

Haverhill Girls Softball

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Code of Ethics for Parents and Spectators at Haverhill Girls Softball

Dear Parents and Spectators,

As we strive to create a positive and respectful environment for our youth girls softball games, it is imperative that all parents and spectators adhere to the following code of ethics. Your behavior sets an example for our players, and we expect everyone to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship and respect.

Rules of Conduct:

- 1. Respect for Umpires:** It is essential to show respect for the umpires at all times. Under no circumstances should there be any arguing or disputing of their calls. Please note, due to the umpire shortage we will be utilizing junior umpires, some of these umpires could be as young as 14 years old.
- 2. Positive Cheering:** Encourage positive cheering for both teams. Negative or derogatory remarks towards players or teams are strictly prohibited.
- 3. Spectator Seating:** Spectators are not allowed to sit near, on, or around the team benches, including siblings and pets.
- 4. Spectator Seating Location:** Spectators are requested to sit along the right and left field foul lines. Sitting behind the backstop is only allowed for individuals considered part of the coaching team, who have been properly vetted and completed background checks similar to coaches. You will be asked to move.

5. **Approaching Coaches:** Parents are asked to wait 24 hours before approaching coaches with questions regarding playing time or positioning.

Penalties for Non-Adherence:

1. **Arguing Calls or Disruptive Behavior:** Anyone caught arguing with an umpire, coach, or yelling at an opposing player will be asked to leave the game. Refusal to leave will result in the game being paused until the individual removes themselves. If the game is paused for more than 5 minutes after the request to leave, the team of the parent/spectator's player will forfeit the game.

2. **Repeated Offenses:** Individuals with repeated offenses will be asked not to attend games. If they attend after written notice not to do so, any game they attend will be forfeited by their player's team.

3. **Unauthorized Bench Presence:** Individuals on, near, or around the bench must be approved by HGSL and USA Softball through proper background checks. Unauthorized individuals assisting the coaching staff will be asked to leave until properly vetted and approved. If found assisting the team again without approval, the team will forfeit one game.

It is crucial that all individuals around our players are properly vetted by HGSL and have completed the required training.

Thank you for your cooperation in upholding these standards and contributing to a positive and respectful environment for our young athletes.

Sincerely,

Rick White

HGSL President