

CHATFIELD YOUTH FASTPITCH ASSOCIATION (CYFA)

CODE OF CONDUCT

Last Updated: 12/08/2025

Parents

The following expectations apply to all parents and adults attending Fireball activities. Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in disciplinary action, including verbal or written warnings, ejections, suspensions, or termination of the athlete's participation.

Expectations

- Parents will promote respect for all participants—including coaches, officials, players, and opposing teams—and reinforce the importance of teamwork.
- Parents will serve as positive role models, support all players, and maintain awareness of the "big picture."
- Coaching will be left to the coaches. Parents will not coach from behind the fence or dugout, nor criticize strategy or player performance. Concerns will be discussed privately and appropriately with the coach.
- Parents will avoid placing pressure on their children regarding playing time and performance. Equal opportunity does not equal equal playing time.
- Spectators will always demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Parents will help their children learn to handle success with grace and setbacks with dignity.
- Parents will follow the required process for raising concerns:
 1. The player must first speak with the coach (after a 24-hour waiting period).
 2. If unresolved, the parent may then speak with the coach (after an additional 24 hours).
 3. Only if it is still unresolved may the parent approach the CYFA Board.

Out of Bounds

- Prioritizing personal playing time over team success.
- Sideline coaching, negative commentary, or discussing other players' performance.
- Disrespectful behavior toward officials, coaches, players, or fans.

- Excessive pressure regarding athletic performance.
 - Failure to report injuries, illnesses, or absences.
 - Approaching coaches before the required 24-hour period.
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Players

Participation in the CYFA program is intended to build softball skills, foster love of the game, and develop life skills. This is a competitive program with varied roles, all of which are valued.

Expectations

- Attend practices and games consistently and notify coaches in advance of absences.
- Participate fully in training and conditioning.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substances.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship, humility in success, and maturity in failure.
- Zero tolerance for bullying.
- Embrace assigned roles and support teammates.
- Give full effort, maintain focus, and avoid distractions. **No cell phones in the dugout.**
- Approach coaches respectfully with concerns about playing time and development.
- Represent the Fireballs positively on and off the field.
- Pitchers will pitch as deemed appropriate based on readiness, consistency, and team needs.

Out of Bounds

- Prioritizing personal playing time over team success.
- Disrespect toward coaches, players, officials, or opponents.
- Failure to report injuries or illness.
- Failure to uphold core values: competitiveness, teamwork, effort, positive attitude, respect.

- Bullying a teammate or another Fireball player.
 - Bullying is defined as repeated with intention to harm, intimidate, or humiliate another person.
 - **How bullying can manifest**
 - **Physical:** Hitting, kicking, pushing, or damaging property.
 - **Verbal:** Teasing, name-calling, threats, or insults.
 - **Social/Relational:** Spreading rumors, social exclusion, or embarrassing someone in public.
 - **Online (Cyberbullying):** Using electronic devices or social media to harass or threaten someone.
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Coaches

CYFA coaches are volunteers who devote significant time to player development.

Expectations

- Provide positive communication, inspiration, and guidance.
- Serve as role models, recognizing their influence on players.
- Adapt coaching approaches based on players' needs.
- Make decisions based on skill, safety, participation, and overall team benefit.
- Foster equal opportunity for effort and development.
- Commit to continued learning and maintaining alignment with high school program.
- Communicate regularly with players and families.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship in all circumstances.

Out of Bounds

- Poor sportsmanship or lack of self-control.
- Arguing with officials.
- Disrespectful behavior toward any participants.

- Use of alcohol or tobacco near players or fields.
 - Failure to follow concussion protocol or prioritize safety.
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Consequences of Violations

The CYFA Board will review all serious violations and determine disciplinary action, which may include warnings, ejections, suspensions, or termination of participation. CYFA enforces a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy for threatening or offensive behavior.

Immediate ejection may occur at the discretion of coaches, umpires, or league officials. Failure to comply may result in a forfeited game. Law enforcement may be contacted if necessary.

The CYFA supports a coach's right to limit parent involvement when necessary for team success or safety.

Express Assumption of Risk & Liability Waiver

Participants acknowledge and assume risks associated with participation and release CYFA, the City of Chatfield, and associated representatives from liability. Parents consent to the publication of player photos unless they opt out in writing.