

HIGHLANDS TRAVEL SOFTBALL

CODE OF CONDUCT

PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT

HIGHLANDS TRAVEL SOFTBALL (HTS) PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING CODE OF CONDUCT. HTS IS ESTABLISHING A FORMAL CODE OF CONDUCT TO ENSURE THAT OUR COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS, RELATED FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHER RELATED SPECTATORS UNDERSTAND WHAT THE GOALS, EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES ARE IN OUR PURSUIT OF PLAYING, CHEERING FOR AND ENJOYING THE GAME OF SOFTBALL.

OBJECTIVES OF HIGHLANDS TRAVEL SOFTBALL

OUR MISSION IS TO WORK WITH SELECTED PLAYERS FROM THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SENDING-DISTRICT 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 TO PLAY AT NORTHERN HIGHLANDS.

EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

1. **I WILL TREAT THE OFFICIALS; EACH PLAYER, COACH, AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN/RELATED SPECTATOR PARTICIPATING IN THE HTS PROGRAM, AS WELL AS EACH PLAYER, COACH AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN/RELATED SPECTATOR OF OUR OPPOSITION; WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY.**
2. **I WILL UPHOLD THE AUTHORITY OF UMPIRES AND COACHES WORKING WITH MY CHILD. I WILL ASSIST THEM WHEN POSSIBLE AND USE GOOD JUDGMENT IF I DISAGREE WITH THEM.**
3. **I WILL BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE HTS PROGRAM.**

4. 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 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
5. I WILL HELP MY CHILD DEVELOP GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND A DESIRE TO STRIVE FOR SUCCESS.
6. I UNDERSTAND HTS PLAYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN REC SOFTBALL ESPECIALLY AT THE AGES OF 14 AND BELOW.
7. I UNDERSTAND THAT HTS IS GEARED TOWARDS PLAYERS WHO LOVE THE SPORT OF SOFTBALL AND ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR DEVELOPMENT AS SOFTBALL PLAYERS.
8. I UNDERSTAND THAT MY COMMITMENT TO HTS IS FOR ONE SOFTBALL SEASON ONLY AND AT THE END OF EACH YEAR, EVERYONE HAS TO TRY OUT AGAIN.
9. I UNDERSTAND THAT ATTENDANCE AT GAMES IS MANDATORY AND THAT HTS TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OTHER SPORT, EXCEPT FOR REC OR SCHOOL SOFTBALL GAMES, MY CHILD MAY BE PARTICIPATING IN. GAMES WILL BE RESCHEDULED ON SHORT NOTICE AND I WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND. TEAMS MAY PLAY IN TOURNAMENTS OVER MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAYS AND MAY HAVE GAMES SCHEDULED OVER THE JULY 4TH WEEKEND.
10. I UNDERSTAND THAT PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY AND SHOULD ONLY BE MISSED ON ACCOUNT OF ILLNESS, RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
11. I UNDERSTAND THAT PLAYERS MUST ARRIVE AT ALL GAMES AND PRACTICES ON TIME.
12. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WILL BE NO PARENT COACHING FROM THE STANDS. NO MATTER HOW GOOD MY INTENTIONS, I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WILL BE NO SHOUTING INSTRUCTIONS TO MY CHILD OR ANY OTHER PLAYER ON THE TEAM.
13. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PLAYERS NOT BE DISTRACTED AT PRACTICES AND DURING GAMES AND THAT PLAYERS ARE GIVEN ONLY ONE SET OF INSTRUCTIONS BY ONE VOICE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER PRACTICES AND GAMES.
14. I UNDERSTAND THAT NO ONE OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ON THE OFFICIAL ROSTER MAY SIT IN OR NEAR THE TEAM DUGOUT BEFORE AND DURING GAMES.
15. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NO GUARANTEED AMOUNT OF PLAYING TIME AND THAT THERE MAY BE FACTORS THAT CAN AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF PLAYING TIME OF A PARTICULAR PLAYER. I UNDERSTAND THAT HTS BELIEVES THAT PLAYING TIME IS EARNED AND NOT GIVEN.
16. I UNDERSTAND THAT STARTING POSITIONS AND PLAYING TIME ARE BOTH EARNED BY COMING TO PRACTICE REGULARLY AND BY WORKING HARD, COMPETING AND CONCENTRATING DURING PRACTICES AND GAMES.

PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

1. IF A PLAYER OR A COACH IS EJECTED FROM A GAME, THE HEAD COACH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING 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 GIVEN TO WHETHER THE

INDIVIDUAL WILL SERVE AN ADDITIONAL ONE GAME SUSPENSION OF THE FOLLOWING GAME. 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. 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. 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. IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS OBSERVED CONDUCTING A THIRD UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACT, THEY WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE PROGRAM.
3. 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 WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AND THE POLICE WILL BE NOTIFIED, IF NECESSARY. 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. IF A PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN OBSERVES WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACT OR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR BY A COACH (HEAD OR ASSISTANT), PLAYER, OR PARENT/SPECTATOR, THEY SHOULD REPORT THE ACT TO THE COMMISSIONER SO THAT THE INCIDENT CAN BE REVIEWED AND THE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION CAN BE CONSIDERED.

OTHER MATTERS

IF A MEMBER OF THE PROGRAM HAS AN ISSUE WITH THE WAY A COACH IS TREATING A CHILD OR A TEAM AS A WHOLE, THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO FORMALLY APPROACH THE HTS COMMISSIONER TO VOICE HIS / HER CONCERN. THE CONCERN SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED IN A LETTER OR IN AN E-MAIL TO THE COMMISSIONER. THE COMMISSIONER, RULES AND ETHICS COMMITTEE AND THE COACHES SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW THE INCIDENT AND COLLECTIVELY FORM AN OPINION AND TAKE THE APPROPRIATE ACTION. THE PARENT WILL BE FORMALLY NOTIFIED OF THE COMMISSIONER'S AND THE COMMITTEES' ACTIONS.

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.

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.

IN THE EVENT THAT AN HTS TEAM IS UNABLE TO FIELD A TEAM, WITH THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF COMMITTED PLAYERS, WITH GIRLS WHO RESIDE IN NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SENDING-DISTRICT TOWNS, A SPECIAL EXCEPTION CAN BE GRANTED BY THE HTS BOARD TO OPEN UP ROSTERS TO PLAYERS FROM OTHER TOWNS. IN ADDITION, PLAYERS AND PARENTS WHO HAVE MADE THE COMMITMENT BUT SUBSEQUENTLY MISS GAMES AND PRACTICES MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE PROGRAM.

WHILE THIS IS NOT INTENDED TO BE AN INCLUSIVE DOCUMENT WE HOPE IT SETS THE GROUNDWORK FOR HOW WE EXPECT EVERY MEMBER OF OUR PROGRAM TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES.

IN ORDER FOR ANY CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN HTS, WE REQUIRE BOTH THE PARENT AND THE PLAYER ACKNOWLEDGE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE HTS'S CODE OF CONDUCT SET FORTH ABOVE BY SIGNING AND RETURNING TO THE HEAD COACH, THE ACCEPTANCE PAGE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT PRIOR TO THE FIRST PRACTICE

**HIGHLANDS TRAVEL SOFTBALL
CODE OF CONDUCT
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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 THE HTS PROGRAM.

PLAYER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

PLAYER'S SIGNATURE

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN OF PLAYER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN OF PLAYER'S SIGNATURE