



## **CODE OF CONDUCT** **Effective: 1/1/2016**

### **PURPOSE**

In an effort to provide participants with a healthy, safe and developmental athletic environment that encourages fair play, effort, teamwork and sportsmanship, SBSL supports a Low Tolerance Code of Conduct for players, parents, coaches, game and league officials and spectators. This policy requires that a sportsmanlike and developmentally positive atmosphere exist before, during and after all SBSL and/or ASA SOFTBALL sanctioned events.

### **POLICY**

All SBSL players, parents, coaches, game and league officials and spectators are expected to conduct him/herself in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all times before, during and after any SBSL and/or ASA SOFTBALL sanctioned event. Good conduct is expected to extend to umpires, game officials, spectators, as well as to opposing players, coaches and parents.

### **The following is SBSL's Low Tolerance Code of Conduct**

#### **Players**

A violation of the Low Tolerance Code of Conduct will exist whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues a decision by an official with unsportsmanlike behavior and/or vulgar displays.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language and/or gestures at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- Displays unsportsmanlike behavior toward any player, coach, parent, umpire, SBSL official or game attendee.

Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be removed from the game.

#### **Coaches**

A violation of the Low Tolerance Code of Conduct will exist whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or argues a decision by an official with unsportsmanlike behavior and/or vulgar displays.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Visually and or physically displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be removed from the game.

#### **Officials**

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.



# Somerset Berkley Softball League



## Parents/Spectators

The game will be stopped by game officials or league administrators when parents/spectators are displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior or interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials or league administrators will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the SBSL Board of Directors. A violation of the Low Tolerance Code of Conduct Policy will exist whenever a parent or spectator:

- Uses obscene or vulgar language and or gestures in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunts players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throws any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench direction in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

## Penalties

**1st & 2nd violation:** Results in a verbal warning from the game umpire(s), a SBSL Board Member or Team Manager. Umpires may instruct Team Managers to handle a violator from his team whether it is a player, parent or spectator.

**3rd violation:** Results in an ejection from the game and a reporting to the Umpire in Chief, and to any of the SBSL Board members. Parties may remain in the vicinity of their vehicle in the parking area until their game is over. The party will then have to appear in private in front of the SBSL Board of Directors and discuss what the future status of their involvement with SBSL will be.

**4th violation:** Results in removal from the SBSL complex and SBSL sanctioned events away from the SBSL fields for the remainder of the year and require a private meeting in front of the SBSL Board for reinstatement to the SBSL, no earlier than January 1st of the following year.

**In addition, the following Codes of Conduct for spectators and parents in conjunction with the existing SBSL Low Tolerance Code of Conduct should be adhered to:**

## Spectators

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans. Enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants, avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing objects on the field can cause injury to players and officials.
- Support the umpires and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety and remain alert to help prevent accidents.
- Respect dugouts as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive after the game, win or lose. Recognize good efforts, teamwork and sportsmanship.



# Somerset Berkley Softball League



## Parents

- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete.
- Deemphasize games and competition in the younger age levels.
- Know and study the rules of softball, and support the officials on and off the field. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice. It is destructive. Work toward removing physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport.
- Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can and dedicate time as a volunteer!

**Failure to abide by SBSL’s Low Tolerance Policies may result in disciplinary actions up to and including ejection and/or termination from SBSL, against the player(s), parent(s), coach(s) and/or spectator(s) involved, at the sole discretion of the SBSL Board of Directors.**

**I have fully read and understand the SBSL code of conduct and hereby agree to abide by said code of conduct rules and guidelines.**

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**Player’s Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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**Parent’s Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Coach’s Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**