



Policies and Procedures

Vision

The Huskies Fastpitch Club will strive to teach dedication, commitment, teamwork, and respect while providing each female athlete the opportunity to develop her skills and passion for the game of softball.

Goals

- Align with the goals of the Owatonna High School softball program
- Create a positive and fun learning environment
- Improve the skills, confidence and enjoyment of the game at all player levels
- Teach the ideals of leadership, confidence and respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and umpires
- Promote the game of softball by encouraging good sportsmanship from players, parents and spectators

Purpose

The purpose of HFC is to promote, support and foster amateur fastpitch softball programs and activities within the Owatonna 761 School district, both public and private. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or such other provisions of Minnesota or federal law as may from time to time be applicable, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under said section 501(c)(3). This corporation shall not be operated for profit, but shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes

Dome Ball

The purpose of dome ball is to help prepare Owatonna High School players for Spring evaluations and the High School regular season.

Dome ball is open to all High School players, current grades 9-12, who played high school softball the previous high school season, and current rostered players for the upcoming summer season in ages 14U and older. In special situations the coaches and

the HFC board have the option to accept 7th and 8th grade players. Non-District 761 players may be considered if numbers are needed to fill a team.

Registration will be done through the HFC website and a registration fee will be charged to all players. Scholarships are available for special financial family situations. The amount of the fee is determined by the Board prior to the season. The registration fee will cover the cost of a shirt. Registration must be complete and the registration fee must be paid before the player can participate. Late registrations will not be guaranteed a place on the team.

Coaches for Dome Ball will be selected by the Coaches Committee and approved by the HFC board. Coaches must have the standard background check and concussion training. Any cost associated with these checks and training can be submitted to the HFC for reimbursement.

Players will be given every opportunity to play however “equal” playing time is not guaranteed.

Fall Ball

The purpose of Fall Ball is to continue the development and skills of our softball players.

Fall ball is open to U10-U16 District 761 area players (based on age in the following year). Non-District 761 players may be considered if numbers are needed to fill a team.

Registration will be done through the HFC website and a registration fee will be charged to all players. Scholarships are available for special financial family situations. The amount of the fee is determined by the Board prior to the season. Registration must be complete and registration fee must be paid before the player can participate. Late registrations will not be guaranteed a place on a team. Registration fees will cover the League fee.

Teams will be selected by the Summer Coaches and the HFC League Committee. Any girl wanting to play will be placed on a team. In the event that there are enough girls in an age group(s) to field more than one team there may be an evaluation put on at the board’s discretion to either split teams evenly or place girls on teams with similar level skill sets.

The League Committee will decide which league in which to participate.

Coaches for fall ball will be selected by the Coaches Committee and approved by the HFC board. Coaches must have the standard background check and concussion training. Any cost associated with these checks and training can be submitted to the HFC for reimbursement.

Players will be given every opportunity to play however “equal” playing time is not guaranteed.

Uniforms shall be a shirt provided by HFC as part of the registration fee. Pants and socks provided by player.

Park and Recreation In House Summer Leagues

MINI CRUSH - Grades 1 & 2 (Grade just finished) or Kindergarten if completed 1 season of T-ball.

This is an in-house development program emphasizing fundamental softball skill development using fun and creative drills appropriate for this age group.

Players will learn the proper techniques for throwing, catching, fielding, batting, base running, and good sportsmanship.

Practices will primarily focus on skill development drills and stations, will consist of smaller groups and will include fun competitions throughout to showcase skill development. Practices will be held two evenings per week, June thru July.

Coach pitching and/or pitching machines will be used.

Each participant will receive a uniform, consisting of a shirt and socks.

No evaluations, players will be grouped together by grade.

JUNIOR CRUSH– Grades 3 & 4 (Grade just finished)

This is an in-house development program emphasizing fundamental softball skill development using fun and creative drills appropriate for this age group.

Note on age criteria:

- o Players may either participate in this league OR the U10 traveling league, but not both.

Players will continue development of proper techniques for throwing, catching, fielding, batting, base running, and good sportsmanship, while also learning the fundamentals of pitching, catching, bunting, and game situations.

Practices will primarily focus on skill development drills and stations, some games and other fun competitions throughout to showcase skill development. Practices will be held two evenings per week, June thru July.

Coach pitching, player pitching and pitching machines may all be used.

Each participant will receive a uniform, consisting of a shirt and socks.

No evaluations, players will be grouped together by grade.

U10 Teams

Players on the U10 team must be 10 or younger as of January 1 of the year of the summer program.

U10 is open to District 761 area players (based on what their age will be in the following year). Non-District 761 players may be considered if numbers are needed to fill a team.

Practices – the team(s) will strive to have two practices per week the two weeks prior to the season starting and at least one practice per week after the season starts. Every effort will be made to schedule practices at least two weeks in advance.

Development of players, particularly at the younger age levels and lower tiers, is valued over a winning record. Each girl is to learn and play several positions. Balanced (not necessarily equal) playing time is to be dictated as much by commitment and attendance as skill level. Entire roster batting (Hoffman Rule). Unlimited substitutions.

Each U10 team will participate in tournaments.

NOTE – State tournament and National tournament costs are not included in the U10 registration fee and will be an extra cost to families for the registration and the gate fee. Depending on the league we play in we may or may not have to play in a State qualifier.

U12 Team(s)

Players on the U12 team must be 12 or younger as of January 1 of the year of the summer program.

U12 is open to District 761 area players (based on what their age will be in the following year). Non-District 761 players may be considered if numbers are needed to fill a team.

Practices – the team(s) will strive to have two practices per week the two weeks prior to the season starting and at least one practice per week after the season starts. Every effort will be made to schedule practices at least two weeks in advance.

Each girl is to learn and play several positions. Balanced (not necessarily equal) playing time is to be dictated as much by commitment and attendance as skill level. Playing time guidelines for 12U:

- Teams will be highly competitive and coaches may use their own discretion in assigning positions.
- Every effort will be made to provide comparable playing time for all players. Tournament play may be an exception to this guideline. However, these factors may reduce a player's playing time: arriving late or missing games, (especially without informing the coach beforehand); excessive absence at practices; or lack of effort.

Each U12 team shall participate in tournaments (of which at least one may be a State qualifier and one a National qualifier) and a state tournament (subject to team qualification).

All team(s) will have the opportunity to be in at least one State Qualifier tournament and National Qualifier Tournament. A State tournament registration is included in the player's registration fee (gate fee is extra per family). Playing in a State or National qualifier does not guarantee a tournament placement. Teams will typically have to win a game or games to qualify. Coaches, Players and families will decide if they want to attend a National tournament. A national tournament is not included in the registration fee and the National registration, gate fees and travel costs will be extra.

U14, 16 and U18 Team(s)

Players on the U14, U16, and U18 team must be 14, 16 and 18 respectively or younger as of January 1 of the year of the summer program.

U14-U18 is open to any players with no restriction on geographical school district assignment. Players must be at least 13 years of age and no older than 18 years of age on January 1 of the year of the summer program to play on the respective aged team. Depending on registration numbers and individual player ability, as determined by an independent evaluation process, players that meet the minimum age requirement may participate in a higher age division within the program at the consent of the player and parent or guardian. (Example: a U14 aged player may play on a U16 level team if determined by registration numbers or ability.)

Practices – the team(s) will strive to have two practices per week the two weeks prior to the season starting and at least one practice per week after the season starts. The exception would be if the players were involved in High School Softball up to the start of the summer program. Every effort will be made to schedule practices at least two weeks in advance.

Balanced (not necessarily equal) playing time is to be dictated as much by commitment and attendance as skill level. Playing time guidelines for 16 and U18:

- Teams will be highly competitive and coaches may use their own discretion in assigning positions.
- Every effort will be made to provide comparable playing time for all players. Tournament play may be an exception to this guideline. However, these factors may reduce a player's playing time: arriving late or missing games, (especially without informing the coach beforehand); excessive absence at practices; or lack of effort.

Each U16 and U18 team shall participate in tournaments (of which at least one may be a State qualifier and one a National qualifier) and a state tournament (subject to team qualification).

All team(s) will have the opportunity to be in at least one State Qualifier tournament and National Qualifier Tournament. A State tournament registration is included in the players registration fee (gate fee is extra per family). Playing in a State or National qualifier does not guarantee a tournament placement. Teams will typically have to win a

game or games to qualify. Coaches, Players and families will decide if they want to attend a National tournament. A national tournament is not included in the registration fee and the National registration, gate fees and travel costs will be extra.

Age Statement

HFC teams predominately play in leagues and tournaments primarily governed by one of the following fastpitch agencies: USA Softball, United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA), or the North American Softball Association (NAFA). Each governing body defines the date of age for qualified participation differently. In order to maintain flexibility and prevent a situation in which an HFC player is potentially ineligible for a certain event(s), **HFC will define a player's qualified age as the player's age on January 1st of the year of that team's summer season.**

Age Up Petition

If a parent, coach, board member, or player wishes to petition the board for a player to try out or be considered for an age group older than the player's qualified age group, they may do so. The age petition form must be filled out and turned into the board. The petition is then reviewed and either accepted or denied by the player development committee. The petition form is found on the website at owatonnafastpitch.com. This will be open to any player aged 1 year below 10U qualified age through 1 year below first year U18 qualified age. Any player of qualified age trying out for 14U through 18U will automatically be considered for team considerations for ages 14U, 16U, or 18U. In the event that an age up petition is denied or a player does not meet skill criteria at a tryout, that player would still maintain eligibility and participation at their qualified age.

Fundraising

Organization fundraisers are defined and made available to all HFC athletes and families at the beginning of the Summer season. Any additional fundraising an individual team wishes to do to raise funds for additional tournament entries, team building (meals, end of year parties, hotel offsets, etc), or other team wants, must go through the HFC board. Any request for fundraising solicitation must be presented to the board in writing and approved prior to moving forward with any attempts to gather funds. Any funds gathered must be turned into HFC and will then be redistributed back to said team for any approved expenses.

Player Facemask/Equipment

The HFC recommends that all players wear a facemask while playing in the field. HFC requires all players on a U14 team and younger to wear facemasks while playing in the

infield (first, second, shortstop, third and pitcher). Players on a U16 team and above are strongly encouraged to wear a facemask.

Uniforms

No additional uniforms will be provided by HFC other than the provided and purchased uniforms or game shirts (Fall/Dome) at the beginning of the season. If a coach feels that due to expected game play during the season an additional uniform is likely needed, a request would need to be placed with the coaches committee for approval prior to the season. Uniform style and aesthetics would be the same as previously provided unless due to a manufacturer or vendor discontinuation, and in this case a similar uniform aesthetic would be chosen by HFC. The additional uniform would then be an additional cost to the players or parents. No advertisement or sponsorships shall be placed on any uniform.

Player Driving Policy

The HFC discourages any player from driving themselves to out of town games.

Parent Reps

Each team will have a parent rep(s). Parents will be asked to volunteer and the Head Coach and the HFC Board will make the final selection. The Parent Rep(s) shall serve as the liaison between the coaching staff and the parents. The Parent Rep (s) responsibilities are:

1. Communicates regularly with the coaches and informs the team of changes in practice times, tournament schedule changes, and any other information that needs to be distributed to the families. Parent rep must have access to an email and text.
2. Create a calling/texting/email tree so important information and schedule changes are given out quickly.
3. Assist in distributing team uniforms, apparel, and equipment to players at the beginning of the season.
4. Ensure families have playing field address and if possible directions or map.
5. Organizing and distributing tournament information to players and their families as soon as the information is available or direct families to check the web site.

6. As needed, assist in finding volunteers for such things as fundraisers, concessions or tournaments.
7. NOTE – a parent rep IS NOT an assistant coach and is not involved in any coaching decisions regarding line-ups, playing time and so on.
8. See the website for additional duties.

Moving of Players -

No movement of players without board (or U10-U18 Committee) approval

U10-U18:

1) Players are allowed to be picked up by another team under the following conditions:

- If a team has less than 2 pitchers and/or 2 catchers
- Less than 10 players for any given game/tournament
- All league and tournament rules must be followed regarding roster

additions/changes

2) If the above conditions are met, the following guidelines must be followed when picking up players:

- a) The coach from the team in need of a player (receiving team) must contact the coach from the team in which they need to pull a player from (contributing team). i.e. U16 coaches must contact U14 coaches prior to picking up a player from the U14 team to the U16 team
- b) The coaches from the receiving team must communicate their specific needs to the contributing team's coaches. (i.e. only have 1 pitcher for an upcoming tournament)
- c) The coaches from the contributing team determines which player he/she feels fits the needs of the other team and makes a recommendation. This is then discussed among the coaches from both teams. Such things as attendance, attitude and performance should all be taken into consideration when making this recommendation.
- d) After a final decision is made regarding which player will be picked up, the coaches from the contributing team will discuss with the parents of that player first. At this time, the parents should be informed their daughter will be utilized as needed and may not see equal playing time.
- e) If the parents are in agreement regarding the decision, the coaches from the contributing team will then discuss with the player and provide the player

with the same communication regarding being utilized as needed and she may not see equal playing time.

f) If all parties are in agreement, contact information will be provided to the coaches of the receiving team.

3) Coaches from the receiving team must communicate with all current players and coaches regarding the need for the addition of a player to the roster for any given game/tournament. Ideally, this should be communicated 24 hours prior to the game when able.

4) All Roster changes should be communicated to the HFC board President. Contact info can be found on the HFC website under the “contact” tab.

NOTE: Any requests for roster changes that do not meet the above guidelines need to be board approved. Formal requests should be sent to HFC board President. Contact information can be found on the HFC website under “contact”.

Summer Program Registration

Registration will be either on line through the Huskies Fastpitch Club website or on site on “registration” night. Late registrations will be accepted at the Park and Recreation office. NOTE – late registrations have a late fee. Players must be registered and fees paid before they can participate. On registration night the following fees are required:

1. Registration fee. This covers:
 - a. Registration in the league
 - b. Park and Rec fees
 - c. ASA insurance
 - d. Umpires
 - e. Regular season tournament fees (gate fees extra per family)
 - f. Coaches fee
2. A check (amount communicated at the time of registration) for a fundraising event. This will be cashed. Families will earn their money back after selling the fundraiser item.
3. A check (amount communicated at the time of registration) for the work commitment fee. Each family is required to work over the course of the summer. If the family meets their work requirement the check will be destroyed and not cashed. If a family does not work the hours, their check will be cashed. Coaches and HFC Board members are not required to submit a check and are not required to work the required hours.
4. Partial scholarships for the registration fees are available for those families financially unable to pay the full fee. No scholarships are available for the

fund raising or the work commitment fee. Qualification for Scholarships must meet at least one of the following:

- a. Recipients of Current Free and Reduced Lunch Program
- b. Recipients of Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Benefits.
- c. Recipients of Medical Assistance Program
- d. Other special financial situations.

Registrations after the official registration date will be done on the HFC website and registration fees, fundraising fees and work fees can be mailed to:

Huskies Fastpitch Club
PO Box 1035
Owatonna, MN 55060

The registration fees do not cover a National Tournament (or a State tournament for U10) or their respective gate fees.

Summer Program Family “Work” Policy

At the time of registration for the Summer Traveling Program, each player/family shall provide a “work deposit” check (see registration form for amount) . If any one family has multiple players in the program, a work deposit for up to two players is required. HFC Board members and team coaches (head and assistant) are not required to provide deposit checks for their respective players.

For each player (up to two), families are asked to work a specific number of hours. Number of hours required for each player is determined by the HFC board and will be communicated at the time of registration. Work opportunities could include: team parent rep(s), working a food stand, working a tournament, volunteering for a fundraiser, umpiring a U10 game, and many others.

A Board member shall maintain a log of hours worked for each family. Once a family has met their work responsibilities, their “deposit” check shall be destroyed (shredded) and will not be returned unless a parent specifically requests it be returned. Those families

not working will be notified prior to cashing their “deposit” check to ensure they have not worked and it was not logged.

Parents/Spectators Code of Conduct

As a parent or spectator, I will:

1. Support the coaches, players, and/or the HFC and help teach the value of commitment to the team, sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
2. Support my child's team and help my child and the HFC make athletic contests a positive educational experiences
3. Direct constructive criticism of my child's team program to the head coach and/or association officials at an appropriate time, at least 24 hours later. I will work toward a positive result for all concerned.
4. Accept decisions of the game officials (including coaches) on the field as being fair and called to the best ability of said officials. The officials are in charge of all games; their decisions are final.
5. Exhibit exemplary sportsmanship at all times.
6. Abstain from being under the influence of or in possession of and/or drinking alcoholic beverages and the possession or use of any illegal substance on both the game and practice fields.
7. Follow the “24 hour rule”. Parents sometimes disagree with a coach’s decision or coaching style, especially when it involves their child. Parents have to understand the coach does not represent a player, but the entire team and must make decisions from the team perspective first and foremost. For parents, it is important to separate their child’s sports development from game emotions. For this reason, we have adopted the **“24 HOUR RULE”**, which simply states the coaches will not discuss game situations with parents or grandparents until at least 24 hours after the game. This rule helps to move the discussion away from the presence of the players and allows all parties to have time to put things into perspective and “cool off” if necessary. Face to face discussions shall be with both the head and assistant coaches and with no players present.

As a parent or spectator, I will not:

1. Interfere/interrupt the coaching staff during games or practices.
2. Criticize officials or coaches, direct abuse or profane language toward them, or otherwise subvert their authority.
3. Criticize an opposing team, its players, coaches, or spectators by word of mouth, by gesture, or by deliberately inciting unsportsmanlike behavior.
4. Undermine, in work or deed, the authority of the coach or the HFC.

Consequences of Behavior

At any HFC event, practice, or competition, any adult who verbally abuses, attempts to intimidate, is flagrantly rude to, or does not control their language or actions with a player, official, coach, spectator, or HFC board member will be asked to leave the event. He or she will receive written warning regarding their behavior. If the spectator fails to leave upon request, law enforcement authorities may be called to remove the spectator.

Any adult that commits a second similar offense will be banned from HFC events for the remainder of that season.

Any adult who physically assaults an official, coach, or HFC board member will be banned from HFC events for one year from the date of the offense. After one year, the parent may apply for re-instatement. If the adult commits a second offense, he or she will be permanently banned from the HFC events.

The term physical assault includes, but is not limited to: hitting, slapping, pushing, spitting, kicking or striking in any way with any part of the body or any physical implement.

Evaluations

Evaluations will be conducted for all summer program players. The team(s) will be selected based on the evaluations. If there are enough players to form more than one team, then the team selections will have the 12+/- players with the highest evaluation scores on one team and the next 12+/- on the next team and so on. However, the HFC and committees will review the team's players and ensure there are critical player positions (such as pitchers) on each team. NOTE – if someone registers at evaluations they must complete a registration form and pay the appropriate fees at the evaluation site.

Anyone not participating in evaluations will be placed on a team by the HFC.

The HFC and the Owatonna High School Softball Head coach may wave the evaluations for high school JV, Varsity and possibly C squad players and will be evaluated on their High School play in determining which team(s) on which they will play.

Evaluations will be done by non-parent adult evaluators. Instructions will be provided to them before evaluations to attempt to achieve consistent evaluations. Parents will not be allowed in the evaluation area.

Teams shall be determined within two weeks of the evaluations.

HFC Sponsored Clinics

A player must be registered for one of our softball programs or an OHS softball team to be able to participate in an HFC sponsored clinic. This is necessary to have a signed parents "terms and conditions" waiver before they participate in a sponsored clinic.

Leagues

After the teams are selected, the League Committee, with the approval of the HFC board, shall determine which league best fits the team's evaluated abilities. Age groups may not necessarily be in the same league. Leagues will also be reviewed for season starting dates, distances of travel, number of home games and competition.

Coaches

Coaches for the Summer Traveling teams will be selected by the Coaches Committee and approved by the HFC board. Coaches will be required to:

1. Pass a background check and provide documentation to the HFC before having any contact with their players.
2. Complete the concussion training and provide the certification to the HFC.
3. Complete the league training.
4. Attend a coaches training workshop.
5. Be familiar with the coaches manual.
6. Be familiar with the drills and expectations of the High School Head Coach.
7. Communicate in a timely manner, through the parent rep, changes in schedules and other team notices.

All coaches will be selected within one week after the teams are selected.

Number of Coaches

During practice the coaches shall decide how many parents/assistants will be allowed to assist.

During games, only the two coaches shall be allowed in the dugout or on the field. Parents/assistants can assist with warmups before the game. A parent/assistant may help a coach in the absence of the second coach. NOTE – this assistant must have a background check.

Remember: anyone in the dugout area or on the field during a game MUST have a background check, ASE training and concussion training.

Alcohol Use

Coaches shall refrain from the use of alcohol or illegal drugs the day of practice or prior to a game.

“All Star Selection and Game”

Depending on the league the team is playing within, there may be an “All Star” tournament. Player(s) (number dependent on the league) shall be selected by a vote of the team’s players. Transportation and any other costs are the responsibility of the player/player parents. Should a player decide not to attend, the next place player shall have the option to attend.

“Emergency Medical Care to Players”.

Occasionally players shall require emergency medical care, such as being injured during practice or a game, or have another medical emergency such as allergic reaction. Minnesota Statute 604A.01, the “Good Samaritan Law” provides immunity from liability for persons attempting to assist a person in need. The HFC also provides liability insurance for our coaches.

We ask our coaches, based on their comfort level, to provide whatever assistance they can provide to players in need. Should a player have a specific potential need, such as an allergic reaction, the coach should receive instructions from the parents as to the proper procedure. If a coach is uncomfortable performing any procedure they should

immediately seek the parent's assistance or immediately call for professional medical help.

New Directors

The Huskies Fastpitch Club is managed by a Board of Directors. The By-Laws specify the Club can have up to 15 Directors.

Any one adult interested in becoming an HFC Director must complete an application and either mail it to PO Box 1035, Owatonna, MN 55060 or submit to a current HFC Director. Applications can be obtained from any HFC Director.

Applications typically will be reviewed every June and December or more frequently as needs arise.

Applications are acted on by the HFC Board of Directors and new members are elected by a majority vote of the total current Board of Directors.

Board terms are 3 years from the date of acceptance.

Once elected, the new Director must pass a background check (paid for by the HFC).

Applicants will be notified of HFC's decision by email or phone call.

Huskies Fastpitch Club (HFC) Parents/Guardians and Player Code of Conduct

The Huskies Fastpitch Club (HFC) strives to provide a positive, competitive youth softball experience for the player, team, parent/guardian, and coach. Our goal is to create an environment that supports both player and team development. This Code of Conduct is an agreement between parents/guardians and players to abide by the policies and procedures of HFC and is required for participation in the HFC Program.

PARENTS' / GUARDIANS' PLEDGE: We understand that it is our goal to provide positive support for our player, her teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and the HFC. We agree to abide by the following:

- We have reviewed the document "HFC Policies and Procedures" and will assist our player in meeting the policies and procedures.

- We will assist our player in respecting her teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and property of others.
- We will act as role models in demonstrating this respect.
- We will be fans of our player and her teammates. We will not be a coach or a critic.
- We will provide financial commitment for our player. We understand that fees are to be paid in full by the date they are due. If these fees are not paid, our player may be asked to sit out of practices and/or games until paid.
- We will be responsible for timely transporting our player to and from practices, games, and tournaments. Parents/guardians are also responsible for finding alternate transportation when needed. Coaches will not under any circumstances transport players.
- We understand that team selections are made by the HFC Board of Directors. Team placements are based on several complex factors such as player numbers, skill levels, positional needs, etc. We will trust in the decisions made regarding team placement. We will be supportive of our player and the team for which she was chosen.

PLAYER’S PLEDGE:

- We will be on time, dressed, and ready for all practices, games, and tournaments.
- We understand that this is expected of us. If we cannot attend for valid reasons, we will notify the coach at least two hours in advance of practices and at least 1 day prior to games/tournaments. Unexcused absences could result in reduced playing time at the discretion of the coach.
- We will display good sportsmanship both on and off the field, a positive attitude, and respect toward our teammates, coaching staff, officials, and opponents.
- We will respect the property of others, including equipment and facilities used by HFC.
- We understand that we may not be eligible for participation in games without completing this requirement.
- We have read the document “HFC Policies and Procedures” and will abide by the policies and procedures.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

- Social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc., are public media. As such, any posts by coaches, athletes, or parents that reflect poorly on Huskies Fastpitch Club, its staff, or other members will be addressed in accordance with our club policies.
- Players shall not possess, consume, or distribute alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. If a player violates this policy, disciplinary action shall follow.
- Player Code of Conduct violations will be reviewed by the HFC Board as necessary.
- Player violations may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, temporary suspension or dismissal of the player from the HFC Program. Some examples of behaviors that may result in review and disciplinary action include: violation of the alcohol, drug, and tobacco policies; provocation; fighting; stealing; insubordination towards coaching staff, officials, fans, etc.; and other disciplinary

situations which may arise. An athlete who is removed from the team for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible to practice or play with the team.

- The HFC Program is a competitive organization. Skills, ability, effort, commitment, competition, team size, and positional needs are just some factors in determining playing time. Equal playing time is NOT guaranteed, and each athlete will play at the coach's discretion.
- If a softball related issue arises (i.e. about playing time or coaching philosophy), please follow these guidelines:
 - 1. The player is encouraged to discuss concerns directly with her coach using the 24 Hour Rule; either before or after practice; NEVER before, during, or immediately following a game or tournament. In most cases, issues can be resolved this way. Waiting at least 24 hours allows for some reflection, and for calming of emotions and frustrations.
 - 2. If there is still an issue or you as a parent/guardian are concerned about a softball-related matter, we also ask that you also adhere to the 24 Hour Rule and then email the designated HFC Board member assigned to your team. We ask that you refrain from addressing your concerns with the coach, as we have a process set up for Board members to review your concern (s) and follow up with you.
- The HFC program welcomes and appreciates support and encouragement from parents/guardians, extended family, and other fans. Parents/Guardians, players, and their guests are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship while representing HFC.
 - Please cheer for your player's TEAM; their joint efforts and successes.
 - Refrain from yelling at the umpire before, during, and after the game, no matter what the perceived error or injustice. Let the umpires do their job.
 - Keep all comments positive. Remember, you are sitting among supporters of youth from other teams.

Revision date: August 2023