



COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Thank you in advance for your dedication to Murrieta Valley Girls Softball Association (MVGSA). As a volunteer participating with MVGSA, we ask that you abide by all rules, guidelines, and policies established by MVGSA and USA Softball.

Coaching a youth sports program is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a Coach appointed by the MVGSA Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young ladies in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play, and teamwork - values they can use throughout their lives. The game of Softball embodies the discipline of teamwork. It challenges players towards the perfection of physical skills and brings into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of softball is also to teach that while every player eventually strikes out, or loses a game, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, MVGSA expects each head coach and assistant coaches to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Sportsmanship:

1. I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good softball skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I realize, accept and will practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.
3. I understand verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the MVGSA fields at the discretion of an umpire or MVGSA board member.
4. I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
5. I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach yell at an umpire, coach, fan, or player.
6. I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times when participating in a MVGSA game, practice or league event.
7. I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all MVGSA games, practices and league events.
8. I understand the use of tobacco products at all MVGSA games, practices and league events is prohibited.

Rules and Policies:

1. I will know and understand the USA Softball and MVGSA Bylaws, Disciplinary Policy and Rules and Regulations and abide by them.
2. I will understand the local league rules for my division. All coaches must ensure that each player gets minimum opportunities to bat and play the field in each game. I also understand that specific rules are also in place to limit the number and frequency of innings pitched by a particular player.
3. I will fully comply with the Player/Parent/Coach Code of Conduct, Social Media, Texting, Group Messaging Policy.
4. I will ensure an adult female non-player age eighteen (18) or older will and must be present at all team functions.
5. I will ensure all coaches and assistant coaches are a minimum of eighteen (18) year of age. All other team support personnel must be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age by January 1 of the current year.
6. I will review the MVGSA website www.mvgsa.com on a regular basis to make sure that I am informed of all updated MVGSA rules, policies and important dates.
7. I will ensure all volunteers are wearing the appropriate MVGSA identification when they are interacting with any children at a league game, practice or any league sanctioned event. Registration forms, team roster, field permit and concussion training certificates will be in my possession at all team functions.



COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

The Umpires and Other Resources:

1. I recognize softball is a game of interpretations, and as a result, disputes will occur from time to time. However, it is important that players learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the umpire will be handled in a civil manner. I understand only head coaches may initiate such discussions with an umpire. The coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the coaches will make no further field argument. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Board of Directors per league policy.
2. I understand some of the umpires are "in training" as well as the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as a coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position within the game deserves.
3. I will direct any concerns regarding any player to the League Player Agent and my respective Division Vice President (DVP).
4. I will be responsible for caring for league equipment, for the care of fields prior to games/practices and for cleaning up fields, dugouts and stands after games in accordance with policies that MVGSA may establish from time to time. I will make sure that all league-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

The Parents and the League:

1. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond in a courteous manner.
2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals, and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of MVGSA, i.e. MVGSA is organized as a recreational league, meant for the enjoyment of all the players.
3. I will ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at games and practices and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.
4. I will support, through participation and organization of parents, MVGSA in all fundraising efforts along with other duties that may be assigned to teams from time to time.

The Team:

1. I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.
2. I will focus on providing instruction commensurate with players abilities so all players have the opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further softball competition.
3. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
4. I understand that coaches are appointed by the league to be responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team in communications with the umpires, opposing teams, and the league. If a coach leaves the field, he/she shall designate an assistant coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the head coach's duties.

Non-Game Duties of Head Coaches:

Each head coach has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games. Accordingly, if I am a head coach, I will adhere to the following as well:

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.
2. I will attend all required coach meetings, safety, and clinics unless I am out of town or have a significant previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.

Mandatory:

- a. A team representative or myself **WILL** attend the Scorekeepers Clinic and Team Parent Meeting. I understand it is **MANDATORY**. I understand that failure of myself or a team representative to attend these mandatory meetings will result in discipline in accordance with the MVGSA Disciplinary Policy.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- b. Myself as Head Coach and at least one Assistant Coach **WILL** have the two required online Concussion Training Courses completed **BEFORE** our first practice. I understand that failure to provide the course completion certificates for both will result in a possible one game suspension.
 - c. Myself as Head Coach **WILL** attend the **MANDATORY** Risk Management Clinic and Coach's Clinic.
3. I will be responsible for and will obtain a team sponsorship in the amount of \$200. If a sponsor check is not submitted to the League Sponsorship Coordinator by the designated date, I will accept my suspension of the next game and every game thereafter until sponsorship money is received.
Suggested options as follows:
 - a. Find a sponsor on your own.
 - b. Ask the parents on your team to seek sponsorship.
 - c. Charge the parents equally totaling \$200.00.
 - d. Ask for assistance from the Sponsorship Coordinator to seek sponsorship.
4. I will complete, obtain and submit to the League all required paperwork, which will include Volunteer Applications and Player/Parent Code of Conduct forms. I will ensure all volunteers complete SafeSport, if applicable.
5. I will ensure all scores and pitchers outs are reported to the League Head Scorekeeper by midnight of the official end time for each game. I will have a four (4) game grace period at the beginning of the season to correctly report scores, with one (1) Written Warning issued within the first four games. After the four (4) game grace period, failure to report scores and pitchers' outs shall result in a one (1) game suspension for the head coach to be served during the next regularly scheduled, played game for that team.
6. I will make sure that I maintain a notebook containing the Player Registration Forms with the medical section signed by a parent/guardian and the MVGSA Rules and make sure it is present at each team practice and game.
7. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and MVGSA DVP. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.

MVGSA Coaches Code of Conduct:

I agree to follow the Code of Conduct and comply with all League rules, policies and procedures. I understand the violation of the Code will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action in accordance with the MVGSA By-laws under Article VI and VII, and could include a warning, game(s) suspension or season suspension, as well as, impact my opportunity to coach in future seasons. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to speak to some or all of the Board at any time and that if called my failure to so attend could result in an immediate suspension. I understand that if I am suspended, I will not be permitted to attend any league functions, practices, or games, as a volunteer of Murrieta Valley Girls Softball Association and forfeiture of all or portion of daughter registration discount.

Coach Signature _____

Coach Name (printed) _____

Date _____

Division _____ Team Name _____

Divisional VP Signature _____

COACH MAY BE RELEASED FROM COACHING AT ANYTIME AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY
THE MVGSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

