



Aurora Raptors Philosophy and Code of Conduct

Youth softball can be an exciting and fun opportunity for your child to learn new skills, make new friends, and have fun. As fun as it can be for your child, different expectations from the coach, parent(s), and player can unfortunately take away from that positive experience in a number of ways. As you read through this, please make sure our program's philosophy fits with your expectations of what you want for your child.

Coaching Philosophy

- We believe that kids gain confidence and a love for the game through positive feedback from parents, coaches, and other players. Skill level develops at different rates for kids. We try to always provide positive feedback for effort.
- We strive to talk with all the players at some point during the practices and games. We want them to know that we're interested in what they have to say.
- We believe in trying to make practices as fun and entertaining for the kids as possible, while providing the practice and instruction they need to improve. I've found that kids expect and respond to well structured, and organized practices. Attention spans vary, so we will strive to keep them moving and active.
- Teamwork and developing friendships is an important part of any team sport. We will tell the girls how important it is for them to support each other and always be positive towards their teammates and coaches.
- Competition is an important element of any sport. We don't talk to the girls about "needing to win a game" or "how important it is that we win". I feel my role, and that of my coaches and the parents, is helping the kids develop the ability to deal with competition in a healthy way. There are teaching moments from every win and loss. Effort, attitude and improving every day is our focus!
- We work on teaching fundamentals and skills during practice, but I believe the game is their time. We will give instruction during the game if we feel it will help with their performance, but in general, we try and let them enjoy the game. I hope as parents you will do the same.

Objectives

1. Help your child develop the skills necessary to be successful at this level. Please understand we have varying levels of skill and awareness of the game on this team, so time and patience is required by everyone during this process.
2. To have fun and have the kids develop a love for the game.
3. Learn about the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship.
4. Give positive reinforcement based on effort rather than results.
5. Provide a safe and healthy environment for all the kids on the team.



Parent Code of Conduct

- 1) I will remember that my child participates to have fun and that the game is for them, not adults.
- 2) I will bring my child to practices and games on time. If they are going to be late or miss a game/practice, I will notify my coach beforehand.
- 3) I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- 4) I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- 5) I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
- 6) I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures. I understand that a violation of any of these may result in my removal from practices, scrimmages, games and any other Raptors events
- 7) I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- 8) I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect.
- 9) I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.
- 10) I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- 11) I will emphasize skill development and practices, and how they benefit my child over winning.
- 12) I will be involved in playing softball with my child outside of practice.
- 13) I will respect the coaches and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- 14) I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront officials at the game field.
- 15) I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

Player Code of Conduct

1. I will remember that softball is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
2. I will be positive about my youth softball experience.
3. I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
4. I will attend every practice and game on time, and I will notify my coach if I cannot attend
5. I will do my best and listen and learn from my coaches.
6. I will treat my coaches, other players, and fans with respect.
7. I deserve to have fun during my softball experience and I will alert my parents or coaches if it stops being fun.
8. I will encourage my parents to spend time with me outside of practice, playing softball.
9. I will do my best in school.