

Oshkosh Spartan Softball Club, Inc.

Code of Conduct

In order to advance the principles of sportsmanship and fair play and to promote mutual respect among players, coaches, officials and spectators, the Oshkosh Spartan Softball Club, Inc. (OSSC) has established this “Code of Conduct.”

The Code of Conduct shall govern the actions of players, coaches, parents and all spectators. The Code is intended to provide behavioral guidance and establish clear expectations for all involved. The Code was not conceived to address every possible behavior circumstance; however, it shall serve as OSSC’s standard for behavioral evaluation. Ultimately, this Code of Conduct follows a basic premise: players play; coaches coach; and everyone else supports and cheers.

A. Players

You will:

- display good sportsmanship and team play at all times.
- follow the direction of the coaching staff.
- respect all coaches, players, league officials, umpires and spectators.
- support other players in their successes and when they fail.
- be on time and ready to play for all games and practices.

Illegal or inappropriate use of the Internet and/or electronic devices. Any posting or communication via social networking websites which disrupts the athletic environment is unacceptable. This includes but is not limited to: the consumption of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs or facsimiles, inappropriate sexually oriented material, or activities involving bullying, hazing, or harassment.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE:

As a member of the Oshkosh Spartan Softball Club, Inc., you belong to an elite and highly visible group. No matter how successful we are on the field, we will often be judged by our behavior off the field. **Any behavior that is detrimental to our team can be cause for immediate suspension. Behavior both on and off the field should put our program in high standing at school, on the field and in the community.**

As a member of this team, you are expected to attend all meetings, practices and games. You are expected to be prompt – a MINIMUM of 15 minutes early = ON TIME!! Exceptions can be made through discussion with the head coach prior to the event. For example, if you are going to be late to practice **YOU** must tell the head coach prior to practice.

THE TEAM COMES FIRST:

Personnel decisions in a team sport cannot be democratic in nature. Coaches will discuss every player's performance on a regular basis. **When a decision is made relative to personnel, it is always done with the TEAM'S best interest in mind.** Each individual in our program has a right to ask the coaching staff about the decision with regard to their own situation.

The player's steps to take for asking about their standing:

- 1) Talk to your coaches (before or after practice – not at a game).
- 2) If questions remain, ask for a meeting between you, your parents and the coach.
- 3) Ask "how can I perform better?"

The Coach's decision as to playing time and positions is final. There is no negotiation. It is up to you, the player, to improve; only your improvement will change the coach's mind.

B. Coaches, Parents, and All Spectators

All adults who coach or simply watch and cheer for the players shall remain unconditionally supportive of OSSC'S commitment to the ideals of good sportsmanship, team play, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority. In order to adhere to these doctrines all adults (coaches, parents and spectators) agree as follows:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice and other team events.
2. I will not conduct or encourage poor sportsmanship or behavior that degrades a player, other parent, coach, official or spectator at a practice, game or team event.
3. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
4. I will support all coaches, board members, and others working with my child in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
5. I will require my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect.
6. I, along with any guest of mine, will never openly or maliciously criticize, harass or threaten an umpire, official, player, or coach; and will refrain from any rude, offensive or abusive language or gestures.
7. I will not be intoxicated (beyond the legal driving limit) of any drugs or alcohol while at any OSSC athletic event.
8. I will direct my comments and criticisms to board members and coaches away from the children on the team and away from the playing field; and will conduct myself in a calm manner when doing so. (24 hour rule is MANDATORY – wait before approaching a coach!)
9. I will let the coaches coach my child and will refrain from approaching my child in the dugout or anywhere near the playing field during the game for any purpose.

C. Consequences

At the discretion of the coach or a member of the board who is present, a player or spectator may be taken out of a game or removed from any OSSC-sponsored activity for conduct which is not consistent with the above Code.

The OSSC Board of Directors unconditionally supports the principles and behavioral guidelines established in this Code of Conduct, and violations will be strictly enforced. Any person violating the Code of Conduct may be subject to administrative action by the OSSC Board of Directors. Disciplinary actions shall be appropriate to the circumstances and nature of the violation(s) and may include, but are not limited to, a reduction in player playing time and/or the termination of the violator's privilege to participate in, or attend, any further OSSC activities (practices and/or games). All violations of this Code of Conduct shall be addressed on an individual basis and in accordance with a procedure established by the OSSC Board of Directors. Violations shall be addressed in a fair and timely manner. Disciplinary actions for failure to comply with the Code of Conduct are at the sole discretion of the OSSC Board of Directors. If a player is removed from a team due to her conduct or the conduct of one or more of her family, fees will not be refunded.

Signed (Parent/Guardian) _____ Print Name _____
Signed (Parent/Guardian) _____ Print Name _____
Child's Name (please print) _____ Date _____

Note: In order to participate in any OSSC activities (practices and games) this form must be signed and dated. Failure of the parent/guardian to do so will automatically cause the parent and child to be ineligible to take part in OSSC activities and games. In addition, by signing this code of conduct, parents/guardians agree to abide by the guidelines set forth above, and to conduct themselves in the appropriate manner. Failure to abide by the Parents Code of Conduct set forth above will automatically cause the parent and the child to be ineligible to participate in or attend any OSSC sponsored event. Your signature acknowledges that OSSC coaches and Board of Directors have the sole right to carry out this Code of Conduct.

Rev. Date: 1/16/21