

Amateur Softball Association Rocky Mountain Region # 13 2007 Code of Conduct

Associations Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Rocky Mountain ASA Region # 13 (Association's, listed above) has the authority to establish policies which govern its own affairs and to prescribe, monitor and enforce the code of conduct on its members pursuant to such policies. This Code of Ethics identifies the standard of conduct, which is expected of all Rocky Mountain Region # 13 ASA (Association's) members, including all administrators, coaches, athletes, spectators and ASA officials. The Code of Ethics applies to all activities and functions of ASA at (Association's) including tournaments of all levels and qualifications, practices, travel, accommodation, banquets and social activities associated with competitive events. Individuals who violate the Code of Ethics may be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in this document and the ASA Code.

By the participation in ASA events and or using any facilities for practice etc all ASA members are subject to this code of conduct. The Manger and the head coaches of each team are responsible for the notification of all individuals with in the this policy that is applicable within their team.

A Philosophy of Fair Play

Fair play is an attitude, a way of thinking. Once it is learned, it can be applied to every aspect of life. Through involvement in sports, athletes learn about setting goals, making commitments, working hard and enjoying the challenge.

Athletes must learn to respect their own abilities and those of their opponents. As administrators and coaches we must attempt to have athletes realize that the joy of sports is as much in the total effort as in the final score.

As administrators, coaches, athletes, umpires and fans, we must work together to create an atmosphere of fairness, integrity and respect.

The three most important words in any Fair Play Policy are Fairness, Integrity and Respect and should be the principles of fair play always.

- Respect the rules
- Respect the officials and their decisions (City, Park, Schools Staff or ASA)
- Respect the opponents
- Maintain your self control at all times
- Respect your teammates and coaches

Fair Play Guidelines

Athletes:

1. Play by the rules, and in the spirit of the competition
2. Respect your opponents
3. Do your best to be a team player
4. Remember the ASA staff, coaches and the umpires are there to help.
Accept their decisions and show them respect.
5. Respect the facilities, the equipment and the support staff
6. Comply with all rules of the facility you are at.

JO Athletes

1. Respect the game, play fairly and follow its rules and regulations.
2. Show respect for authority to the officials of the game and of the league.
3. Demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during and after games.
4. Help parents and fans understand softball philosophy so they can watch and enjoy the game.
5. Be courteous to opposing teams and treat all players and coaches with respect.
7. Respect the privilege of the use of public facilities.
8. Use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol and abusive language is prohibited.

Coaches:

1. Lead by example by demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all involved.
2. Provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol and abusive language and refrain from their use at all sporting events.
3. Make sure that the equipment and facilities are safe for athletes to use
4. Be knowledgeable of the league or tournament rules and teach these rules to all payers on my team.
5. Encourage your team members to play by the rules and respect the rights of other players, coaches, fans and officials.
6. Respect the game and the ASA officials and communicate with them in an appropriate manner.
7. Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibitive substances.
8. Encourage performers to value their performances and not just results.
9. Coaches should conduct themselves in such a manner to represent their team in the most favorable light at all times.
10. Be responsible for your own behavior and also the behavior of your team members, their parents and fans
11. Ensure that athletes do not taunt or bait opponents or officials
12. No blatant intimidation or humiliation of the opponent's players, coaching staff or parents/fans will be permitted.

Umpires:

1. Umpires must be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of sports competitions. Without equivocation, game decisions which are slanted by personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.
2. Display fairness and uniformity in applying the rules.
3. Be honest in your assessment of situations.
4. Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
5. Use common sense to ensure the 'spirit of the game' is maintained and it is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the rules.
6. Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibitive substances.
7. Do not engage in physical intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, coach, administrator, other umpire or supporter.
8. Umpires recognize that anything which may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a team which can compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating must be avoided.
9. Umpires have an obligation to treat other umpires with professional dignity and courtesy and recognize that it is inappropriate to criticize them publicly.
10. Umpires have a responsibility to continuously seek self-improvement through study of the game, rules, rule or interpretation changes, mechanics and the techniques of game management. They have a responsibility to accurately represent their qualifications and abilities when requesting or accepting game assignments
11. Display high standards of behavior and appearance.
12. Umpires shall not be party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to officiating, game assignments or association membership. This includes selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, sex, physical handicap, country or national origin.
13. Follow all guidelines laid down by the national ASA office

Administrators:

1. Ensure all players and appropriate coaches are ASA registered.
2. Ensure that all equipment and facilities are safe for the players and the spectators.
3. Ensure that athletes and coaches understand that they are the most visible representatives of their team and must conduct themselves accordingly.
4. Make sure that coaches, athletes and officials are able to promote fair play
5. Help coaches and officials improve the standards of their areas of responsibility.
6. Set a conduct example for others to follow.
7. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
8. Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) with respect to the performance of any team, coaches, officials, players, or any policy of the ASA.
9. Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, coach, umpire or spectator.
10. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
11. Ensure on and off the field behavior is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
12. Ensure all parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, medical staff and players understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.

Spectators:

1. Show appreciation for good performances made by all competitors and teams
2. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would be no competition
3. Respect officials and support their decisions
4. Never ridicule a player for making a mistake
5. Encourage players to play according to the rules
6. Always be on your best behavior

JO Parents / Spectators

1. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, fans and officials at games, practices and other sporting events.
2. Place the well being of my child before a personal desire to win.
3. Advocate a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol and abusive language, and refrain from their use during youth sporting events.
4. Encourage my child to play by the rules and respect the rights of other players, coaches, fans and officials.
5. I will help my child enjoy her softball experience by being a respectful fan and supporting parent. (Please keep comments to yourself; you never know who is sitting next to you!)
6. I will treat other players, coaches, managers, fans and umpires with respect regardless of race, sex or ability.

Complaint Procedure

1. Document the incident in a report. This report should contain as much information as possible, including: a detailed description of the incident(s), date, name of person(s) involved, as well as supporting documentation pertaining specifically to the allegations. Examples might include score sheets, officials' reports, and letters from witnesses or other related documentation.
2. Following documentation, Rocky Mountain ASA Associations may contact the manager or coach of the offending team so the matter may be resolved.

Routine Enforcement

Depending on the severity of the violation, a coach, athlete, umpire, parent or fan, determined by the proper authority to be in violation the "Code of Ethics", may incur one or more of the following sanctions:

1. Removal from the ball park by the Umpire or the Tournament Staff
2. Letter of caution. This should be considered a warning, and subsequent offences may lead to more severe consequences.
3. Suspension from games (players or coaches) or ball parks (players, coaches or parents).
4. Suspension from ASA.
5. **Additional penalties:** A team, team member, manager, team official / staff or umpire, ASA official may be disqualified for a period of time for violations outlined in this Code of Conduct and per the ASA Code of Conduct by the ASA Association Commissioner where the offence occurred or his or her designee. To be honored by all Rocky Mountain ASA Associations However the following acts require minimum disqualification of one year loss of eligibility.
 - a. Physical violence
 - b. Commission of fraud
 - c. Competing knowingly with or against disqualified player.
 - d. Damage to tournament facilities being used

Appeal Process

An appeal will only be considered in the case where it can be shown that a procedural error has taken place, or where new information, pertaining specifically to the original complaint, has come to light which has not been previously considered.

1. A complaint, in the context of the Code of Ethics, means a dispute in writing arising from the interpretation, application, administration or alleged contravention of the Code of Ethics.
2. Any complaint referred to, as an appeal shall be heard by a Panel convened by the (Association) ASA Commissioner and or his designee.
3. The Panel shall not be authorized to alter, modify or amend any part of the Code of Ethics as part of the Appeal Process.
4. The finding of the Panel as to the facts and as to the interpretation, application, administration or alleged contravention of the Code of Ethics shall be final and binding upon all parties concerned.

Rocky Mountain ASA Associations reserves the right to change the policy as necessary at any time.