

## Fair Play Code



Cloverdale Minor Softball Association subscribes to the Fair Play Code. Athletes, Coaches, Parents and Umpires all have a role to play in making Fastpitch Softball the best experience possible for the players, because "It's for the Kids!."



We encourage everyone to read through the Fair Play Code.

### FAIR PLAY CODE FOR ATHLETES

- I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
- I will play by the rules, and in the spirit of the game.
- I will control my temper – fighting and "mouthing off" can spoil the activity for everybody.
- I will respect my opponents.
- I will do my best to try to be a true team player.
- I will remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
- I will acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of my team and of my opponents.
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.



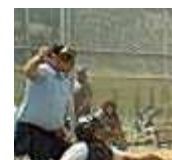
### FAIR PLAY CODE FOR COACHES

- I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.
- I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support and playing time.
- I will not ridicule or yell at my athletes for making mistakes or for performing poorly.
- I will remember that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athlete's ages and abilities.
- I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.



### FAIR PLAY CODE FOR OFFICIALS

- I will make sure that every athlete has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability, within the limits of the rules.



I will avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the athletes.

- I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
- I will not permit the intimidation of any athlete either by word or by action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward officials, athletes, spectators or myself.
- I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings toward a team or individual athlete.
- I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.
- I accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
- I will be open to discussion and contact with the athletes before and after the game.
- I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my officiating skills.

### FAIR PLAY CODE FOR LEAGUE ORGANIZERS

- I will do my best to see that all children are given the same chance to participate, regardless of gender, ability, ethnic background.
- I will absolutely discourage any sport program from becoming primarily an entertainment for the spectators.
- I will make sure that all equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
- I will make sure that the age and maturity levels of the children are considered in program development, rule enforcement and scheduling.
- I will remember that play is done for its own sake and make sure that winning is kept in proper perspective.
- I will distribute the fair play codes to spectators, coaches, athletes, officials, parents and media.
- I will make sure that coaches and officials are capable of promoting fair play as well as the development of good technical skills, and I will encourage them to become certified.



### FAIR PLAY CODE FOR PARENTS

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that my child plays sport for his or her enjoyment, not for mine.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game/event.
- I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents.



- I will never question the official's judgment or honesty in public.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting events.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child.

### FAIR PLAY CODE FOR SPECTATORS

- I will remember that children play sport for THEIR enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me.
- I will not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that child athletes are not miniature professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
- I will respect the official's decisions and I will encourage participants to do the same.
- I will never ridicule an athlete for making a mistake during a competition. I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
- I will condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in an appropriate manner to coaches and league officials.
- I will show respect for my team's opponents, because without them there would be no game.
- I will not use bad language, nor will I harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.



### FAIR PLAY CODE FOR THE MEDIA

- I will not judge or depict children as miniature professionals. I will respect sport programs for adults differently from those for children.
- I will feature children who have demonstrated outstanding examples of fair play. I recognize that these children are deserving of coverage and are of as much interest to my readers as those who score points.
- I will keep isolated incidents of unfair play in their proper perspective – neither ignoring nor glorifying them for shock or entertainment value.
- I will give equal coverage to girls and boys and will endeavour to help the public understand the importance of this equal coverage.
- I will remember that children in organized sports often face a lot of pressure to meet unrealistic expectations. I will promote discussion of this and other fair play issues in order to raise awareness and protect children's rights.

