

## Woodbridge Softball Association



### MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of Woodbridge Softball Association is to promote, govern and improve a softball program for children. Our mission is to provide all the registered players an equal opportunity to participate, regardless of ability. To develop and encourage the opportunity to learn and play softball while focusing on sportsmanship, athleticism and teamwork, always encouraging fun and fair play for the betterment of their physical, mental and social well being.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

For us to meet our objectives, each participant has important responsibilities that they must follow. This includes the WSA Executives, Convenors, Umpires, Coaches, Parents and Players.

#### **Association's Responsibilities**

The Executive will guide and steer the WSA League from year to year, ensuring the we can meet our financial objectives and look for ways to improve the overall environment for the most important asset we have – *the player*.

As part of the Executive your most important responsibilities are:

- To fully discuss all changes to rules, personnel and policies to ensure that it will result in a more positive experience for the players in our House League.
- To choose the right people as Convenors, Coaches, Umpires and Committee Members to improve the image of WSA as an excellent sports organization.
- To provide the right tools, training and support to our front line volunteers, the Coaches and Umpires, to ensure their success on building and managing our House League.
- To provide communication to all stakeholders -players, parents and volunteers - to keep them up to date on important changes and positive information on league experiences.
- To listen to our stakeholders to collect ideas and input on possible improvements to how we operate.

- To show leadership in building a positive WSA atmosphere by reinforcing all of the responsibilities of the Convenor, Umpire, Coach, Parent and Player as we participate in events and games throughout the season.
- To create an organization that provides our players with the enthusiasm to continue a lifelong participation in sports and bring them back to the WSA year after year.

### **Convenors' Responsibilities**

The Convenor plays a critical role in making sure that we can meet the WSA Objectives. They serve as the front line executive volunteer directly supporting the Coaches who have the most influence on ensuring that a player has a positive experience and thereby wishes to return the next year.

As a Convenor your most important responsibilities are:

- To be visible and attend as many games as possible to ensure that our objectives are being met and the Coaches are managing their teams in a way that allows every participant to have fun, improve their skills and play competitive ball.
- To be decisive in resolving conflicts and making sure that all those involved understand that any judgement made is consistent and supports the Association's objective of sportsmanship, fair play and athleticism while having fun.
- To provide communication to all stakeholders - players, parents and volunteers - to keep them up to date on important changes and positive information on league experiences.
- To listen to our stakeholders to collect ideas and input on possible improvements to how we operate.
- To show leadership in building a positive WSA atmosphere by reinforcing all of the responsibilities of the Umpire, Coach, Parent and Player as we administer the divisional games throughout the season.

### **Umpires' Responsibilities**

The Umpire has a difficult role to fill, ensuring that all participants follow the rules while trying not to negatively influence the playing experience or determine the outcome of the game. They must have firm control of the game and not let conflicts escalate to the point where it creates a situation that overshadows the objective of having fun and playing competitive ball.

As an Umpire your most important responsibilities are:

- To make sure that all conditions are right for any game to begin - a safe playing surface, any safety issues addressed, and any field problems that may affect play noted and that both teams are ready to play.

- To make sure that there are no surprises, clearly outline any rules prior to the beginning of the game that must be followed by each team.
- To give your best effort at managing the rules and staying alert throughout the game to provide a positive playing situation for the participants.
- To apply your best judgment fairly to both teams.

### **Coaches' Responsibilities**

You are one of the most influential people in a child's life. Your job is not only to teach how to hit a ball or make a play, but also to teach how to win and lose graciously. You must also remind them that the sport is meant to be FUN. The athletic skills these young boys and girls learn from you may only be used for a few years. The attitudes they develop toward themselves and others will last a lifetime. As a Coach your most important responsibilities are:

- To serve as a positive role model for your players, both on and off the field.
- To display good sportsmanship in all cases, both as a winner and as a loser.
- To teach respect for all players, both teammates and your competitors.
- To show respect for the rules, the officials and their decisions.
- To show leadership in building a team atmosphere, by using constructive advice and positive reinforcement.
- To help your athletes develop a positive self-image for themselves, no matter what their skill level.
- To provide your players with the enthusiasm to continue a life-long participation in sport.
- To teach them that Softball can be competitive and fun. Don't ever let the competitive part destroy the fun part.

### **Parents' Responsibilities**

Parents have the opportunity to lead by example every day. To ensure that your child has a fun and fulfilling experience with softball, and hopefully with sports for the rest of their life, you should support and encourage their efforts. Your comments and actions are reflected onto the team and game through your child. Please use the utmost discretion in sharing any adverse feelings regarding other players or coaching decisions in front of your child.

As a Parent your most important responsibilities are:

- To remember that my child plays softball for his/her enjoyment, not for mine.
- To not put pressure on my child to play a sport or a position.
- To lead by example and serve as a positive role model. I will applaud good plays and performances by both teams on the field. I will never resort to abuse or hostility towards any other participant, coach, umpire or association official.
- To never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a game. I will offer support and stress the fun that he or she had that day.
- To teach my child to display good sportsmanship in all cases, both as a winner and a loser.
- To show respect for the rules, the officials and their decisions. I will support the coaches, umpires and league officials and show appreciation for the time that these volunteers give to provide a fun and competitive environment for my child.
- Provide my child with the enthusiasm to continue a life-long participation in sport.

### **Players' Responsibilities**

The player has made a commitment to the league and their team by signing up to play softball with WSA. They should make the most of the experience by joining in, having fun and participating in every practice and game to improve their skills.

As a Player your most important responsibilities are:

- To participate because I want to and to remember to always have fun.
- To remember to always play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- To remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best is also important.
- To contribute to my team by giving all my effort and supporting my teammates. I will never let my team down by missing games and practices without good reason.
- To respect my opponents and always acknowledge all good plays - those of my teammates and of my opponents.
- To show respect for the rules, the umpires and their decisions. I will never verbally abuse an umpire and will display good sportsmanship in all situations.
- To recognize and thank all those who volunteer their time -Convenors and Coaches - to provide me with the support and organization to play a sport that I enjoy.

## **Problem Resolution**

We understand that everyone has differences of opinion. As a board we have tried to make the expectations of our players, coaches and parents more clear. However, we must be able to communicate our differences in a fair and approachable manner. It will not benefit your child, the coach or the Association if we find out there is a major problem on a team at the end of the year, especially if no one has communicated this to someone who may have been able to resolve this at an earlier stage. We strongly urge you to discuss any concerns with the Division VP or Coach first. If adequate resolution cannot be reached via this method we would greatly appreciate you contacting a member of the WSA Executive.

## **WOODBRIIDGE SOFTBALL GENERAL RULES**

### **Uniforms**

- 1) All players must wear official Woodbridge Softball house league uniforms (team shirts, pants, hat). No alterations will be allowed. There will be no exceptions.
- 2) Any person not following this dress code will not be allowed to play that game.
- 3) All coaches are encouraged to wear their teams' shirts and hats. At least one coach must wear their team shirt.
- 4) No baseball or softball shoes with detachable cleats are allowed. No metal cleats, spikes, or shoes with detachable cleats that could leave an exposed fastener, are allowed.

### **Helmets**

- 1) All helmets must remain on the players head, with the chinstrap done up, from when they go to the on deck circle, until they have returned to the dugout.
- 2) First offense when a player removes their helmet will be a team warning.
- 3) Second offense, the player will be out for that inning.

### **Jewellery**

- 1) All jewellery must be removed. This includes hair barrettes, wristwatches, bracelets, neck chains, or any other item judged dangerous by the umpire.

- 2) Ear studs must be removed or taped. Other pierced jewellery (i.e. studs or rings in the nose, lips, or tongue) must be removed.
- 3) Medical alert bracelets or neck chains are allowed. They are not to be removed or taped.
- 4) Any player that comes to bat with jewellery on will receive a warning
- 5) A second warning during the same game will result in an automatic out for the player for that inning.

### **Protective Cup**

- 1) Athletic protectors while not mandatory are recommended and are the responsibility of each player/parents.

### **THE PLAYING FIELD WITH A SAFETY BASE**

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO THE DOUBLE BASE:

- 1) Half the rectangle base is white and should be securely fastened in position over fair territory and half is red and should be securely fastened in position in foul territory.
- 2) A batted ball hitting the white portion is declared fair and batted ball hitting the orange portion is declared foul.
- 3) A defensive player must use ONLY the white portion of the base at all times.
- 4) After over running the base, the batter-runner must return to the white portion.
- 5) Should the batter-runner round the base on a hit through the infield or to the outfield, he must return to the white portion.
- 6) When tagging up on a fly ball, the white portion must be used.

NOTE: Once a runner returns to the white portion, should he stand on the orange only, it is considered not in contact with the base and the runner will be called out if he or she;

- i. is tagged with the ball or
- ii. leads off from the red on a pitched ball.

NOTE: The lines that define an area are part of that area.

## **PROTECTED PLAYERS - House League Program**

### **Purpose:**

- ❖ To create equal opportunity and an enjoyable atmosphere in competition

### **Guidelines:**

- ❖ **CHALLENGED** players will play on a level & team suggested by their parent(s) and approved by their parent(s) and the Woodbridge Softball Executive
- ❖ **FEMALE** players will be allowed to play one year age level below present age level
- ❖ **COACH & CHILD** will be assigned same team if the player is the correct age for the Division
- ❖ **SPONSOR & CHILD** will be assigned same team if the player is the correct age for the Division
- ❖ **COACH ASSIGNED A CHALLENGED PLAYER** will be awarded first pick of two players in higher evaluation level

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

### **Coach's Code of Ethics**

#### **Commitment to the Players**

1. Coaches will provide a copy of the Coach's and Player's Code of Ethics to each player on their team.
2. Coaches will put the welfare of the players above all else while maintaining professional relationships with them.
3. All games will be conducted within the communicated rules of WSA.
4. Coaches will encourage the players to maintain sportsmanship at all times.
5. Coaches will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, or qualified handicapped or challenged persons.
6. Coaches will follow Association, governing body and Provincial rules regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

### **Commitment to Your Program**

1. Coaches will behave in such a way that they will bring credit to themselves and pride to the Association.
2. Coaches will exhibit professionalism in their actions, words and attire.
3. Coaches will act in full accordance with the Association and Provincial Governing Body rules.
4. Coaches will immediately report any violation of league or governing body rules regardless of how minor they believe the violation to be.
5. Dissatisfaction with the implementation of Association and governing body rules will be addressed through the proper channels and not through the media and through public opinion.

### **Commitment to Other Coaches**

1. A coach has an obligation to be honest and forthright during the recruiting process. A coach must refrain from making derogatory statements about another coach or program.
2. Coaches will treat their colleagues with dignity and respect.
3. Coaches will honour all relationships with their colleagues. They will avoid conflicts of interest and exploitation of these relationships.

### **Commitment to Umpires**

1. All game umpires will be treated in a professional and respectable manner at all times.
2. Any displeasure with an umpire's actions or conduct will be addressed through the proper channels and not through the media or through public opinion.
3. Woodbridge Softball Association members will strive to develop positive working relations with the umpires.

### **Coach's Fair Play Code**

1. Be reasonable in your demands on the young player's time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
2. Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should ignore or break.
3. Avoid over coaching the talented players. The "just average" players need and deserve equal opportunity.

4. Remember that children play for the fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the players for making mistakes or losing a competition.
5. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
6. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
7. Remember that players need a coach that they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
8. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on the newest coaching principles and techniques.
9. Create opportunities to teach sportsmanship.
10. Help players understand the fundamental philosophical differences between the games they play and professional games shown on TV. The professional is an entertainer and a wage earner whose play often reflects these facts.
11. Make players aware of the physical fitness values of sports and their life-long recreational value.
12. Coaches will actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their spectators working closely with parents and other fans.

### **Player's Code of Ethics**

#### **Fair Play Code for Athletes**

1. I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules, and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper - fighting and "mouthing off" can spoil the activity for everybody.
4. I will respect my opponents.
5. I will do my best to be a team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays/performances - those of my team and of my opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.
9. I will remember that when I play or practice the game of softball, wherever I am, I represent my team, my city, but most of all myself.

## **Fair Play Code for Spectators**

1. I will remember that children play sport for their enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me.
2. I will not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that young players are not miniature professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
3. I will respect the official's decisions and I will encourage participants to do the same.
4. I will never ridicule an athlete for making a mistake during a game. I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
5. I will condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in an appropriate manner to coaches and league officials.
6. I will show respect for my team's opponents, because without them there would be no game.
7. I will not use bad language, nor will I harass athletes, coaches, or officials or other spectators.

## **Official's Code of Ethics**

### **Fair Play Code**

1. WSA has entrusted us to assist them in the development of our youth through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials will be independent, impartial and responsible to people they serve.
2. An official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and credible service in a fair and unbiased manner.
3. An official must work with fellow officials and the Association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.
4. An official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
5. An official must constantly uphold the honour and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the athletes, coaches' administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.
6. An official will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game and Softball Canada's expectations.

7. Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

### **Commitment to Players and Coaches**

1. I will make sure that every player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability, within the limits of the rules.
2. I will avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the players.
3. I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
4. I will not permit the intimidation of any player either by word or action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward officials, other players, spectators or myself.
5. I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings toward a team or individual athlete.
6. I accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
7. I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.