



## PARENT/SPECTATOR, COACH and PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

### Elk Grove Girls Softball League

It's simple: BE A GOOD SPORT!

Children's sports are supposed to be fun and for the children. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults. The code of conduct for this league has been developed by National Youth Sports Safety Foundation (NYSSF), USA Softball and Elk Grove Girls Softball League (EGGSL).

Parents, fans and coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about... BEING FUN FOR

EVERYONE!

1. Teams and spectators should demonstrate good sportsmanship! Team chants/cheers and spectator and coaches' comments should not be derogatory or demeaning towards opposing teams/players/coaches.
2. Spectators or players are not permitted to approach the score table or umpires at any time. Only the head or assistant coach has authority to speak with the score table or umpire if there is a question regarding the awarding of a run or to get clarification of an official's call. Judgment calls are at the umpire's discretion and are not up for debate.
3. Spectators and coaches will be a positive role model for children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, spectators, officials, and staff at every game, practice or league event.
4. Spectators, coaches and players will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or spectator such as booing, taunting, refusing to shake hand, or using profane language or gestures.
5. Spectators, coaches and players will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
6. Spectators and coaches should praise their team members for competing fairly, trying hard, and make the children feel like a winner every time, regardless of the score!

7. The use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol during youth sports is prohibited by City ordinance. Spectators, coaches and players will refrain from their use during all league activities.
8. Parents, remember that all coaches are volunteers! Respect the fact that they are willing to give so much of their time to your child.
9. Each team's coach is held responsible for the conduct of their fans/spectators/team participants.
10. If spectators, players, and/or coaches fail to abide by the code of conduct, they will be subject to disciplinary action based on article IX of EGGSL'S policy and procedures. Disciplinary action could include, but is not limited to: verbal warnings, written warnings, ejections, and suspensions for various lengths.
11. Officials, and EGGSL staff have the authority to remove a player, coach, or spectator from a game and can declare the game a forfeit due to unsportsmanlike conduct.
12. Players, coaches, and spectators who have been ejected must leave the complex and may not return until the completion of their suspension.

#### EGGSL RULES AND PROCEDURES - DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

All disciplinary actions will be reviewed by the Board for further investigation of an alleged incident. If any action is taken the League's President and/or Vice President will inform the individual of the Board's decision and penalty. The following are an outline of the league's disciplinary actions.

1. Any ejected player/coach MUST leave the field immediately. Failure to do so may result in a maximum penalty for the violation. If the ejected player/coach continues any disruptions from the spectator area, they will be suspended for one additional game and placed on probation. An incident report will be completed and forwarded to the EGGSL Executive Board.

- Minimum Penalty: 1 Game Suspension
- Maximum Penalty: 2 Game Suspensions and 1 Year Probation

2. A player/coach who is on probation for a Code of Conduct violation, and is reported for another violation of the Code of Conduct, WILL FACE double the normal penalty for the new violation. Any probation or suspension included in the penalty for the new violation will run consecutively with the former penalty. This incident will be reported to the EGGSL Executive Board.

- Minimum Penalty: 4 Game Suspensions and 1 Year Probation
- Maximum Penalty: Termination for the Calendar Year.

3. No Player/Coach/Spectator shall be physically aggressive toward any person (teammate or opponent), official (umpire or scorekeeper), league director, agency representative, or spectator. This includes any unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to, shoving, or striking a person before, during or after a game. During a game, the player will be immediately ejected.

- Maximum Penalty: Termination for one year.

4. No Player/Coach/Spectator may use or profanity and/or racial, sexual, religious or disability-based slurs, threats, or intimidation before, during or after a game.

- Minimum Penalty: Immediate ejection and eight-game probation.
- Maximum Penalty: Termination for the one year.

5. Any Player/Coach/Spectator who refuses to abide by an official's decision.

- Minimum Penalty: Immediate ejection and two game suspensions.
- Maximum Penalty: Termination for the year.

6. Any Player/Coach/Spectator who continues to be verbally abusive toward any player, official, league director, tournament director, representatives, or spectators shall be subject to additional penalties. This includes, but not limited to, use of profanity and/or racial slurs, harassment, threats, or intimidation before, during or after a game. If during a game, the violator will be ejected.

- Minimum Penalty: Immediate ejection and eight game suspensions.
- Maximum Penalty: Suspension for two years.

7. A hearing may be requested by the player/coach/spectator. An Eligibility and Reinstatement Committee will be appointed by the EGGSL Executive Board to hear the appeal.

## EGGSL RULES AND PROCEDURES – SUSPENSION POLICY

The following policy is to help protect the participants, parents, volunteer coaches, officials, staff, and other volunteers of our recreational & competitive sports programs. To make our program safe & family oriented, the following will be implemented for Elk Grove Girls Softball and any other Related sports leagues/events.

1. All volunteer coaches must abide by all league policies and procedures. Specifically in the area of code of conduct: Volunteer coaches are an extension of the Elk Grove Girls Softball League which adheres to a 'zero tolerance' policy regarding violations of the code of conduct.
2. Any volunteer coaches, participants or spectators who are suspended from league play by an official or staff person will be ineligible to coach, participate and/or spectate for the duration of their suspension term. This includes any and all program related activities and events;
3. Any violation while under suspension will be treated as a 2nd offense and all relevant penalties will apply, including extending the existing suspension;
4. Any suspension occurring with less than two games remaining in the regular season will result in suspension from all remaining regular season games, as well as any and all upcoming post-season tournament games;
5. Any ejection/suspension that occurs during the post-season tournament will result in the implementation of the suspension during the next sports season for which the individual participates;
6. Any suspension for a term of 6 months or more will require a written request for reinstatement to be submitted following the suspension term. The request may be emailed to:

[board@elkgrovesoftball.com](mailto:board@elkgrovesoftball.com)

or addressed to

“Board of Directors”  
P.O. Box 2388, Elk Grove, CA, 95624

The subject Line should read: “Right to Deny Reinstatement and/or Extend any/all Suspensions”. Reinstated participants, parents or coaches must complete the relevant re-training and/or education program prior to reinstatement.

## **Ejection/Suspension Procedures:**

Once an ejection/incident happens: (Day of Games)

1. Ejected individual must leave facility and premises immediately, or police will be called.
2. Board Member in Charge (BMIC) / Umpire / All Volunteers involved in the incident must fully complete an ejection/incident report, noting items such as:
  - a) Individual(s) involved
  - b) Team/League affiliation
  - c) Purpose of Ejection/Incident
  - d) Facts (not opinions) and description of incident
  - e) BMIC or Board members present
  - f) Relevant contact information (email, cell phone, address as needed)
  - g) Actions taken at time of incident
3. Board Member in Charge (BMIC) – Once Report is completed, BMIC will review the report and send directly to Board of Directors (Board). Once incident report is received by Board of Directors, the following will occur:
  - a. Board will direct further review to appropriate committee as required (if appropriate, full Board will address further review/actions).
  - b. Board/Appropriate Committee will retrieve the reports from the BMIC / individuals involved when the incident occurred.
  - c. Board will contact parents / coaches / umpires / other volunteers associated with the incident in question and request statements from all parties involved and/or witnesses.
  - d. All statements will be given specific timelines as to when they are due, i.e. 5:00pm on Tuesday following the regular season game on Saturday

