



Softball Manitoba Coaching Standards

These guidelines apply to all members of a team's coaching staff: head coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and team assistants.

While some of these expectations may apply more to the head coach than to the other team members, the goal is for these expectations to be well understood and consistently adhered to by all members of the team's coaching staff, including players and parents.

A coach is not expected to be perfect, but it is imperative that they hold themselves to the highest standards in terms of team ethics and integrity.

As a coach, how you carry yourself on and off the field is critical as your behaviour is modelled by players and parents and reflects on your team and the organization. As such, please ensure you follow these standards at all times or when reasonably practical.

POSITIVE COACHING

1. I will set a good example by modelling the same basic expectations set for players and parents. If an expectation is reasonable for a parent or player, I should be expected to follow those same standards.
2. I will consciously and appropriately provide positive and constructive reinforcement to my players, with the ultimate goal of personal and professional development. I understand that this significantly impacts a player's passion to play the game and ability to learn.
3. I understand that winning is important, but the primary objective is promoting an inclusive environment of growth and learning. We will always try to win the game, but winning will be secondary to a commitment to our core values.
4. I will practice self-control, setting a positive example for others. The game is full of exciting moments and passion, but as a coach, I have a responsibility to remain calm and professional in my interactions with everyone on and off the field.

RULES

5. I will practice high ethical standards and only direct my team to play within the rules. We will always play within the rules of fair play, regardless of whether these rules are enforced.
6. I will have a thorough understanding of the rules of the game and those applicable to the tournaments in which we play.
7. I will consistently promote, explain, and enforce team rules. While severity, frequency and context will matter, enforcing rules fairly is important.
8. I will have clear expectations for players regarding team philosophy and approach. Beyond rules, players need to clearly understand how we, as a team, will consistently approach the game.



FAIRNESS

9. I will treat all athletes fairly, including my own. I will do my best to evaluate players and assign roles unbiasedly, with the overall objective of putting the entire team in a position for success.
10. I will treat all our players with the respect they deserve. My role is to teach the game of softball and some life lessons along the way. These are children developing into young adults, and they all deserve my respect.
11. I will determine roles, positions, lineups and playing time in good faith. These things will be determined based on an honest assessment of ability, effort, teamwork, preparedness, execution and fulfillment of team rules and philosophy.

PREPAREDNESS

12. I will do everything I can to best prepare my players for the situations they will face. We will use practice as a time to cover relevant game-based situations so that players are best positioned to succeed.
13. I will be physically and mentally prepared. I will provide proper equipment and do my best to be prepared for any reasonably foreseeable situation.
14. I will arrive early to practices and games to ensure I am well-prepared and organized before the players arrive.
15. I will tailor drills and exercises to the age and skill level of the players with a focus on both individual and team strategies.

SAFETY

16. I will always enforce safety, including the proper use of equipment.
17. I will emphasize the importance of a proper warmup before practices and games.
18. I will teach and enforce proper throwing, catching and sliding techniques to reduce the risk of injury.

SPORTSMANSHIP

19. I will respect decisions made by the umpires. While I may not always agree with them, I will do my best to have respectful discussions with a calm demeanour if those situations arise.
20. I will be a role model for my players regarding good sportsmanship, teamwork, and self-worth. I realize that players and families will often follow my lead. It is important that we all practice good sportsmanship and respect for others and ourselves.
21. I will respect the opposing team, coaches, players and fans. While games can get intense, we will practice friendly competition and show respect for our opponents.

COMMUNICATION

22. I will clearly communicate schedules and team info with families in a timely manner. I will use email, text messaging, team apps, or other appropriate means to keep families properly informed.



23. I will promote an environment where I am approachable for fair discussions with players and parents. While players and parents may not always agree with my decisions, it is important that I effectively explain the team position/rationale and that they see their coach as someone they can approach with an open dialogue.
24. I will make an effort to get to know all players and families personally. Throughout the season, we will become a softball family. As the coach, I am responsible for getting to know players and families outside their softball world to better understand and communicate with them.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

25. I understand a team manager must be appointed to help organize team activities and support communications efforts once the team is formed.
26. I will ensure there is transparency and financial accountability when it comes to the team's budget and expenses. I will be fiscally responsible with team funds and clearly communicate the financial commitment to families.

As a head coach, assistant coach, team manager or team assistant, you are expected to adhere to these rules at all times or when reasonably practical. While no one is perfect, the main thing is that you make a consistent effort to help nurture a positive environment for all.