

VERMILLION FASTPITCH SOFTBALL PROGRAM

PLAYERS AND PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

Mission: Vermillion Fast Pitch is dedicated to providing young players with the opportunity to excel in competitive softball.

Team Objective: Create & maintain an environment that enables coaches & players to compete on & off the softball field with emphasis on community, teamwork, discipline, ethics, and sportsmanship.

Team Goals:

Goal 1: Our goal is to give our players the opportunity to grow athletically, socially and emotionally.

Goal 2: Our goal is to teach character, leadership, personal responsibility, and personal accountability.

Goal 3: Our goal is to reinforce the values of community through actions, which support younger player development and encourage a relentless commitment to sportsmanship.

Goal 4: Our goal is to support our players in exceeding their personal expectations and in developing self-confidence through accomplishment.

Goal 5: Our goal is to emphasize the value of hard work, self-discipline, loyalty, teamwork and sportsmanship, as well as having fun while participating in Vermillion Fast Pitch.

Coaches Expectations:

- Coaches will be positive role models.
- Coaches will display and instill in their players the principles of good sportsmanship and team play.
- Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.
- Coaches will do their best to provide the players a positive experience.
- Coaches will ensure that winning and/or losing teams do so in a manner which exhibits respect and good sportsmanship.
- Coaches treat all players, parents, spectators, umpires, and board members with respect.
- Coaches will provide instruction in a manner that is constructive and supportive.
- Coaches will not tolerate behavior that endangers the health or well-being of any child.
- Coaches will teach the game of softball to the best of their ability.
- Coaches will not be any part of the use of profanity, obscene language or improper actions including negative social media use.
- Coaches will hold between 1-3 practices per week once their season starts.
 - o U10, U12, U14 – season starts March 1st
 - o U16 and U18 – season starts February 1st
- Coaches will be at every practice, game, and tournament unless he/she is ill or there is a family emergency.
 - o VFP Board must approve other absences.
 - o VFP Board must approve substitute coach.
- Coaches will be on time to practices, games, and tournaments.
 - o *In case of inclement weather, players and parents need to be notified at LEAST one hour before start time of practice and/or game.*
- Coaches are prohibited from drug and alcohol use during and/or in between games each day. Alcoholic beverages may be consumed by those **OF AGE** once all games for that day are complete.

Coaches will comply with the decisions of board members and observe all rules, policies, and procedures as established or endorsed by VFP.

Player Expectations:

- To set a positive example at all times – show respect, and display good sportsmanship.
- To put the team first at all times. Competitive softball requires self-discipline related to attendance, practices, games and team functions.
- To maintain a positive attitude at all team functions and be respectful to teammates at all times. Failure to be respectful to teammates will result in immediate removal from practice/game situations. This is non-negotiable for players, respect for teammates & coaches is a basic requirement of the program. **This includes social media.**
- Hustle & show pride in the program.
- Players not playing should stay in the dugout supporting the team.
- Non-players should not be in the dugout, players should not be outside of the dugout during games.
- To come prepared for all practices and games with all necessary equipment.
 - o Be on time to practices, games, and tournaments. **IF** late, the entire team will have consequences.
- To work hard, be open to change and learning new skills, and perform at the best of her ability.
- To have respect for the coaches, umpires, and opponents.
- Participate in fund-raising & community events
- **Electronic devices will not be used while at practices or games for personal use, except in emergency situations, as they create a distraction for the players and coaches.**
- Players must contact coaches via cell phone if they are unable to make a practice or an event. Please provide at minimum 2 week notice for tournaments and 48 hours for individual games. **IF** coaches are not notified, there will be consequences for the individual.

Note: In the event of an illness or other unplanned event, please still contact coaches so they can plan appropriately.

Parent/Guardian Expectations:

- To understand, accept, and support the team goals.
- To understand the level of commitment that is necessary from themselves, their daughter, and the coaches to make this team successful. Being on this team will require a large time and financial commitment.
- Ensure their daughter attends practices, tournaments, and team functions.
- To remain **OUT** of the dugout **UNLESS** an injury occurs.
- To respect umpires' decisions. The responsibility of an umpire is to call Softball games fairly and within their knowledge of the sport. Unfortunately, every call may not be the way you see it. As the umpire, they have control as the official of the game and are well within their rights to control an obnoxious coach, player or parent. They have the power and support of VFP to stop interference in the game.
 - o First: a warning will be given.
 - o Second Offense: parent/guardian will be banned from the next home game
 - o Third Offense: parent/guardian will be banned for the remainder of the season
- To respect coaches' decisions. Challenging the authority of a coach will not be tolerated.
 - o Any issue regarding playing time should first be discussed between player and coach.
 - o Failure to comply with the above may result in suspension of games or removal of the player from the team.
- To refrain from criticizing and/or second-guessing coaches' decisions. Negative comments can be destructive and can lead to conflict among parents and/or spectators. If you have specific criticisms or concerns, you should handle them according to the procedures defined in the next bullet.
- If a parent feels a coach has violated a guideline listed above or has any other concern regarding his or her daughter's involvement with this team, he or she should adhere to the following procedures:
 - o **Step #1 – Follow 24-Hour Rule:** Coaches cannot be contacted within 24 hours prior or after a game and/or tournament.
 - **CONTACT THE HEAD COACH FIRST, HOWEVER**
 - Inputs related to player playing time, performance, coaching decisions will not be recognized by coaches unless a discussion has happened between the player and coach FIRST.

- Inputs related to player playing time, performance, coaching decisions will not be recognized by the VFP board unless a discussion has taken place with the head coach per the process above.
- Step #2 - Speak directly to the Head Coach, in a civil and respectable manner away from any organized team activity (ex: practice or game) via phone or face-to-face conversation.
 - Coaches prefer face-to-face conversation.
 - Player will be present during this conversation.
- After speaking with the head coach and you still feel the issue isn't resolved, you should then forward your concerns onto the VFP board. Contacts for the VFP board are available at VFP.com
- To refrain from using Social Media as a way to express your issues/concerns.
 - If coaches or VFP board find that a parent has used Social Media in a negative way, appropriate actions will be taken. Each situation is different, so action will be based case by case.

Note: Failure to comply with the above may result in disciplinary action. The VFP board will respond on case-by-case situation. Refunds will not be offered in these circumstances.

I understand my responsibilities as a player or parent to participate on a Vermillion Fastpitch team. Specifically:

- ❖ The goals of the VFP organization
- ❖ My responsibility to understand that playing time is earned only & not provided for other reasons
- ❖ My obligation to be respectful to teammates, coaches & umpires
- ❖ The policy for voicing complaints
- ❖ Softball can be a dangerous sport, I understand I release VFP from any obligation related to services provided by VFP
- ❖ I release VFP to use my players name, photo or other reference in public documents without obligation.

Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Team Name: _____ Age Group: _____ Date: _____

Vermillion Fast Pitch is committed to providing a safe environment for players without prejudice.