

Stillwater Area Fastpitch Association

Parent/Guardian/Coach Code of Conduct

It is a privilege, not a right, for players to participate in the Stillwater Area Softball Association (SAFA).

Sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play are essential to the sport of softball and are important skills our children can learn from youth softball.

Our children learn from our example, and we as parents and guardians need to exemplify the highest level of sportsmanship by supporting all players, coaches, team managers, umpires and parents positively.

THEREFORE, Parents/Guardians are expected to adhere to the following Code of Conduct Policy at all times:

1. Parents/Guardians will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, fans, volunteers and umpires at every game.
2. Parents/Guardians will not create a public display of anger toward coaches, players, umpires, board members and/or spectators in any area or via email, phone call, text messages, written or typed letters, social media, or any other means of communication.
3. Parents/Guardians/Coaches will never use abusive behavior or language towards anyone involved in their child's game, or attending an association game, at any area.
4. Parents/Guardians/Coaches will express any concern through proper channels in a respectful manner.
5. No parent/guardian/coach will contact any member of MN Softball regarding their issues with SAFA teams, player's playing time, position, game time or practice time discipline, or a Coach's strategy decisions.
6. No parent/guardian/coach will contact any member of the Stillwater Area Schools or Stillwater Community Education regarding issues with SAFA teams field assignments, field conditions, or anything related to fields.
7. Parents/Guardians agree to SAFA's 24-hour rule/waiting period for discussing problems or concerns related to a player's playing time, position, or game/practice playing discipline.
 - a. No parent/legal guardian or other relative of any SAFA player, in a fit of frustration/anger shall contact the Coach, Assistant Coaches, Level Director, or any member of the SAFA Board of Directors, regarding a player's playing time, position, game time or practice time discipline, or a Coach's strategy decisions regarding a player, in any manner, until 24 hours have expired from the incident in question.

8. Parents/Guardians/Coaches will respect and adhere to all rules and Code of Conduct of SAFA, TriCounty Softball, Minnesota Softball and USA Softball.

9. Parents/Guardians/Coaches will use social media appropriately, keeping all softball related posts positive and focused on SAFA, not the competition, and to be careful calling out names in order to treat all players fairly.
10. **DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES:** Should any occurrence take place as detailed in sections 1-9 above, the parent/legal guardian/coach will be subject to the disciplinary action as follows:
 - a. The SAFA Board of Directors may set forth a penalty ranging from a verbal warning up to suspending a parent/legal guardian/coach from all team functions for one week to the duration of the season. Continual abuse of conduct may result in the parent/player/coach being considered “a member not in good standing” and may result in permanent removal from the Stillwater Area Softball Association.
 - b. During the sanction, the parent/guardian/coach will not be allowed in any facility during a youth softball event, regardless if that parent/guardian/coach has another child participating at an event on a different team.
 - c. The disciplinary actions will start as quickly as possible after a disciplinary meeting between the appropriate SAFA Board Members and the involved parent(s)/legal guardian(s)/coache(s).
11. All inappropriate actions and resulting sanctions will be maintained in confidence by the SAFA Board of Directors and be cumulative throughout the family’s participation in SAFA. If appropriate, all sanctions will be forwarded to Minnesota Softball and Tri-County Softball for enforcement at any away games and tournaments.
12. The SAFA Board of Directors, or any Committee appointed by the SAFA Board of Directors, will enforce all violations and notify the individual(s) in writing, after a disciplinary meeting, outlining the sanction that is being set forth. This will be done in a timely manner.

Any SAFA member, Coach or Manager witnessing or involved in a violation of any portion of the SAFA Parent Code of Conduct can bring the issue forward, after the 24-Hour rule, to any member of the SAFA Board of Directors.

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