



Defiance Softball Association Code of Conduct

All players, coaches, and parents who participate in the Defiance Softball Association (“DSA or Defiance Softball”) (League, Clinics, Umpiring, Coaching programs and Board positions) are automatically bound by and must adhere to the Bill of Rights and Code of Conduct guidelines, outlined below.

Players Code of Conduct

As a player in Defiance Softball, I understand that I am expected to abide by the Players’ Code of Conduct guidelines described below:

- I will respect the game, my team-mates, my coaches and the umpires. I will never argue an umpire’s call. I will not make comments to an umpire from the field or bench. I will never argue a coach’s decision.
- I will settle disagreements with coaches and other players in a confidential / private manner after games and practices and away from other players.
- I will never fault other players when mistakes occur.
- I will always listen to and look at a coach while they are talking.
- I will always be in control of my temper.
- I understand that swearing, throwing equipment (bats and helmets) or any other actions that detract from the game will result in immediate removal from the game and possible suspension.
- I will work hard for myself and my team.
- I will take pride in myself and everything I do on the ball field.
- I will make every effort to maximize my playing ability.
- I will lead by being an example for my team mates.
- I will ALWAYS play by the rules.
- I will always show up on time for games and practices.
- I will never put down another player, coach, parent or member of Defiance Softball with the intent of humiliation, defamation, slander, ill will or intent to harm emotionally, socially, physically, verbally or conspire to hurt, isolate or target individuals, or impede a respectful and positive environment.
- I understand that the goals of playing in the Defiance Softball are to have fun, develop my skills and create team spirit.

Manager and Coach Code of Conduct

As a manager or coach of a Defiance Softball team, I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for each child participating by following this Code of Conduct:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all children, managers and coaches (including those of an opposing team). This applies to every game, practice, or any other Defiance Softball event.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all umpires, league officials and parents at every game or event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of all children on all teams ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will ask my players to treat all other players, coaches, umpires, league officials, and parents with respect.

- I promise to help my players enjoy playing in Defiance Softball by being respectful to all players, coaches, umpires league officials, and parents.
- I will insist that my players are in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free sports environment for my players and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all games, practices and events.
- I will remember that Defiance Softball is for children and not for adults.
- I will do all I can to make the game fun and safe for all the children involved.
- I will never put down another player, coach, parent or member of Defiance Softball with the intent of humiliation, defamation, slander, ill will or intent to harm emotionally, socially, physically, verbally or conspire to hurt, isolate or target individuals or impede a respectful and positive environment.
- I understand that the Defiance Softball is a volunteer organization that requires all parents to participate in activities, such as field preparation and scorekeeping. I therefore agree to enlist the support of all the parents of my players in this effort.
- I agree to be trained in the responsibilities of being an Defiance Softball Manager or Coach, including attending all manager meetings and training clinics.

Parent's Code of Conduct

As a parent of a child playing in Defiance Softball, I agree to and will comply with the Parent's Code of Conduct outlined below:

- I will remember that my child plays for their enjoyment, not for mine.
- I will always encourage my child to play by the rules.
- I will always encourage my child to respect the coaches, their team-mates and the umpires.
- I will never criticize umpire's judgment or direct negative comments towards them.
- I will not be a "Grand Stand" Manager during games or practices.
- I will always address any questions or concerns to the Coaching staff at the appropriate time, defined as after games or practices and away from the players.
- I will do my best to be a supportive, involved parent without interfering with the operation of the team.
- I realize that I have enrolled my child to have fun, develop their softball skills and have a positive team experience and will do my best to support these objectives.
- I understand that the game of softball is very difficult to learn and play.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud the good plays by both my child's team and their opponents.
- I will teach my child that trying their hardest despite the score or situation is extremely important.
- I understand that the goals of playing Defiance Softball are to have fun, develop my child's softball skills and create team spirit.
- I will never put down another player, coach, parent or member of Defiance Softball with the intent of humiliation, defamation, slander, ill will or intent to harm emotionally, socially, physically, verbally or conspire to hurt, isolate or target individuals or impede a respectful and positive environment.
- I understand that by not abiding by the guidelines of this Parents Code of Conduct or by displaying any other inappropriate conduct, will result in my being asked to leave the ball park and may possibly result in my child not playing.

Social Media Policy

CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

Per the Member Code of Conduct, the following Social Media conduct is a violation:

- a) Posting a disrespectful, hateful, insulting, or otherwise negative comment on any social media, including but not limited to a personal blog, in a Facebook post or note, or as a Tweet on Twitter, that is directed at Members or at other persons connected with Defiance Softball and related events.
- b) Posting a disparaging or harmful comment on any social media, including but not limited to personal blog, in a Facebook post or note, or as a Tweet on Twitter, that is directed at Defiance Softball and related events.
- c) Creating or contributing to social media, including but not limited to a Facebook group, webpage, blog, or online forum devoted solely or in part to promoting negative or disparaging remarks or commentary about Defiance Softball and related events.
- d) Posting a picture, altered picture, or video on any social media, including but not limited to Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, YouTube, or other social medium that is harmful, disrespectful, insulting, or otherwise offensive, and that is directed at Members or at other persons connected with Defiance Softball and related events.
- e) Any instance of cyber-bullying or cyber-harassment between one Member and another Member (including a teammate, coach, opponent, volunteer, or official), where incidents of cyber-bullying and cyber-harassment can include but are not limited to the following conduct on any social medium, via text-message, or via email: regular insults, negative comments, vexatious behavior, pranks or jokes, threats, posing as another person, spreading rumors or lies, or other harmful behavior.
- f) Any instance of bringing the game of softball into disrepute.
- g) Any illegal behavior captured in written or photographic form.

Harassment and Abuse

When a young person is harassed or abused by an adult occupying a position of trust, the impact can be devastating. A major hurdle to healing the wounds that inevitable result is non-disclosure: in order to recover, victims must be heard and believed. Harassment is understood as encompassing a very broad range of prohibited behavior, including discriminatory conduct, physical and sexual harassment, emotional, mental, physical and sexual abuse. Any instance of any harassment or abuse by any player or coach should be reported immediately to the Coach, League President or any Board member.

Reporting and Review Process

Any issue, grievance, or complaint that affects or involves any member of Defiance must first be filed with Defiance Softball. In the event an issue is reported, the Defiance Softball Board shall deal with all disciplinary matters, including suspensions and expulsions in accordance with its rules and policies. All complaints/issues will have reviews completed within 15 days of being reported to the League President or in the case of a complaint against the League President, the Board Chair.

PARENTS, COACHES, SPECTATORS AND/OR PLAYERS NOT COMPLYING WITH THESE RULES ARE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM THE PARK, DISMISSAL FROM THE LEAGUE OR OTHER ACTIONS AS MAY BE DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE BOARD IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION AND WITHOUT NOTICE.