

West Shore Minors Code of Conduct

Preamble:

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for players, parents, coaches and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self-control.

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a youth sports event and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct:

- I will not engage or encourage unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee. (Including all forms of media)
- I will not engage or encourage any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
- I will not engage or encourage verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
- I will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in a West Shore Minors event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I will comply with USA Softball and regulations of local townships regarding use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco including electronic smoking devices. (USA Softball: Article 310 L 02: At no time shall any players, coaches or managers be allowed to drink alcoholic beverages or smoke on the field or in the dugout.)
- I will not engage or encourage the use of profanity.
- I will encourage and treat any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or ability.
- I will not initiate or encourage a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.

West Shore Minors has the right to act on any action deemed detrimental to the association including but not limited to the above listed conducts.

I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the foregoing while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a West Shore event I will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following in any order or combination:

- Verbal warning issued by West Shore Minors.
- Written warning issued by West Shore Minors.
- Suspension or immediate ejection from a West Shore Minors event issued by a league official who is authorized to issue such suspension or ejection by West Shore Minors.
- Suspension from multiple youth sports events issued by West Shore Minors official who is authorized to issue such suspension.
- Season suspension or multiple season suspension issued by West Shore Minors.

In PA, the Criminal Code at 18 PaC.S.2701 defines a simple assault as “attempting to cause, or intentionally or knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury to another” or “attempt by physical menace to put another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury.” This means you don’t have to hit the person; all you have to do is make the person fear that they will be hit. 18 Pa.C.S. 2712 provides for “Assault on a Sports Official.” Sports officials are defined as “a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach.” The penalty for violating this law is a 1st degree misdemeanor which carries a maximum jail term of 5 years and/or a maximum fine of \$10,000. In short, don’t argue with the referee or coaches; have fun and enjoy the game. It is not worth risking jail and debt over a perceived bad call.