



## **Oakdale Athletic Association Fastpitch Parent & Player Code of Conduct**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Oakdale Athletic Association Fastpitch Softball is a volunteer run organization. Our goal is to introduce, teach, and promote youth softball to girls, in an environment that encourages self-confidence and self-worth. We strive to promote teamwork, sportsmanship, safety and instruction. Our primary objective is to offer a positive atmosphere that will enhance the physical and social development of our youth.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

- Promote the growth of softball within our community by creating an environment where players have fun and develop a lifelong passion for the sport.
- Promote the growth of personal qualities including self-esteem, commitment, sportsmanship, and perseverance.
- Promote an increased understanding of the sport by all participants, including players, coaches, and parents.
- Provide a level of competition for players equal with their skill and commitment level while challenging players to develop their abilities to a higher level.

### **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- Place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- Insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Provide support for coaches and officials working with my child in order to provide a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- Discuss differences in opinion or philosophy with coaches, officials and other parents in a respectful manner and away from the field of play and players.
- Demand a drug, tobacco, and alcohol-free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth sports events.
- Remember the game is for children not adults.
- Do my best to make youth sports best for my child.
- Insist that my child treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- Assist in providing a positive team experience by volunteering to help with tasks as needed and as I am capable of doing.

\*Violations of this code may result in coaches asking parent/fan to leave the ball park

\*\* An ejection from an umpire is an offense/violation

## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Respect all aspects of the game: yourself, coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, fans and the rules, regardless of the behavior of others.
- Support your teammates. Be a team player.
- Recognize that you are representing Oakdale Athletic Association Fastpitch Softball and act accordingly.
- Practice good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all the players, coaches, and officials and fans at every game.
- Do your best to learn and listen to the coaches.
- Treat your coaches, teammates, opponents, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.
- Take responsibility for your behavior.
- Do your best in school.
- Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat.

\*Violations of these codes can result in discipline/removal from team.

## **COACHING GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Occasionally, even the best of coaches will have a parent or another coach who disagrees with his/her actions or decisions. Usually these can be resolved with an honest discussion between the two parties; however, sometimes additional steps need to be taken. If differences cannot be resolved between the coach and the parent, an impartial grievance committee will review the situation and decide on a course of action.

- Step 1: 24 Hour Rule – wait 24 hours before acting. The time away should allow emotions to cool
- Step 2: Set up a Meeting – find a time to discuss the problem away from the team.
- Step 3: Contact the OAA Fastpitch Directors – a meeting will be schedule with the parent, coach and director(s) to resolve the problem
- Step 4: If continued issues arise, the current OAA Fastpitch Directors will meet to come up with a solution.

## **PLAYER ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS**

Once assigned to a team, a player will be allowed to remain on that team UNTIL one of the following situations exist: (Remember, players are expected to be at all practices and games)

- A player has 3 unexcused absences from games or practices.
- A player has a combination of 6 excused and unexcused absences from games or practices.
- A player has a combination of 9 excused, unexcused and planned absences from games or practices.

Attendance at any high school/middle school softball games or practice will be exempted from this policy; however, the player/parent must notify the coach in advance if an absence is necessary for middle school softball. The Head Coach is allowed to keep a player on his team if extenuating circumstances exist but may consider removal if these conditions are met. Definitions:

- Unexcused absence: Player is missing and the head coach is not notified by the player (or his parent/guardian) prior to the game or practice. Social events are considered unexcused; for example, going to movies, waterpark and other events with friends.
- Excused absence: Player is missing and the head coach is notified by the player (or his parent/guardian) at least 1 hour prior to the game or practice.
- Planned absence: Head Coach is notified of absence by the player (or his parent/guardian) at least 1 week prior to game or practice.

## **PLAYER DISCIPLINE/REMOVAL**

Players may be disciplined or removed from a team following violations of the Players Code of Conduct or for violations of attendance expectations. A player will be corrected immediately (1st warning) by the coach for:

- Throwing equipment (bat or helmet)
- Swearing
- Verbally or physically abusing an umpire, coach or any other player

Process for dealing with violations after 1st warning:

- 1st offense: the player is ejected for the remainder of the game (must remain on the bench). Coach will present a brief written report of the situation to the Traveling Softball Director and parent/guardian
- 2nd offense: the player is not allowed to participate further until the player, her parent/guardian, and the coach meet with the directors to discuss the player's behavior and develop a plan of correction. The directors, must be informed of the situation and the plan of correction.
- 3rd offense: removal from the team.

If removal from the team is warranted, the following must occur:

- If a head coach determines removal is warranted, he should discuss it with his full coaching staff before taking action.
- If the full coaching staff determines removal is the correct course of action, the head coach should discuss the circumstances of the situation with the OAA Fastpitch Directors before taking any action.
- If removal is still agreed to as the best course of action, the head coach should contact the parents with the details of the situation (of course, the parents should be involved in the communication along the way as the player is missing games and practices or has conduct violations).

Once removed from an OAA team, the player MAY NOT join another OAA team under any circumstances and the full registration fee will be forfeited.

## **CELL PHONE POLICY**

We understand and recognize the need for your daughters to have their cell phone at practice; however, the expectation at practice and games is to be focused on the sport and not their social media accounts or other social engagements.

- Expectation: cell phone is to be put away at the beginning of practice or game
- If this expectation is not met;

- First, the coach will issue a verbal warning asking the player to put in their bag
- Second warning, the coach will confiscate the phone for the remainder of practice
- Third warning, the player will no longer be able to bring their cell phone to the fields
  - In case of an emergency, the coach has the parent's number and the player may utilize the coach's phone to contact the parent

## **EQUIPMENT**

### **HELMET REQUIREMENT**

In an effort to maximize head protection and prevent injuries for all players, each player is be required to have their own helmets. Helmets typically last 2-3 years before they need replacement. Helmets are required to have the face guard and chin strap. If a coach believes a helmet needs to be replaced for safety reasons, the family will be informed and required to replace.

### **FIELDING MASK REQUIREMENT**

OAA Fastpitch requires the use of a protective fielding facemask during practices, warm-ups and games in levels 8U through 12U and strongly suggests they be worn in 14U through 18U.

\* These guidelines are subject to change and the final discretion on softball decisions is up to the Oakdale Athletic Association Fastpitch Directors.