

HIGHLANDS TRAVEL SOFTBALL CODE OF CONDUCT COACH'S AGREEMENT

HIGHLANDS TRAVEL SOFTBALL (HTS) HAS ESTABLISHED A FORMAL COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT TO ENSURE THAT OUR HEAD COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES UNDERSTAND WHAT THE GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS ARE IN RUNNING A TEAM IN OUR PROGRAM.

OBJECTIVES OF HIGHLANDS TRAVEL SOFTBALL

OUR MISSION IS TO WORK WITH SELECTED SOFTBALL PLAYERS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE SPORT AND MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO TAKE THE TIME NECESSARY TO LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS AND STRATEGIES OF SOFTBALL. YOUNG PLAYERS MUST PLAY AND PRACTICE OFTEN AND CHALLENGE THEMSELVES IN COMPETITIVE GAMES. TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, HTS WILL ENLIST THE AID OF THE BEST COACHING STAFF AVAILABLE.

BY OFFERING THIS TYPE OF COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT ALONG WITH AN OBJECTIVE OF WINNING CHAMPIONSHIPS, THE PLAYERS WILL BE INSTILLED WITH THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

- **COMMITMENT...TO THEIR TEAM AND SPORT BY FOLLOWING A STRICT ROUTINE OF PRACTICE AND GAMES.**
- **SPORTSMANSHIP...RESPECT FOR THEMSELVES, TEAMMATES, COACHES, UMPIRES AND OPPOSING TEAMS WHETHER THEY WIN OR LOSE.**
- **PRIDE...WORKING HARD TO EARN SUCCESS.**
- **DISCIPLINE...LISTENING, LEARNING, PRACTICING AND APPLYING THOSE SKILLS TAUGHT IN PRACTICE TO GAME SITUATIONS.**
- **LEADERSHIP...THROUGH THEIR ACTIONS ON AND OFF THE FIELD.**

IN ADDITION TO THE CHARACTER BUILDING GOALS NOTED, THE ON-FIELD OBJECTIVES ARE TO DEVELOP CHAMPIONSHIP CALIBER TEAMS AND PREPARE PLAYERS TO PLAY AT NORTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL.

ALL COACHES MUST MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS:

EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

1. **I WILL TREAT THE OFFICIALS, PLAYERS, COACHES, AND PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS AND RELATED SPECTATORS OF THIS PROGRAM, AS WELL AS PLAYERS, COACHES AND PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS AND RELATED SPECTATORS OF OUR OPPOSITION WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY AT ALL TIMES.**
2. **I WILL UPHOLD THE AUTHORITY OF UMPIRES. I WILL ASSIST THEM WHEN POSSIBLE AND USE GOOD JUDGMENT IF I DISAGREE WITH THEM.**

3. I WILL APPROACH TEACHING THE GAME OF SOFTBALL BY STRESSING THE FUNDAMENTALS, DISCIPLINE AND SPORTSMANSHIP OF THE GAME.
4. I WILL FOLLOW ALL TOWN RULES CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF FIELDS.
5. I WILL PROMOTE AN ATMOSPHERE IN PRACTICE AND IN GAMES WHERE THE ATHLETE WILL ENJOY HER EXPERIENCE AND WANTS TO CONTINUE IN THE SPORT OF SOFTBALL.
6. I WILL NOT VERBALLY OR PHYSICALLY ABUSE A PLAYER, PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN, SPECTATOR OR COACH AT ANY TIME.
7. I WILL NOT ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES DURING SOFTBALL EVENTS WHICH WOULD PROMOTE POOR VALUES TO OUR YOUTH WHICH INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
 - USING OBSCENE OR FOUL LANGUAGE IN A BOISTEROUS MANNER TO ANYONE
 - OPENLY AND EXCESSIVELY DISPUTING OR ARGUING ABOUT A DECISION MADE BY AN UMPIRE
 - USING EXCESSIVE PHYSICAL FORCE ON OR OFF THE PLAYING FIELD
 - TRASH TALKING OR BAITING OTHER PLAYERS
 - DEFACING OR DAMAGING BUILDINGS, FIELDS, EQUIPMENT AT ANY GAME OR PRACTICE

PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF A PLAYER OR A COACH IS EJECTED FROM A GAME, I MUST REPORT THE EJECTION TO THE COMMISSIONER AND THE COACHES SELECTION COMMITTEE BEFORE THE NEXT GAME SO THAT THE INCIDENT AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT CAN BE REVIEWED AND CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN TO WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL WILL SERVE AN ADDITIONAL ONE GAME SUSPENSION OF THE FOLLOWING GAME. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IF AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES A SECOND EJECTION THEY WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO GAMES. IF AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES A THIRD EJECTION, THEY WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE PROGRAM.
2. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF ONE OF THE COACHES (HEAD COACH OR ASSISTANTS) OBSERVES AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACT BY A PLAYER OR A FELLOW COACH, THE OFFENDING INDIVIDUAL WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIT THE BENCH FOR THE REST OF THE GAME. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF THE SAME INDIVIDUAL IS OBSERVED CONDUCTING A SECOND UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACT, WHETHER FROM THE BENCH OR IN A SUBSEQUENT GAME, THEY WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE NEXT GAME. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS OBSERVED CONDUCTING A THIRD UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACT, THEY WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE PROGRAM.
3. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF A PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN/RELATED SPECTATOR DISPLAY INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR TOWARDS A COACH, A PLAYER OR AN OPPOSING TEAM'S PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN/SPECTATOR AT A GAME OR A PRACTICE, THE INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AND ONE OF THE COACHES WILL CONTACT THE POLICE, IF NECESSARY. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF A PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN/RELATED SPECTATOR DISPLAY INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR A SECOND TIME THEY WILL BE RESTRICTED FROM ATTENDING FUTURE GAMES AND THEIR CHILD WILL RECEIVE A TWO GAME SUSPENSION.
4. I UNDERSTAND IF A PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN OBSERVES WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACT OR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR BY ME, A PLAYER, OR A PARENT/SPECTATOR, THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REPORT THE ACT TO THE COMMISSIONER SO THAT THE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION, INCLUDING TERMINATION FROM THE PROGRAM, CAN BE CONSIDERED.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE PROGRAM

1. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT THE HTS PROGRAM REQUIRES THAT TRYOUTS ARE CONDUCTED IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE MANNER IN ORDER TO SELECT PLAYERS FOR EACH TEAM.
2. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT THE HTS TRYOUTS WILL ASSESS A VARIETY OF SOFTBALL SKILLS OF EACH PLAYER; HITTING, THROWING, CATCHING, SPEED.
3. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT INDIVIDUALS SELECTED TO EVALUATE THE PLAYERS AT THE TRYOUT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HEAD COACH, WILL HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP, AND TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, HAVE LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PLAYER TRYING OUT.
4. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT ANY ASSISTANCE ON THE PLAYING FIELD DURING THE TRYOUT WILL NOT BE PERFORMED BY A PARENT, AND TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ANYONE CLOSELY RELATED TO A PLAYER TRYING OUT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HEAD COACH.
5. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT THE HTS PROGRAM ENCOURAGES A CHILD TO ACTIVELY PLAY AND PARTICIPATE IN THE REC SOFTBALL PROGRAM (OR FOR THEIR SCHOOL'S SOFTBALL TEAM).
6. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE HTS PROGRAM'S PHILOSOPHY IS TO:
 - FIELD A TEAM(S) AT EACH DIVISION OR AGE LEVEL
 - WIN GAMES AND CHAMPIONSHIPS WITHIN THE RULES AND SPIRIT OF THE GAME
 - HAVE PLAYERS EARN PLAYING TIME AND POSITIONS
7. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE HTS PROGRAM REQUIRES THAT ALL HTS TEAMS PRACTICE ON A REGULAR AND ROUTINE BASIS IN ORDER TO CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE PLAYERS' AND THE TEAM'S SOFTBALL SKILLS. WINTER CAMPS AND SPRING SOFTBALL ARE ENCOURAGED AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.
8. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE HTS PROGRAM WILL PROTECT THE SAFETY OF EVERY PLAYER INCLUDING THE ARMS OF PITCHERS. HEAD COACHES WILL ABIDE BY AND FOLLOW RELEVANT LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT RULES CONCERNING LIMITATIONS ON PITCHING.
9. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO STUDY THE RULES OF THE GAME, LEAGUE RULES AND TOURNAMENT RULES AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS. I WILL ALSO EDUCATE MY ASSISTANT COACHES (IF NECESSARY) AND PLAYERS IN THESE SAME RULES.
10. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT I MUST BE CERTIFIED BY THE RUTGERS SAFETY PROGRAM BEFORE I CAN COACH ANY HTS PLAYER.
11. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT I MUST HAVE BE CERTIFIED TO HAVE TAKEN A CONCUSSION COURSE BEFORE I CAN COACH ANY HTS PLAYER.
PLEASE SEE: [HTTP://WWW.NFHSLEARN.COM/](http://www.nfhslearn.com/) (GO TO COURSES/FREE COURSES/CONCUSSION IN SPORTS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.)
12. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE HEAD COACH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DECISIONS RELATING TO PLAYING TIME AND POSITIONS AND SUCH DECISIONS WILL BE GUIDED BY THE OBJECTIVES OF THE HTS PROGRAM WHICH ARE STATED ABOVE.
13. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT THE HTS PROGRAM'S COACHING PHILOSOPHY IS TO:
 - TEACH THE STRATEGY OF SOFTBALL,
 - FOSTER AN UNDERSTANDING OF TEAM COMMITMENT,
 - DEVELOP SELF DISCIPLINE AND SPORTSMANSHIP,
 - DEVELOP A RIGOROUS ROUTINE IN ORDER TO CONTINUALLY PUSH PLAYERS TO IMPROVE INDIVIDUAL SOFTBALL SKILLS,
 - TEACH THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF HEALTHY COMPETITION THAT WILL SERVE THEM IN LIFE AS WELL AS SPORTS, AND
 - INSTILL A PASSION FOR SOFTBALL.

**HIGHLANDS TRAVEL SOFTBALL
CODE OF CONDUCT
COACH'S AGREEMENT**

ACCEPTANCE DOCUMENT

I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT I REPRESENT THE HTS PROGRAM AND THAT I WILL ADHERE TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THAT PROGRAM. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT IF I DO NOT ADHERE TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PROGRAM I CAN BE REMOVED FROM MY COACHING POSITION.

COACH'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

COACH'S SIGNATURE