



## **SCC SWAT Fastpitch Parents Code of Conduct and Commitments**

*Each player's parent and /or guardian must sign*

The essential elements of character building and ethics in fastpitch softball are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- Good Citizenship

It is expected that every player and family member demonstrates these characteristics as representatives of the SWAT Fastpitch organization.

**I therefore agree that:**

1. I will remember that young ladies participate in softball to have fun and that the game is for them, not me.
2. I will inform a coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my daughter or the safety of others.
3. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of SCC SWAT Fastpitch, USSSA, ASA, and Pony.
4. I (and my family and guests) will be a positive role model for my daughter and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or other team function.

5. I (and my family and guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, family member, or spectator, such as: arguing decisions; booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; using profane language or gestures.
6. I will demand that my daughter treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
7. I will teach my daughter to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of others.
8. I will teach my daughter that giving and doing her best is more important and a greater victory than winning a softball game.
9. I will praise my daughter for competing fairly and trying hard, and will *never* ridicule or yell at my daughter or other players, coaches, or officials for making a mistake or for losing a game.
10. I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the players ahead of any personal desire I may have for my daughter to win.
11. I recognize that alcohol and illegal drugs have no place in softball, for players, coaches, parents, other family members, and guests alike. I agree that the use of or suspected use of alcohol or any illegal drug by me, a member of my family, or my guests prior to or during a practice, game, or tournament is unacceptable and will result in me or that person being asked to leave the park, and/or the calling of local authorities; and an investigation with disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the coaching staff.
12. When the team travels for a tournament involving an overnight or longer stay, I (and my family and guests) will not use or possess illegal drugs, and will not become inebriated or otherwise overindulge in alcohol, for the entire duration of the trip, including traveling to and from the tournament, at the hotel, and while both at the ball park and away from it.
13. Attendance for practices and games is expected. If my daughter cannot be at a practice or game, I will notify a coach of the absence as far in advance as possible, by phone, text message, or e-mail. I understand and agree that it will be up to the coach's discretion regarding appropriate playing time as a result of the number or frequency of these types of absences.
14. I (and my family and guests) will promote good sportsmanship, team unity and respect for the coaches' authority.
15. I (and my family and guests) will encourage my daughter to work hard in developing the highest skill level possible in order to earn a position, as well as keep that position, and to develop a positive and sportsmanlike attitude.

16. I understand that all coaching decisions are made solely by the coaching staff. I (and my family and guests) will not coach my daughter or any other player in any way during a game. If a coaching issue or concern occurs during a game, I will discuss the issue with the players/parent's representative no sooner than the day after the game, but ***never during or immediately after a game.*** If I have any serious concerns or complaints, I will arrange a private meeting with the coaching staff. Such concerns may not be discussed in a public forum such as a team e-mail distribution list. I will encourage my daughter to address the coach staff directly with any issues she may have, in a polite, respectful, and positive manner.
17. Players must be in complete uniform for practice and games and ready to go when she arrives at the ball park. I will see to it that my daughter is in uniform prior to her entering a park.
18. Umpires have authority in games. Even when mistakes are made, I will treat them respectfully. Just like me, players, and coaches, umpires make "errors" (missed calls). I will forgive and go on. I **(and my family and guests) will respect the umpires and their authority during games and will never criticize, question, discuss, or confront them at a ball park.** If it becomes necessary, the coaching staff may ask me (or a member of my family, or my guest) to leave the area or park if my (or his or her) behavior is deemed abusive or disruptive and could cause the umpire to act in a like manner or threaten forfeiture of a game, or otherwise damage the reputation of the team.
19. I am (and my family and guests are) not permitted in dugouts or on the field during practice or games, unless specifically invited by a coach. I (and my family and guests) will only approach the dugout or field during practice or a game in order to check on my daughter's health.
20. Participation in fundraising activities is expected by all members of the team. I will require and support my daughter's full participation in any and every fundraising effort by the organization or her team.
21. I will see to it that all fees are paid on schedule. I understand that my daughter will not be permitted to play until payment is made.
22. ***Whenever wearing clothing or items bearing the logo or name of SCCS.W.A.T. Fastpitch, me, my family and guests are representing the team, and will speak and act in a manner which brings honor to the team and organization, both when at the ball park and in the community (e.g. a restaurant or store). When the team travels for a tournament involving an overnight or longer stay, this applies to me (and my family and guests) for the entire duration of the trip, both at the ball park and away from it. This does not preclude having fun in ways which comply with the code of conduct.***

23. By signing this letter, the player is accepting a roster spot on the team for the entire season and in turn are contractually obligated to pay all annual dues and fundraiser amounts based upon the budget related to that specific SWAT team. These financial obligations remain intact regardless of whether the player remains on the team for the entire season. If it is determined the player is unable to participate for the entire 2022-2023 season for ANY reason, such player will still be responsible for payment of the remainder of her annual dues and any outstanding fundraising obligations for the 2022-2023 season.

**Consequences:**

I understand that if I do not follow this Parents Code of Conduct, I may be subject to one or more of the following consequences:

A warning or ban from practices or games for any parent who violates the Parental Code of Conduct for SCC S.W.A.T. Fastpitch. Such actions may take the form of a verbal warning or a written warning. Documentation of all incidents will be kept on file by the coaching staff.

Parents who are verbally abusive to coaches, managers, umpires, players or other adults in a public setting will be removed from the practice or game. If the abuse occurs in another public forum such as e-mail distribution list, the abusive parent will not be allowed to attend the next practice or game.

Two violations of the code of conduct will result in dismissal of the offending parent from all practices and games. After three or more infractions, the parent will be asked to withdraw their daughter from the team for the remainder of the season without a refund for any dues paid or fundraising money raised by your daughter.

I, by signing this document, acknowledge that I understand that the rules stated above are to help me best represent my daughter, myself, my family, my guests, SCC SWAT Fastpitch and the Disobedience of, or disregard for these guidelines is grounds for disciplinary action including, but not limited to your daughter being removed from the team.

**Parent/Guardian:** ..... **Date:** .....

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