

Nipissing District Softball Club (NDSC)

Code of Conduct

The Nipissing District Softball Club (NDSC) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, respectful, and development-focused environment for all athletes, families, coaches, umpires, and volunteers. This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for everyone involved in our programs and applies at all NDSC events, including practices, games, tournaments, meetings, and online interactions.

By participating in NDSC programming, all individuals agree to uphold the standards outlined below.

1. PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

As an NDSC athlete, I agree to:

Respect & Sportsmanship

- Treat coaches, umpires, teammates, opponents, and spectators with respect.
- Accept decisions made by coaches and umpires without argument or disrespect.
- Represent my team, my club, and my community with pride and integrity.

Effort & Commitment

- Give my best effort at practices and games.
- Attend practices and games consistently and arrive prepared.
- Notify my coach as early as possible if I cannot attend.

Team Culture

- Support my teammates with positive encouragement.
- Stay engaged on the bench and contribute to a positive team atmosphere.
- Use equipment safely and respectfully.
- Help keep fields, dugouts, and facilities clean and cared for.

Social Media & Communication

- Use social media responsibly and respectfully.
- Avoid negative, harmful, or disrespectful posts about teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, or the club.
- Follow NDSC's Social Media Policy at all times.

Conduct & Behaviour

- Listen to my coaches and follow instructions to the best of my ability.
- Demonstrate self-control, even in challenging situations.
- Remember that softball is a game – and games are meant to be fun.

Player Acknowledgement:

Failure to follow this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from the program.

2. PARENT & GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a parent/guardian supporting an NDSC athlete, I agree to:

Respect & Positive Behaviour

- Treat all coaches, umpires, players, volunteers, and spectators with respect.
- Model calm, positive behaviour – my actions reflect on my child and our club.
- Support the decisions of coaches and umpires, recognizing that many are volunteers.

Support & Communication

- Ensure my child attends practices and games, or arrange appropriate transportation.
- Provide as much notice as possible if my child will be absent.

- Communicate respectfully with coaches and club officials.

Sideline Conduct

- Encourage all players – on both teams – with positive language only.
- Refrain from coaching from the sidelines or criticizing officials.
- Maintain a safe, welcoming environment for all athletes.

Social Media & Public Conduct

- Use social media responsibly and respectfully.
- Avoid posting negative or harmful comments about players, coaches, officials, or the club.
- Follow NDSC's Social Media Policy.

Perspective & Purpose

- Remember that youth sport is about development, teamwork, and enjoyment.
- Support NDSC's mission to promote healthy activity, skill development, and good sportsmanship.
- Keep the experience fun – for my child and for everyone involved.

Parent Acknowledgement:

Failure to follow this Code of Conduct may result in being asked to leave the facility or, in serious cases, further action by the club.

3. COACH & VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

As an NDSC coach or volunteer, I agree to:

Leadership & Professionalism

- Serve as a positive role model for athletes and families.

- Demonstrate respect for all players, officials, opponents, and volunteers.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with all athletes.

Player Development & Safety

- Prioritize athlete safety, well-being, and development over winning.
- Create an inclusive environment where all players feel valued.
- Ensure fair playing time in accordance with league guidelines.

Communication

- Communicate clearly, respectfully, and promptly with families.
- Use approved communication channels only.
- Never privately message a minor athlete through personal accounts.

Social Media

- Use social media responsibly and professionally.
- Avoid posting content that could be perceived as criticism, favouritism, or inappropriate.
- Follow NDSC's Social Media Policy.

Conduct & Integrity

- Uphold the rules and values of NDSC and governing bodies.
- Address conflicts calmly and through proper channels.
- Foster a positive, safe, and development-focused team culture.

Coach/Volunteer Acknowledgement:

Violations may result in disciplinary action, suspension, or removal from coaching or volunteer duties.

4. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

All participants agree to:

Use Social Media Responsibly

- Share positive, respectful content.
- Protect the privacy and dignity of all athletes.
- Avoid posting identifiable photos of minors without consent.

Avoid Harmful Behaviour

- No harassment, bullying, or negative commentary.
- No criticism of players, coaches, officials, or teams.
- No posting of confidential team matters or internal issues.

Club Representation

- Only authorized individuals may post on behalf of NDSC.
- No creation of unofficial team pages or accounts.

Consequences

Violations may result in removal of posts, warnings, suspensions, or removal from the program.

5. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

NDSC reserves the right to take action when behaviour violates this Code of Conduct.

Depending on severity, consequences may include:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Removal from a game or facility
- Suspension from practices or games

- Removal from the team or program
- Reporting to governing bodies if required

The club may act immediately in situations involving safety, harassment, abuse, or behaviour that undermines the integrity of the program.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & AGREEMENT

Participation in NDSC programming requires all players, parents/guardians, coaches, and volunteers to acknowledge and agree to this Code of Conduct.

By registering with the Nipissing District Softball Club, all parties confirm that they:

- Have read and understand this Code of Conduct
- Agree to uphold the standards and expectations outlined
- Understand that violations may result in disciplinary action

NDSC is committed to fostering a positive, inclusive, and community-driven softball experience. Together, we create an environment where athletes can grow, compete, and thrive.