



**2018 - 2019**

**SOFTBALL HANDBOOK  
& LEAGUE RULES**

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## **Carrollton Boosters**

We are a volunteer youth sports organization. Our goal is for Carrollton Baseball to be a rewarding experience for our players and their families. It is important to remember that having fun and learning the skills of the sport are both important parts of a quality youth sports experience. We encourage the spirit of competition but we demand good sportsmanship from all who participate in our program. Sometimes coaches and fans get frustrated or carried away in the excitement of a game. Winning a championship is an important goal but our greatest aspiration should be that playing softball this summer will be remembered fondly by every player on our team.

### **Sportsmanship**

It is entirely appropriate to cheer when your team succeeds in a competitive situation. However, striking out in the 4, 5-6 and 7-8 leagues is a non-competitive situation since the pitcher is not the batter's opponent but his coach. Consequently, it is inappropriate and unsportsmanlike to cheer when a batter strikes out in these leagues and we would ask all fans to appreciate this and act accordingly.

Further, it is never appropriate, as a fan, player or parent, in any league to attempt to distract the pitcher or batter while the game is underway. Fans and parents are not allowed to stand behind the backstop and talk, yell, cheer or otherwise instruct or distract any of the game participants – particularly the pitchers and batters – while the game is underway. It is also not acceptable, as a parent or fan, to distract the batter by yelling “swing” “strike” or any similar phrase. Please cheer and support your team in a positive fashion and do not cheer against or argue with the other team, its players, fans and coaches. Remember that we are a recreational league for children and the most important contribution we can all make to the success of the program is through the example we set as parents, fans and coaches.

## **Park Rules**

### **All Players**

1. Players arriving late can create a serious disruption to a coach's game plan. Players are expected to be in uniform, with their team before the start time for a game. Every head coach will prepare a batting order of players and submit it to the official scorer 5 minutes before game time. In leagues where teams bat through the order without substitutes, all players present at the start of the game must be in the batting order. In leagues where substitutes are used, the starting batter and the substitute must be properly identified in the batting order position they will share. Batting orders may be adjusted to account for players arriving prior to the first pitch being thrown. After that the following rules apply.
  - a. Players arriving after the start of the game, but before the first pitch is thrown in the second inning, remain eligible players. In leagues batting without substitutes, a late arriving player is added to the end of the batting order. In leagues where substitutes are used, the late arriving player will be added as a substitute. Late arriving players may not supplant any player in the original batting order. They may be added as a substitute, or at the bottom of the order in leagues that play without substitute batters.

- b. Unless there is an injury, no defensive player may come off the bench in the middle of his team's defensive half-inning, including a late arriving player. Exception: when a team is playing shorthanded on defense, a late arriving player may play any vacant defensive position, but under no circumstance are players to be shifted around in the middle of an inning to allow a late arriving player to cause another player to vacate a defensive position to be assumed by the late arriving player.
  - c. Any late arriving player playing a partial defensive inning will be deemed to have played an inning for purpose of the every other inning rule.
2. Official Carrollton Booster team shirts and team caps or visors must be properly worn by all players in the field or dugout, except the catcher (or pitcher in softball) who may choose to not wear a cap.
  3. In all softball leagues, every eligible player must play in the field at least every other inning and bat every time through the batting order.
  4. In the competitive leagues the Jamboree held at the beginning of the season is intended as a preseason warm-up.. Rained out Jamboree games will not be rescheduled.
  5. Players who do not participate in at least two-thirds of their team's scheduled games and practices may be excluded from future Carrollton Boosters sports programs.

#### **BATTING CAGE RULES PRE-GAME PRIORITY**

- a. For one hour prior to a team's scheduled game on a field, such team shall have the priority to use a batting cage for pre-game batting practice. When all batting cages are fully occupied by teams engaged in pre-game batting practice, opposing teams are **STRONGLY** encouraged to share the one-hour time in an equitable manner.
- b. In all circumstances, including the pre-game situation described above, when a team is using a batting cage and any other team is waiting, the team using the cage must limit the use to a total of 30 minutes commencing from the time that the team first entered the batting cage. **HONOR SYSTEM**
- c. A Coach may not occupy or hold a batting cage when no players are available for batting practice.
- d. Teams may only use one batting cage at a time (unless no other Carrollton Coach wants to use one).
- e. Coaches in the 4/5/6 leagues or any other parent or coach must promptly vacate the batting cage when a team is ready to use a batting cage for the pre-game situation described above.
- f. Except for the pre-game situation described above, no team or league has any preference or priority over any other team or league or over any particular batting cage.
- g. **NON-GAME PRACTICE PRIORITY.** If a team is occupying one of our fields for practice, any other team that is not practicing on a field has preference to a batting cage over the team with the field. Due to limited facilities, one team cannot utilize both a field and a batting cage when all batting cages are being used. All facilities must be shared.
- h. **SAFETY RULES**
  - i. All players engaged in batting practice must wear protective batting helmets. This rule applies not only in the batting cages but anywhere a coach is practicing.
    - ii. Anyone pitching to a batter in a batting cage must be at least 18 years of age.
    - iii. Players may not swing bats while waiting outside a batting cage.
    - iv. We ask all parents and coaches to enforce these safety rules. Regardless of any rules, we ask that all parents, coaches and players work together and share the batting cages on a reasonable good faith basis.

## **Administrative**

1. Postponed games can be rescheduled by the league coordinator at any time on any day, weekends included, 4th of July only excluded. A game may be rescheduled as early as the next day. No special arrangements with the league coordinator will be permitted.
2. NO PETS, LITTERING, CLIMBING ON FENCES, HITTING OR THROWING BALLS INTO FENCES, OR DIGGING IN THE FIELD OF PLAY IS ALLOWED IN THE PARK Intentional damage to park property may be prosecuted.
3. NO PROFANITY, VERBAL ABUSE, HARASSMENT, FIGHTING OR OTHER DISORDERLY OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT IS ALLOWED IN THE PARK. Penalty for violation of this rule may include disqualification (ejection), revocation of player, coach, or fan privileges (suspension), and/or any other penalties deemed appropriate by the commissioners of baseball or softball or the board of directors.
4. Fans may not enter the dugouts or field of play at any time without permission from the league coordinator.
5. NO BEER, ALCOHOL, OR SMOKING IS ALLOWED IN THE DUGOUTS OR ON THE FIELDS. Coaches may not leave their dugout to participate in these activities during a game in progress. Cell phones may not be used in the dugouts or on the fields except in emergencies.
6. Players may not be assessed more than \$20 per player for any expense during the season, including but not limited to rental of courts, fields, batting cages, parties, or coach's gift without prior approval from the commissioner of the sport.

## **Disciplinary actions**

1. Umpires are responsible for enforcing the rules of the game and for maintaining order while a game is in progress. Umpires have the authority to disqualify (eject) players, coaches, or fans for disorderly or unsportsmanlike conduct. The umpire's decision may not be appealed. Non-sanctioned umpires must first receive approval from the league coordinator (or their designee) before the penalty is imposed.
2. League coordinators (or their designee) are responsible for management of the league and enforcement of league and park rules at all times. League coordinators have the authority to 1) disqualify (eject) players, coaches, or fans, and/or 2) revoke (suspension) player, coach, or fan privileges for disorderly or unsportsmanlike conduct. If the league coordinator is unable or unavailable to perform these functions the commissioners of baseball or softball will be responsible.
3. Disqualified (ejected) players may not participate in the game. If their parent or guardian is present they must leave the playing field, dugout, and bleacher areas of the game and may not address umpires, players, or coaches while the game is in progress. If their parent or guardian is not present they must quietly remain in the dugout until the game is completed. Failure to comply with the umpire's order may result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
4. Disqualified (ejected) coaches and fans must leave the playing field, dugout, and bleacher areas of the game and may not address umpires, players, or coaches while the game is in progress. Failure to comply with the umpire's order may result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team. If a coach or fan continues to behave in a disorderly or unsportsmanlike manner the league coordinator has the authority to revoke their privileges for one game. The league coordinator may also recommend a longer suspension to the commissioner of baseball or softball. The umpire's or league coordinator's decisions regarding disqualifications and game forfeiture are final.

5. Revocation of player, coach, or fan privileges means the player, coach, or fan is not allowed to play, practice, attend, or participate in any activity with their team until the suspension period has ended. Offending players coaches and fans may be required to meet with the Commissioner of Softball, or other Boosters Club representatives before resuming participation.

**CARROLLTON BOOSTER BASEBALL/SOFTBALL**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS**

We ask all parents to adhere to the following code of conduct:

1. **I will let the players play.** Players need to concentrate while they play and negative pressure from the fans does not improve their performance. Cheer them when they do well, encourage them when they don't, but be positive in how you do it. Don't expect more than they can deliver, and most importantly be a fan of everyone on the team, not just your own child.
2. **I will let the coaches coach.** Remember that your child's coach may have a different style and/or philosophy than you. Some coaches believe that players should gain experience at all positions. Others believe it is better for the team if each player specializes at one position. Some coaches don't care as much about winning and just want the kids to have fun. Others place more emphasis on winning and believe that even players that don't play as much have more fun when they are on a winning team. It is IMPORTANT to remember that your child's coach, not you, is responsible for how the team is managed. He or she volunteered to accept that responsibility and is giving up a lot of time for the love of the game and the kids. Your child's coach deserves your cooperation and respect even if you disagree with how s/he manages the team.
3. **I will let the umpires umpire.** Bad calls are going to happen but most officials are doing their best. Respect the umpire's decisions and don't embarrass yourself by questioning a call, especially if you don't know the rules. Blaming the umpire for a bad outcome to a game is a hallmark of poor sportsmanship. If the ball takes a bad bounce, set a good example for the kids and deal with it like an adult.
4. **I will be a good sport.** Be civil and don't verbally abuse players, coaches, umpires, or other fans. Losing is part of athletic competition. Accept losing graciously and teach your child to do the same by your good example. Respect the other team's fans and players. Never blame your child or another member of the team for a loss; teams win and lose together. Keep your post-game discussions with your child positive. If you don't like something about the way the coach managed the game, keep it to yourself and don't damage your child's opinion of the coach.
5. **I will prepare my child to participate.** Make sure your child gets to practices and games on time or better still early. Make sure they have the proper equipment and water. Notify your coach in advance if you will miss a practice or a game. Don't expect the coach to teach your child everything s/he needs to know to play the game well. Even if you are not skilled yourself, spend time with your child playing catch or pitching to them. You may be surprised how much this small effort can help your child's skills develop.
6. **I will communicate responsibly.** Your coach can't address a problem if he or she doesn't know it exists. Neither can the league coordinator or the commissioner. Most of the volunteer leaders at Carrollton Boosters will welcome constructive input about important matters delivered in a civil manner. Most won't welcome your input if it's petty or delivered in attack mode.
7. **I will help keep the park clean and safe.** Please use the trash receptacles. If you see a child doing something they shouldn't, especially something unsafe like swinging a bat or throwing a ball in a crowded area, stop them. We're all in this together.

## **CARROLLTON BOOSTER BASEBALL/SOFTBALL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES**

We ask all coaches to adhere to the following code of conduct:

1. **I will provide a safe playing environment.** Attend a safety clinic at least once a year to review the basic principles of first aid. Make sure there are at least two adults at each practice. Ask parents to make sure players have water when it's hot and humid.
2. **I will be a good sport.** Be civil. Don't verbally abuse players, fans, umpires, or other coaches. Lead by example and teach players and parents the principles of fair play and good sportsmanship.
3. **I will remember that the game is for the children.** Place the interests of the players ahead of your personal desire to win. Be able to honestly tell yourself that you operate in the best interest of all the kids at Carrollton, not just your child or your team.
4. **I will remember that different players have different abilities.** Learn each player's strengths and weaknesses and help them perform at their highest level.
5. **I will do my best to know the rules of my sport.** If you don't know the rules your team might lose a game because of your mistake. Learn the rules and teach them to your players and parents.
6. **I will do my best to know the skills of my sport.** We are all volunteers and everybody starts off inexperienced. If you're a rookie, buy a book on coaching and read it. Take advantage of the coaching clinics sponsored by the club. Find a good assistant coach. Watch and work with experienced coaches to improve your coaching skills.
7. **I will prepare myself for practices.** Don't wait until you get to the field. Be organized and have a plan for each practice and for the season. Schedule practices as far in advance as possible and make sure your entire team is notified. Make practices challenging so they'll hold the kids' interest.
8. **I will be responsible for the behavior of my players and fans.** If a player or parent from your team behaves in a disorderly or unsportsmanlike manner it is your responsibility to deal with it.
9. **I will communicate responsibly.** Keep your parents and players informed. Keep in touch with your league coordinator. If a problem comes up during the season talk to someone and resolve it before it gets out of hand.
10. **I will do my best to make each child's experience on my team a good one.** Someday they will look back and tell their children about their little league coach. Make sure the memories are good ones.

**Each child on your team is entrusted to your care by their parents or guardians and by Carrollton Boosters. As an adult coach of children we ask you to carefully consider each item on this list before you volunteer to coach.**