



# MANDATORY RULES FOR ALL COACHES

## 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 players 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.”***

If any coach is ejected from the game, they are automatically suspended from the next game. If they receive a second ejection, they will be removed from coaching.

Coaches in the Minors division should be extra mindful of teen umpires. Arguing with a teen umpire is **prohibited** and coaches will be removed immediately. Repeated violations will result in removal from coaching.

## 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 parents 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.
  - includes any games or practices.
  - No alcohol allowed at in any area or Troop Field – this includes the parking lot.
  - **No DOGS** or pets of any kind (excluding **service** animals) in the playing field area or on the driveway
  - Park only in designated spots–special note for the no parking area across from the snack bar. **DO NOT REMOVE ANY CONES OR RESERVED PARKING SIGNS**
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 reach out to the division head(s) to request approval. **Please note no special scheduling considerations will be given.**



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8. Senior division teams are assigned One (1) head coach and up to (2) assistant coaches before the draft. Majors and Juniors Divisions are assigned One (1) head coach and one (1) assistant coach are assigned to a team before the draft. After the teams are drafted a third coach may be added. Beginning with the spring 2025 season, seniors will follow the same rule as majors and juniors.
9. Each head coach and assistant coach must complete background checks through USA Softball by following the rules on the NSPL website. This must be completed **before they will be assigned to a team** at the draft. A copy of approval must be sent to the Division Head or the Safety Officer.
10. Any coaches added after the draft must complete background checks through USA Softball by following the rules on the NSPL website. A copy of approval must be sent to the Division Head or the Safety Officer 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. Coaches cannot reschedule their own games.**

## Game Procedures:

13. Only those coaches/ volunteers who have submitted the required background checks and have been NSPL approved coaches are allowed to hold practices. Base coaches do not have to be a coach on the team, but must be at least 18 years of age.
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 (including dragging, lining, base/mound distance)
  - 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
  - Parents of the home team are should be responsible for the scoreboard.
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 lineup 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). Line-ups are final and must be presented no later than 5 minutes before game time. Anyone arriving after that must be placed at the bottom
18. Regarding inclement weather --- coaches should assume games are "on" unless it is posted on the League's website that the fields are closed. If adverse weather conditions arise once the game begins,



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cancelling play will be determined by the umpire, or if no umpire is present, the coaches.

19. 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.
20. If the umpire fails to report for your game, any mutually agreed upon ADULT may serve as umpire.
21. 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. Players must be registered **inhouse** players.
  - 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. (above a late arrival)
  - When/if a regular team player shows up, the Alternates player must still be permitted to play three (3) full innings in the field and they stay in batting line-up
  - 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.
22. No player on the regular roster may sit for more than one (1) inning in a row – unless due to injury. If not, the game will be forfeited.

## Miscellaneous:

23. Playoffs will be held for the Majors, Juniors and Seniors divisions at the end of the season.
24. Only registered players/coaches of NSPL are allowed to participate in the game, pre-game warm-ups or practices.
25. **ONLY ASA/USA Softball APPROVED NON-COMPOSITE BATS ARE ALLOWED AT ANYTIME.**
  - 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.
26. Helmets must be worn by batter and base runners during all games and practices.
27. Players must play in the division according to their DOB. Players will not be allowed to "play-down" in a lower division. Prior evaluation and board approval is required to "play-up".
28. Face masks are REQUIRED to be worn by all infielders, including pitcher – Majors, Juniors, Seniors



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29. All other 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 USA Softball rules.