

# **CV Softball Code of Conduct for Players, Coaches and Spectators**

- **Winning is the result of teamwork. Be an example of sportsmanship and citizenship, on and off the field, for all to follow.**
- **Be supportive of all players, coaches, umpires and league officials and treat them with respect at all times.**
- **Cheer and provide encouragement to players of both teams at every opportunity.**
- **Do not criticize players, coaches, umpires or league officials by word of mouth or gestures, either during the game or thereafter, either directly or indirectly, which includes electronic communication, including, but not limited to, email, texting, "Facebook," "YouTube," "Twitter," "MySpace" and "Pennlive.com" forum, entries or references.**
- **Attend all games. Be at the field at or before the appointed time.**
- **Bring any problem with any other player, coach, umpire, or fan to the direct attention of the coach or league official immediately, but by no later than the night of the incident.**
- **Respect umpire's decisions. Respect coach's decisions as to playing time for each player.**
- **Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat, before, during and after games.**
- **Never yell at or ridicule any player for making a mistake or losing a game, either directly or indirectly (including by electronic communication) before, during or after any game.**
- **Offer praise for competing fairly and trying hard. Doing one's best is as important as winning. Every player should feel like a winner every game, regardless of the final score.**
- **Play hard and have fun. Play by the rules and resolve conflicts without violence, hostility or hard feelings that may be expressed later, including by electronic communication.**
- **After each game, shake hands and thank the other team for a well played game.**
- **Booing, taunting, trash-talking, or profane/vulgar language will not be tolerated either directly (i.e., on-field) or indirectly (i.e., off-field) through electronic communication.**
- **No player, coach, or spectator may directly or indirectly (including, but not limited to, electronic communication) intimidate, threaten or strike anyone, on or off, or in the playing field vicinity.<sup>1</sup>**
- **No player shall use, nor shall any coach or parent condone, unnecessarily rough play or tactics that may place any player in potential harm.**
- **Code of Conduct violations may result in ejection, suspension and forfeiture of postseason play or CV Softball participation in subsequent years.**

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<sup>1</sup>In PA, the Criminal Code at 18 Pa.C.S.2701 defines a simple assault as "attempting to cause, or intentionally or knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury to another" or "attempt by physical menace to put another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury." This means you don't have to hit the person; all you have to do is make the person fear that they will be hit. 18 Pa.C.S. 2712 provides for "Assault on a Sports Official." Sports officials are defined as "a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach." The penalty for violating this law is a 1<sup>st</sup> degree misdemeanor which carries a maximum jail term of 5 years and/or a maximum fine of \$10,000. In short, don't argue with the ump or coaches; have fun and enjoy the game. It's not worth risking jail over a perceived bad call.