

# Lubbock Youth Softball Code of Conduct

## LYS Parent Code of Conduct Overview

- I will not force children to participate in Little League.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for the children, not adults.
- I will inform a league official of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of children or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of Lubbock Youth Softball.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, managers, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will teach children to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that athletes treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- I will teach my child that doing ones' best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by his/her performance.
- I will praise athletes for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my youth or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practice and how they benefit athletes by winning.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my players to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches on the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all events.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

## No Board Member, Manager, Coach, Player, Parent or Spectator shall:

- At any time, lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official.
- Be guilty of heaping personal verbal or physical abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary belief of a wrong decision or judgment.
- Be guilty of an objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's decision by throwing of gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls, or any other forceful unsportsmanlike action.
- Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of a game against the body of an opposing player.
- Be guilty of a physical attack upon any board member, official manager, coach, player or spectator.
- Be guilty of the use of profane, obscene, or vulgar language in any manner at any time.
- Appear on the field of play, stands, or anywhere LYS plays its games while in an intoxicated state, whether odor or behavior issue, at any time.
- Be guilty of gambling upon any play or outcome of any game with anyone at any time.
- Smoke while in the stands or on the playing field or in any dugout at any time. Smoking will only be permitted in designated areas, which will be at least 200 feet from any spectator stands or dugouts.
- Be guilty of discussing publicly in a derogatory or abusive manner any play, decision, or a personal opinion on any player during the game.
- Speak, or communicate in any form, disrespectfully to any manager, coach, official or representative of the league.
- Be guilty of tampering or manipulation of any league rosters, schedules, draft positions/selections, or official score books.
- Challenge an umpire's authority. The umpires shall have the authority and discretion during a game to penalize the offender according to the infraction up to and including removal from the game.

Any inappropriate behavior by a parent or spectator may be cause for the suspension of a game by the Umpire. Game suspension may continue until such time as the individual leaves the park.

The Board of Directors will review all infractions of the LYS Code of Conduct. Depending on the seriousness or frequency, the board may assess additional disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the league.

## Reporting:

It is the responsibility of each umpire and official scorekeeper to log warnings and ejections. It is the responsibility of the Chief Umpire, Game Monitors, Managers, Coaches, Umpires or Members of the Board to file a Code of Conduct Incident Report, if necessary. It is the responsibility of the Code of Conduct Review Committee to decide if any deviation from the league's ejection policy is to be enforced, modified, or revoked.

## Lubbock Youth Softball League Code of Conduct (continued)

### 2024 LYS Code of Conduct Policies

**Overview:** Lubbock Youth Softball is concerned about the safety and well-being of the children participating in its league activities. This includes both their physical and mental well-being. Managers, Coaches, Parents and Spectators need to have a positive influence on our players and will be evaluated accordingly. The Lubbock Youth Softball Board has instituted a Code of Conduct Policy that will help enforce acceptable conduct for all participants in the league. The Code of Conduct Review Committee (the "Committee") will evaluate each reported incident to determine the appropriate action to be taken. A Code of Conduct Incident Form may be filed by any Manager, Coach, Umpire, Game Monitor or Board Member. This method of reporting infractions should help remove the subjective nature from evaluating a Code of Conduct Incident. The Board retains the right to act in the best interest of the league as it sees fit, with or without the use of the following policy.

**Conduct Review Committee:** The Committee will be comprised of the President, and two other nominated board members (most likely the Safety Officer). If the President is unavailable for more than a 7-day period, the Vice President of Softball may substitute for the absent party (if they are not nominated Committee members). If the President has a conflict of interest with an issue under review, he/she shall not be allowed to vote, and an alternate must vote in his/her place. Managers in the same sport (whether baseball or softball) may not be nominated to the Committee as an alternate for that sport. The Committee will be nominated and accepted by the Lubbock Youth Softball Board of Directors at the beginning of each season. Upon receiving a Code of Conduct Incident Report, the Safety Officer will contact the members of the Committee to meet in person or via email depending on the severity of the incident and as the Safety Officer sees fit.

**Three Strike Policy:** All participants in Lubbock Youth Softball will adhere to the "Three Strikes and You're Out" principle. The Committee will assign strikes according to the severity of each incident. Depending on the incident, an infraction can carry more than one strike as determined by the Committee. Figure 1 is a guideline for the action to be taken based on strikes. Figure 2 is a guideline for assignment of strikes by the Committee. Strikes may only be filed against an individual if a majority of the Committee determines that an infraction has been committed. All decisions made by the Committee are at their discretion and all decisions are final. Strikes are cumulative each season and will not carry over into the next season. Assigned strikes will be used by the Board in evaluating and accepting Volunteer Positions each year.

**Evaluation Procedure:** A Code of Conduct Incident Report may be filed by any Manager, Coach, Umpire, Board Member or Game Monitor. Game Monitors will be sent out on occasion to monitor and evaluate games throughout the season. A Code of Conduct Incident Form may be filed if the Game Monitor feels that a Manager, Coach, Umpire, Fan or Player has not adhered to the Code of Conduct as outlined in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section. A Game Monitor may not use a game that his/her child participates in for evaluation purposes. If there is an issue regarding Board Members, Managers, Coaches or Umpires that is potentially harmful either mentally or physically to a child, the President and Safety Officer are immediately notified, and a written Code of Conduct Report will be filed.

If any Board Member, Manager, Coach or Umpire is under review by the Committee for the above-mentioned item, they shall be suspended until the issue is resolved or they receive an email from the President and Safety Officer stating that they can continue with their duties.

**Notice of Infraction:** The Committee will send via email or U.S. first class mail a Notice of Conduct Infraction to the offending party, which include a description of the resulting penalty. Examples of applicable penalties are listed in Figure 1.

**Conclusion:** As Board Members, Managers, Coaches and Volunteers we are entrusted with the well-being of the participants in Lubbock Youth Softball. It is critical that each child have a positive experience with his/her participation. Umpires, Volunteers, Parents and Players all must be educated in Code of Conduct expectations and enforcement. The Committee must consistently enforce this policy to provide a healthy playing environment for all participants in Lubbock Youth Softball.

### 2024 Reference Chart and Actions

Figure 1 - Action to be Taken based on Strikes		
Strike One	Strike Two	Strike Three
Suspension for 1 – 3 games depending on severity	Board Member may be asked to leave Board position	Suspension from league for remainder of year
	Manager/Coach will step down to lesser volunteer position	
	Parent will not be allowed to hold volunteer position	
	Suspension for 4-8 games depending on severity	

Figure 2 - Examples of Strike Assignment		
Assign 1 Strike	Assign 2 Strikes	Assign 3 Strikes
Criticizing an Umpire, Manager or Coach in a foul or abusive manner	Verbally abusing a Player or child Umpire	Physical Abuse or fighting of any kind
Abuse of league or other participant's property	A Board Member, Manager, Coach or Umpire creating an unsafe	
Player verbally abusing another player	physical or mental environment for a Player	

Note: The above are examples of actions which will not be tolerated and strike assignments but should not be considered an inclusive list.