

**Woodstock Girls Softball League  
2008 Code of Conduct  
and  
Game Guidelines**

Woodstock Girls Softball League's Objectives:

To develop, teach and promote girl's softball.  
To promote sportsmanship and citizenship while  
building character and fitness through softball.

## Woodstock Girls Softball League's 2008 Season Board of Directors:

### Officers

President	Dave Carzoli	338-8108
Vice President	Mary Parisek	338-4741
Treasurer	Laurie Orndahl	337-0885
Secretary	Jeanne Fischbach	334-0052

### Divisional Representatives

Instruction Division Representative	Andres Armeda	308-5846
Junior Division Representative	Laura McFarlin	337-7001
Preteen Division Representative	Jeanne Fischbach	334-0052
Teener Division Representative	Pat & Kathy Keefe	337-0246
Senior Division Representative	Mary Parisek	338-4741

### Parents and their child's coaches:

Your child is likely to be influenced by their Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches, not only in learning how to play softball and to enjoy the game, but also in physical, psychological, and social development. Because Head Coaches/Assistant Coaches are powerful role models for young athletes, they face tremendous challenges and considerable responsibilities.

We would like to tell you some things about Woodstock Girls Softball League's Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches in general. All Woodstock Girls Softball Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are volunteers. They donate many hours a week throughout the season to coach your child.

Woodstock Girls Softball does all it can to provide adequate coaches for each team, but once in a while a poor coach slips through. Thus, it is important that you make sure your child's Head Coach/Assistant Coaches acts in your child's best interest.

### Things you can look for to see how your child's coach is coaching:

- **Coaching Philosophy**  
The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should keep winning and losing in perspective. Their objective should not be to win-at-all- costs.  
The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should ensure that learning softball is fun?
- **Knowledge**  
The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should have a good understanding of the rules and skills of softball. They should have knowledge of how to teach these skills to our children.
- **Leadership**  
The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should build their leadership on mutual respect and not intimidation.
- **Self-Control**

The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner that they expect of their players.

Player mistakes should be handled by the Head Coach/Assistant Coach in such a manner to build the players up not put them down.

- **Understanding**

The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should be sensitive to the emotions of the players.

The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should treat each child as an individual, being sensitive to each child's needs.

- **Communication**

The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should communicate with their players so that their words and actions create a positive feeling.

The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should listen to their players as well as talk.

- **Consistency**

The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should be fair with all players, treating all players equal.

- **Respect**

The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should act in such a manner to gain respect of their players and become a role model for their players.

- **Enthusiasm**

The Head Coach/Assistant Coach should show enthusiasm for the practices and the games.

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### **No One is Perfect**

There are several ways to learn more about your child's coach. Don't feel you are snooping; you will be fulfilling your obligation as a responsible parent.

1. Talk with the coach about any questions you may have.
2. Observe the coach in practice and games.
3. Talk with other parents who have had children play under this coach.

Remember, no coach will be perfect (just as we are not perfect parents), but you need to be satisfied that your child's coach meet some minimum standards.

### **Dealing with Unsatisfactory Coaching**

Parents often have a difficult time dealing with their child's coach when they decide that he or she is coaching in an unsatisfactory way. Thoughtful parents are reluctant to interfere and hesitant to remove their child from the team. Children may resent being forced to quit; they fear losing face and may enjoy the sport so much that they want to continue participating in spite of a poor coach. Parents must use good judgment in such situations, communicating with both the child and the coach to resolve the problem.

We recommend that you begin by discussing the problem with the Head Coach/Assistant Coach. Explain your concern and then listen to their perspective.

If discussing the issue with the Head Coach/Assistant Coach does not resolve the problem, then you need to consider going to your Divisional Representative (Names and telephone numbers are listed on Pg 2).  
The Divisional Representative is required to bring all problems to the Board of Directors.

### **How you can help out!!!**

Remember that most coaches are striving to do the best they can. You can help make the coach's job a bit easier, as well as help your child enjoy softball more, by doing the following things:

1. Let your child know you support their participation in Woodstock Girls Softball. Get involved, volunteer your time in the league, practice with your child, attend games, and show that you care.
  2. Keep the coach informed if your child is sick or has been injured.
  3. Keep the coach informed if your child must miss any practice or game.
  4. Help the coach when asked to do so. You might be needed to man the concession stand, keep score, or assist the coach during a game or event.
  5. Keep control of yourself. Set a good example.
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All head coaches, assistant coaches, umpires, players, and parents must have a signed Code of Conduct and Game Guidelines prior to season participation.

# 2008 Code of Conduct and Guidelines

## Before the Game

**Head Coaches/Assistant coaches Responsibility:** Prior to the beginning of any game, prepare your teams:

**Uniforms:** Each player should be in uniform consisting of the Woodstock Girls Softball Tee shirt, gray ball pants, sports socks (league provided), and appropriate shoes for playing softball. Long sleeved shirts may be worn under the tee shirt.

**Fields Check:** Check field for general playing condition. Check bases, and pitching mound to insure proper placement for your division.

**Sportsmanship:** Players should be reminded of the importance of sportsmanship both on and off the field. Players need to be aware that arguments with umpires or other unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

**Dugout:** During the game, all players not active on the field must remain in their respective dugouts unless permission is given to leave.

**Warming Up:** Each team will be allowed warm up time on the infield prior to the start of the game. However, games will be started on time whether each team has had infield practice or not. It is the responsibility of the coaches to allow for enough time to warm up.

**Umpire Responsibilities:** Prior to the beginning of any game, umpires should adhere to the following:

**Field Check:** Umpire should review field that bases and pitching mounds are positioned correctly for division.

**Team Review:** Umpires should spend a few minutes with the Head Coach of each team, reviewing special ground rules, and going over general Girls Softball League guidelines. Umpires should remind the coaches of the personal conduct policy and answer any questions a coach may have prior to the start of each game.

# 2008 Code of Conduct and Guidelines

## During the Game

**Head Coaches/Assistant coaches Responsibilities:** Throughout the game, coaches should pay attention to their surroundings.

**Disruptions:** Head Coaches should handle disruptive fans, players, and/or Assistant Coaches prior to an umpire's interference.

**Encouragement:** Players should be encouraged at all times and **NEVER** talked down to.

**Safety/Health:** The field of play should be kept clear of all foreign objects. Players should be allowed to enjoy the game of softball in a clean, healthy environment. Tobacco use *is not permitted on, or near the playing field at any time.*

**Disagreements:** Disagreements with an umpire's call is inevitable in any game. However, they should be handled in an appropriate, sportsmanlike manner. Balls and Strikes *cannot* be challenged for any reason. Only interpretation of the rules may be discussed. Only Head Coaches may discuss a call with an umpire. Players and fans are not permitted to discuss a call with an umpire at any time. Rule interpretations of any type will take place only after the inning is complete and a "time out" is called. Discussions should take place between each team's Head Coach and the umpire unless umpire deems another opinion necessary.

**Umpire's Responsibility:** Throughout the course of the game, umpires should strive to control a fun and healthy environment for each and every player.

**Respect:** Umpires should conduct themselves in a mature and appropriate manner at all times. Coaches, players and fans, must respect the umpires at all times allowing the umpire control over the game.

**Safety/Health:** Umpires should always be aware of players wearing jewelry and remind coaches to have players remove it. Umpires should be aware of the player's health by not allowing tobacco use on or near the playing field.

## After the Game

**General Responsibilities:** Players from both teams along with Assistant Coaches and Head Coaches should line up to shake hands at the conclusion of each game. Sportsmanship should be encouraged and will be enforced by the umpires on and off the playing field, before, during, and after the game.

**Head Coaches/Assistant coaches:** Home team Head Coaches/Assistant Coaches should record final scores and fill out paperwork as required by Woodstock Girls Softball League.

**Umpires:** Umpires should fill out and sign paperwork as required by Woodstock Girls Softball League.

## 2008 Code of Conduct and Guidelines

The board of directors of the Woodstock Girls Softball League has mandated the following Code of Conduct for before, during, and after all games. All head coaches, assistant coaches, parents, and players shall read this Code of Conduct and sign in the space provided below. Tear the signature sheet on the dotted line and return it to your league's Vice President.

As a Head Coach/Assistant Coach I will be respectful of other Head Coaches/Assistant Coaches by establishing a game plan.

As a Head Coach/Assistant Coach I will conduct myself in a positive manner at all times.

No Board Member, Head Coach, Assistant coach, Player, Parent, Umpire or Spectator shall:

- At any time, lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official.
- Be guilty of heaping personal verbal or physical abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary belief of a wrong decision or judgment.
- Be guilty of any objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's decision by throwing of gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls, or any other forceful unsportsmanlike action.
- Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of a game against the body of an opposing player.
- Be guilty of the use of profane, obscene, or vulgar language in any manner at any time.
- Appear on the field of play, stands, or anywhere at a Woodstock Girls Softball League function or meeting, while in an intoxicated state at any time. Intoxicated will be defined as an order or behavior issue. Any coach that shows up to a game with alcohol on their breath will be asked to leave by the umpire of that game whether the coach is deemed to be intoxicated or not.
- Use tobacco while in the stands, on the playing field, or in any dugout at any time.
- Be guilty of discussing publicly with spectators in a derogatory or abusive manner any play, decision or personal opinion on any players during the game.
- Speak disrespectfully to any head coach, assistant coach, official, player, or representative of the league.
- Be guilty of tampering or manipulation of any league rosters, schedules, draft positions or selections, official score records, rankings, financial records, or procedures.
- Shall challenge an umpire's authority. The umpires shall have the authority and discretion during the game to penalize the offender according to the infraction up to and including removal from the game.

Adopted: April 2005  
Revised: September 26, 2005  
Revised: October 24, 2005  
Revised: March 6, 2006  
Revised: Submitted for review Board Meeting Jan 8, 2007

## 2008 Code of Conduct and Guidelines

**Personal Conduct Policy:** For the 2008 Season, the Woodstock Girls Softball League will impose a Personal Conduct Policy governing all head coaches, assistant coaches, players, parents, board members, umpires, affiliates, or spectators. **Violations of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated and will be dealt with promptly.** Displays of unsportsmanlike conduct will result in immediate removal from any Woodstock Girls Softball game or event and recommendations to the Board of Directors for possible expulsion from the league.

The Board of Director will review all infractions of the Woodstock Girls Softball League's Code of Conduct. Depending on the seriousness or frequency, the board may assess additional disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the league.

Please complete the section below and detach it along the dotted lines. This form is to be turned in to your Team's Head Coach.

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### WGSL Jewelry Policy:

**Players are not allowed to wear any jewelry during practices and games. This includes piercings, rings, watches, bracelets, and necklaces. Players must remove all jewelry prior to practices and/or games, this will include even new piercings. Please be aware of this a avoid problems by delaying any new piercings until after the softball season.**

I have read the WGSL Jewelry Policy and agreed to abide by this policy for the 2008 softball season.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's Signature

I have read the Woodstock Girls Softball League's Code of Conduct and promise to adhere to its rules and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Player (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Player

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent or Guardian(Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Please complete the section below and detach it along the dotted lines. This form is to be turned in to Woodstock Girls Softball Vice President.

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I have read the Woodstock Girls Softball League's Code of Conduct and promise to adhere to its rules and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Head Coach (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Head Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Assistant Coach(Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Assistant coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Please complete the section below and detach it along the dotted lines. This form is to be turned into your Umpire Coordinator.

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I have read the Woodstock Girls Softball League's Code of Conduct and promise to adhere to its rules and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Umpire (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Umpire

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date