

# NGSA House League Code of Conduct

(updated 8/10/2023)

The Northbrook Girls Softball Association is proud to run a House League program that fosters not only softball skill development and fun, but also respect, fairness, caring, and good sportsmanship in a safe environment. Our Code of Conduct exists and must be signed off by all families upon registration to make clear the expectations of our players, families, coaches, and league officials. In order to continue to enjoy a wonderful experience in this league, we must all adhere to the code.

Families, coaches and players therefore agree to the following (all apply to all groups unless specified):

- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will cheer with class, be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity, and I will compliment extraordinary performance.
- I will respect officials and their authority during games; I will not complain about or argue with official calls. Only team coaches may interact with game officials, and will do so calmly, respectfully, and within the league rules.
- I will respect coaches and will not confront them at the field or ridicule them; I will consider the needs of the team and understand the coaches are responsible for determining playing time, positions, and game decisions.
- I will be a good role model; I will exhibit good conduct and character; I will not use profane, abusive, negative, or inappropriate language at the field.
- **As a player**, I will support all of my teammates; I will not criticize, tease, or ridicule my teammates; I will treat players on the opposing team respectfully; I will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- **As an adult**, I will encourage my child, regardless of their level of play; I will demonstrate an interest in my child's play; I will never ridicule or yell at my child or any other participant whether child or adult.
- **As a non-coaching adult**, I will be a spectator at games; I will not enter the field or dugout unless asked to do so; I will not shout instructions or contradict or undermine coaches; I will always use a supportive tone.
- **As a coach**, I must complete the background check process as mandated by the league and our insurance carrier before participating in that role.
- **As a coach**, I will treat all players with respect, care, and positivity; I will treat every player fairly and equitably; I will treat all officials, players, parents, and other coaches, regardless of team, with respect.
- **As a coach**, I will behave professionally at all times; I will follow all league rules, including those regarding playing time and player rotation.

Failure to follow these rules may result in disciplinary consequences. Depending on the situation and the role of the people involved, those consequences can include (but are not limited to) verbal or written warning, ejection from a game, forfeiture of a game, and/or suspension from participation. The NGSA Board has final authority as to those measures if necessary.

Finally, it is important to provide pathways for all parties to address any concerns. Below are the correct pathways to use. For any situations that might not fall within those paths or if you have further questions, you can always reach out to the House Director ([house@northbrooksoftball.com](mailto:house@northbrooksoftball.com)) and/or League President ([info@northbrooksoftball.com](mailto:info@northbrooksoftball.com))...

- If players have concerns of any kind, those should be directed to their families and/or their team coach(es).
- If families have concerns about game situations, officials, or players on the team, those should be directed to the team coach(es), after the game or practice. We recommend the “24-hour rule” whereby you wait 24 hours before addressing a concern.
- If families have concerns about the coaches, those should be directed to the House League Director.
- The only circumstance in which families or spectators should address concerns to coaches during a game is if there is a significant and ongoing safety concern.
- If coaches have concerns about game officials, those should be directed to the House League Director, after the game. The House League Director will then communicate with the Umpiring Coordinator.
- If coaches have concerns about players’ family members or other spectators, those should be handled directly and professionally when possible. If that path does not get the desired results or is not feasible, coaches may escalate concerns to the House League Director.
- If game officials have concerns about players, coaches, or spectators that they are unable to or are uncomfortable addressing in situ, those concerns should be brought to the Umpiring Coordinator and/or House League Director.