



# MANDATORY RULES FOR ALL COACHES

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## ALL Coaches:

First and foremost, the League wishes to thank all coaches for donating their time and energy to coaching for the NSPL. Your efforts are much appreciated by players, parents and the NSPL family!

In general, games that move along quickly, at a brisk pace, are preferred by parents, coaches and players. Please do your best to have the field and your team ready at the start of the game and keep warm up time between innings down to a minimum.

All coaches (Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches) acknowledge and agree to coach in accordance with the NSPL Mission Statement which is, as follows:

*“NSPL is dedicated to helping girls enjoy the game of softball, developing their skills, learning about good sportsmanship, making new friends and having fun in a healthy, outdoor, athletic setting. The aim is to accomplish this through positive reinforcement and fundamental training such that it builds confidence and positive attitudes.”*

## Pre-season:

1. All coaches agree to read, and comply with, the League’s “Code of Conduct” which is posted on the League’s website.
  2. All coaches agree to remind players and parent about the “Code of Conduct” which is posted on the League’s website.
  3. Coaches agree to review, understand and follow all the rules for their Division.
  4. Coaches must attend coach reviews/clinics as specified by the Board of Directors.
  5. Coaches agree to review medical information/food allergies for their team’s players (from the registration data) and be alert to any special medical needs of their players.
  6. Coaches are asked to enforce these rules at all of their games and practices.
    - No smoking or other use of tobacco is permitted on the playing field side of the paved driveway that provides access to Troop Field.
    - No DOGS or pets of any kind (excluding service animals) on the playing field or on the driveway
    - Park only in designated spots—special note for the no parking area across from the snack bar
  7. A person can be **head coach of only one (1) team within NSPL**. If needed, a person can be an assistant coach for an additional team within NSPL, with approval by Board of Directors. Please note no special scheduling considerations will be given. will be given.
  8. At the time of player assignments or league draft each team can have no more than one (1) head coach. Juniors and Seniors Divisions can have two (2) assistant coaches and **Major Division can have one (1) assistant coach**. Additional coaches may be added to a team, if needed, AFTER the teams are assigned or drafted
  9. Each head coach and assistant coach must complete **background checks, safe sport and ACE certification** or as specified by the Board of Directors **before they will be assigned to a team** at the draft. A copy of an approved application must be sent to the Division Head or the Vice President.
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10. Any coaches added after the draft, must complete **background checks, safe sport and ACE certification** and send in an appropriate background check to the Division Head before they can begin coaching – this includes any practices.
11. Evaluations will be held a few weeks before the first game – date to be set by Board of Directors. Draft will follow shortly after – date to be set by Division Head.
  - Coaches may attend evaluations for their own division for observation
  - Coaches are asked to attend evaluations for other divisions and submit their ratings of the players to that Division Head
  - Ratings provided by coaches from the other divisions will be used during your division's draft.
  - **Coaches should also submit an end of season evaluation form to their division head**
12. Game schedule will be sent out at the beginning of the season. **Games will only be re-scheduled for weather or as specified by the Board of Directors**

## Game Procedures:

13. Only those coaches/ volunteers who have submitted the required background checks **and ACE certification** and have been NSPL approved coaches/ are allowed on the field, in the batting cages, or in the dugout – this includes any games or practices.
  14. Coaches are required to submit game results to the Division Head or others, as specified by the League within 2 days.
  15. Pre- and post-game preparation of playing fields is the responsibility of the coaches. Coaches should review the “Field Preparation” instructions on the League’s website under the “Coaches” tab.
    - Home team: field prep before the game
    - Visiting team: raking the fields after the game and removing the bases if you are the last game. (field should be raked even if there is a game after your game)
    - Both teams: pick up any trash in the dugouts/stands and surrounding area
  16. Once coaches start to prepare the field for play, no warm-up practice is allowed on the infield before a game. The outfield area may be used.
  17. Team line up must be presented to the opposing coach before the start of the game. The line-up must include players’ name (first or last is fine) and **PLAYER #**.
  18. Standings (Majors, Juniors, Seniors)
    - Teams are awarded one (1) point for each win and one half (1/2) point for each tie
    - When a tie exists in the standings, the following will be used to decided standings
      - First, head to head records of tied teams.
      - Second, lowest average per game of runs against
      - Third, coin flip
    - For playoffs, the home team will always be the team listed higher in the standings (calculated at the end of the regular season) per the above criteria.
  19. Regarding inclement weather --- coaches should assume games are “on” unless it is posted on the
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League's website that the fields are closed. If adverse weather conditions arise once the game begins, cancelling play will be determined by the umpire, or if no umpire is present, the coaches.

20. A game must be called if the coaches and/or umpire see lightning
  - All players and spectators must leave the stands and field and seek shelter at once
  - Umpire will decide when it is safe to resume play
  - Umpire is empowered to call a game at any time due to adverse playing conditions.
  
21. If the umpire fails to report for your game, any mutually agreed upon person may serve as umpire.
  
22. Call Ups – if coaches know they will be short of players in advance of a particular game, they may call up “Alternate” players from the next lower age division.
  - Each coach must give their Division Head the names of any alternate players who are qualified *and* have parent approval to play in a higher division.
  - A player may only play in one division higher, and may never play in a lower division – regardless of age.
  - No more than three (3) Alternate players per team may be used in a regular season game.
  - The Alternate may not miss her own game.
  - Alternates are called up only to bring a roster to the minimum full playing squad (10 players).
  - The Alternate can only bat at the bottom of the hitting order for that game.
  - When/if a regular team player shows up, the Alternates player must be permitted to play two (2) full innings or one (1) inning in the field and one (1) at bat.
  - Before the start of the game, coaches must identify the Alternate(s) to the opposing coach.
  - Alternate from a division where sliding is not allowed, will *not* be required to slide in the upper division. This must be mentioned at the start of the game to the umpire and the opposing coach.
  
23. No player on the regular roster who is present at the start of a game can sit for more than one (1) inning in a row – unless due to injury. If not, the game will be forfeited.

## Miscellaneous:

24. Playoffs will be held for the Majors, Juniors and Intermediate divisions at the end of the season. Please see the playoff rules for supplemental information.
  
25. Only registered players of NSPL are allowed to participate in the game, pre-game warm-ups or practices.
  
26. **ONLY ASA APPROVED NON-COMPOSITE BATS ARE ALLOWED AT ANYTIME AT NSPL.**
  - This includes games or practice.
  - Only single walled, one-piece construction bats are allowed to be used.
  - No composite bat of any type, no hybrid or half and half technology bat and no bat with fiber/composite reinforced core or handle is to be used.
  - If a batter enters the batter's box with a composite/illegal bat, the batter will be out.
  - If a batter makes contact with a pitched ball using a composite/illegal bat, the batter is immediately called out and the runners are returned to their bases.
  
27. Helmets must be worn by batter and base runners during all games and practices.
  
28. Face masks are **strongly recommended** to be worn by all infielders, including pitcher.



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29. All other ASA/USA Softball coaches' rules will apply unless a conflicting rule is set forth in this document. Those rules in this document take precedence over the ASA/USA Softball rules.