



Verona Area Girls Softball Association PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

All Parents/Guardians that have an athlete playing on a VAGSA Softball Team and plan to attend VAGSA functions and games shall review and agree to the following Code of Conduct.

PARENTS' CODE:

As a parent, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of youngsters. Through your encouragement and good example, you can help all the girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. In VAGSA people learn to work together, sacrifice for the good of the team, enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat – all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.

- SUPPORT YOUR ATHLETE

Supporting your athlete by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team is very important. Help your athlete work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every practice and game. Teach your athlete that hard work and honest effort are often more important than victory– that way your athlete will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game! Softball is a team sport and it is imperative that they practice as a team. As a parent it is your responsibility to get your athlete to and from every practice. Please be respectful of your coaches' time and don't be late to practice and don't make your coach hang around and wait for you to pick up your athlete. This is a common courtesy and will go a long way toward a positive fun season of practice and softball play.

- ALWAYS BE POSITIVE

Parents serve as role models for their children. Become aware of this and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your athlete's teams as well as good plays by the opposing team. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.

- REMEMBER: YOUR ATHLETE WANTS TO HAVE FUN

Remember that your athlete is the one playing softball, not you. It's very important to let your athlete establish their own goals – to play the game themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them. Don't put too heavy a burden on your athlete to win games or be the team's star. Athletes play for the fun of playing and striving to enhance their competitive play in each game.

- REINFORCE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

Positive reinforcement is the best way to help your athlete achieve their goals and natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes. If your athlete does make one, remember it's all part of learning, so encourage your athlete's efforts and point out the good things your athlete accomplished. Your athlete will not learn from doing everything right, they learn from their mistakes and this will improve their game.

- DON'T BE A BACKSTOP COACH OR UMPIRE

Coaches and umpires are usually parents just like you. They work to help make our athlete's softball experience a positive one. They need your support too. That means refraining from coaching or umpiring from the sidelines. If you do not like the way a game was called you can make your comments to your team coach after the game. They can then pass those on to the VAGSA Board if they feel it necessary.

PARENTS CODE OF ETHICS & SPORTSMANSHIP:

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my athlete participating in the VAGSA Softball Team by following this Parent's Code of Conduct. I will:

- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other softball events both on and off the field of play.
- Place the emotional and physical well being of my athlete ahead of my desire to win.
- Insist that my athlete play in a safe and healthy environment and within their means.
- Teach my athlete to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Remain respectful toward all players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Refrain from coaching my athlete or other players during games or practices unless requested by the coach.
- Not argue or complain about umpire's calls or decisions and refrain from using profanity at all times.
- Support coaches and officials working with my athlete, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable softball experience.
- Demand a sports environment for my athlete that is drug, tobacco and alcohol free.
- Remember that the game is for youth – not adults and I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for all athletes.
- I will ask my athlete to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- I will help my athlete enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectful fan, providing transportation when needed, and being an appropriate representative of VAGSA Softball at games, practices, and other team functions.

Team: 10U 12U 14U 16U

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____