

# **RYFSA CODE OF CONDUCT**

## **Parents**

### **Core Principles**

- RYFSA participation must be healthy, positive and safe for everyone involved. Team activities must be conducted in an environment that values good sportsmanship while representing Rochester as a first class community.
- Parents and spectators of RYFSA are actively involved in creating and supporting an environment that fosters positive athletic experiences for all participants including players, coaches, officials, and all fans.

### **Core Practices**

- Parents give encouragement and support to their children regardless of the degree of success, the level of skill, or time on the field
- Parents stress the importance of respect for all participants including coaches, officials, players, and the opposing team and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the team and its success
- Parents serve as role models, see the “big picture”, and support all players
- Parents leave coaching to coaches and do not criticize coaching strategies or team performance. They discuss any concerns in an appropriate manner privately. They also encourage their child to communicate directly with the coach.
- They avoid putting pressure on their children about playing time and performance
- Spectators show good sportsmanship by acknowledging fine performances, demonstrating respect for all coaches, officials, and players, and by refraining from antagonistic behavior intended to interfere with an athlete’s performance
- Parents learn the value of competition and how to handle success with grace and failure with dignity

### **Out-of-Bounds**

- Attitudes that stress the playing time or position played by their child over the success of the team
- Over-involvement that includes sideline coaching, interventions, and conversations with their child during games
- Displays of disrespect toward officials, coaches, players, and/or fans through their words and actions
- Unrealistic expectations and pressure that emphasize physical performance over personal health
- Failure to report injuries or illness of their child to the coach
- Failure to respect individual differences and diversity

## **Coaches**

### **Core Principles**

- RYFSA participation must be healthy, positive and safe for everyone involved. Team activities must be conducted in an environment that values good sportsmanship while representing Rochester as a first-class community.
- The coach is the key to making the RYFSA experience positive, educational, and fun. They foster a positive athletic experience for all participants including players, parents, officials, the opposing team, and all fans.

## **Core Practices**

- The coach provides inspiration and positive communication and assists players to make good decisions
- The coach is a role model at all times, recognizing his/her profound influence on the players
- A coach is sensitive to the fact that different approaches will be needed for different individuals according to their needs and backgrounds
- Coaches are educators, first and foremost. They must strive to learn new and different approaches, and engage the players in the learning process. The learning goes beyond techniques and strategies to include teaching sportsmanship and effective communication with parents
- Coaches recognize the need for balance in the lives of players, a balance that respects the needs of the family, church, and school
- Coaches teach the value of competition and how to handle success with grace and failure with dignity

## **Out-of-Bounds**

- Coaches that highlight the elite athlete and fail to provide a broad range of opportunities for all team participants
- Coaches who fail to understand that first and foremost they are teachers
- Coaches who communicate through intimidation
- Coaches with a “win at all costs” philosophy
- Coaches who are unfair in their promotion of players
- Coaches who promote specialization by their athletes at an inappropriate age or level
- Coaches who lack self-control and display poor sportsmanship
- Coaches who argue with officials
- Coaches who display disrespect toward officials, coaches, players, and/or fans through their words and actions
- Coaches that single out a few players, resulting in limited playing time
- Coaches who fail to respect individual differences and diversity

## **Players**

### **Core Principles**

- Rochester Fastpitch participation must be healthy, positive and safe for everyone involved. Team activities must be conducted in an environment that values good sportsmanship while representing Rochester as a first-class community.
- Participants in Rochester Fastpitch have the opportunity to demonstrate the following attributes: sportsmanship, leadership, dedication, and commitment.

### **Core Practices**

- The physical and emotional health and safety of athletes are a primary consideration of Rochester Fastpitch
- Appropriate training and conditioning are required for all players as instructed by coaches
- Players make a commitment to abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other illegal substances
- Players learn the value of competition and how to handle success with grace and failure with dignity

### **Out-of-Bounds**

- Excessive training and conditioning

- Displays of disrespect toward officials, coaches, players on either team, and/or fans through their words and actions
- Use of performance-enhancing drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or other illegal substances
- Failure to report injuries or illness to their coach
- Failure to respect individual differences and diversity

### **Consequences for violating the RYFSA Code of Conduct:**

- Immediately upon violations of the Code of Conduct at an RYFSA event, and at the coach's, umpire's, or league official's discretion, the manager, player, spectator, or coach may be **ejected** and if so, will be **instructed to leave** the grounds. If such person refuses to leave the grounds, the game will be forfeited to the non-offending team.
- Based on the seriousness of the violation, the offending person may/may not be warned before being ejected.
- After receiving the Umpire's report that a manager, coach, spectator, or player has been ejected, it will be the decision of the RYFSA to suspend indefinitely or reinstate that manager, coach, spectator, or player. In the case of a spectator, he or she will not be allowed on the grounds until reinstated by the RYFSA.
- -Law enforcement will be called for any unlawful behavior by the coach, umpire, or league official. If an individual that has been ejected refuses to leave the grounds, law enforcement may also be called.
- **REPEAT VIOLATIONS OR SERIOUS ACTIONS:**  
RYFSA will not tolerate repeated violations or any actions considered serious in nature. If the RYFSA determines that the offender has multiple repeat violations or serious actions, the offender will be restricted from participating in or attending any RYFSA event or activity.