting)
2. SPGSA Division Commissioner
3. SPGSA Coaches Coordinator
4. SPGSA Secretary
5. SPGSA Vice President
6. SPGSA President

**I also acknowledge that I have a duty to report any illegal activity related to any SPGSA event to the appropriate law enforcement agency.**

Any reported violation of this Coaches Code of Conduct will be investigated by the Commissioner for that division and will attempt to be resolved at the lowest level. If it cannot be resolved at the Commissioner's level, it will be assigned to a member of the SPGSA Executive Board for investigation and once all facts have been obtained and reviewed, the board will decide on the appropriate action. No complaint is considered valid until it has been thoroughly reviewed and all sides have been heard. If false accusations are made against coaches, those players and parents will be warned and could be removed from the league depending on circumstance. If any coaching personnel are found in violation of these code, possible disciplinary actions include (Note: although they are presented in a sequential order, the division commissioner/executive board member/board is not required to issue each step sequentially depending on the nature and severity of the violation):

1. Oral Warning
2. Written Warning
3. Single Game Suspension
4. Multi-Game Suspension
5. Season Suspension
6. Permanent Ban

It is understood by the SPGSA Board that Coaches are volunteers and that without these dedicated volunteers a successful league would not be possible. However, a tremendous amount of responsibility comes along with the decision to become a volunteer girls fastpitch softball

coach. It is the ultimate responsibility of the league to provide the greatest softball experience possible to every player. The league will provide coaches with training through coaches clinics (if desired), safety equipment, rule books, and safe, prepared playing fields. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your Commissioner or the League President, Thank you for your support and lets have a great season!