

# NEW COACHES OVERVIEW

## NORTHWEST GIRLS SOFTBALL Effective as of January 2024

Welcome to Northwest Girls Softball League! We are excited to have you as a new coach in our league for the upcoming season. This document is designed to provide you with important information to help you navigate your role successfully. Please read through the following points carefully:

- 1. Compliance with Policies and Procedures:** As a coach in our league, it is crucial to adhere to the established policies and procedures. These guidelines are in place to ensure the safety, fairness and enjoyment of the game for all participants. Familiarize yourself with the Division Rules, End of Season Rules, League Rules, Draft Rules and USA Softball Rulebook - all which can be found on our website. If you have any questions or require clarification, please either refer to the handbook or contact your division representative.
- 2. Division Representative:** Our league is committed to supporting our coaches. If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance throughout the season, your division representative is here to help. They are your main point of contact for all division-specific matters. Feel free to reach out directly to them at their email.
- 3. Introducing TeamSnap:** Communication is key to a successful season. We utilize TeamSnap as our primary source of communication. Ensure that you are registered on TeamSnap and regularly checking for updates, announcements and schedule changes. This platform streamlines communication between coaches, players, and parents, making it an essential tool for staying informed. The app is free to download and will provide you with a team schedule, roster, chat and more.
- 4. Resources for Drills and Content:** To enhance your coaching skills and provide the best experience for your players, utilize resources available from reputable organizations. USA Softball and SafeSport offer valuable drills, coaching tips and educational content. Visit their websites to access a wealth of information that can contribute to the development of your coaching expertise.
- 5. Maintaining a Safe Learning Environment:** We prioritize creating a safe and positive environment where girls can learn and grow as both athletes and individuals. Emphasize the importance of mutual respect, inclusion, and teamwork. Ensure that your coaching approach fosters a sense of belonging and encourages each player to reach their full potential.

6. **Handling Misconduct:** Any instances of misconduct or violations of league policies will be addressed promptly and appropriately. The league has established a Rules Committee, composed of individuals selected by the board, to handle such matters. If you encounter or are made aware of any misconduct, report it to your division representative immediately. The League Board will thoroughly investigate and take necessary actions to maintain the integrity of Northwest Girls Softball.
7. **Positive Coaching Environment:** Above all, we encourage a positive coaching environment that encompasses teamwork, sportsmanship, and the love of the game. Emphasize the importance of fair play, respect for opponents, and enjoyment of the sport. Your role as a coach goes beyond the game - you are a mentor and role model for these young athletes.
8. **Equipment:** We understand that having the right equipment is essential for effective coaching and player development. To support you in getting started, the league provides some basic equipment - including a tee (or) net and balls, to help facilitate your initial practices. These resources are available for you to utilize during the season.
9. **Importance of Safe Equipment:** The safety of our players is paramount, and the use of safe equipment is a crucial aspect of our league. Before each practice or game, inspect the equipment to ensure it is in good condition. Replace any damaged or worn-out items promptly. Additionally, emphasize the importance of players using appropriate protective gear such as helmets and, when applicable, face masks.
10. **Concession Duty Requirement:** In the spirit of teamwork and shared responsibility, each coaching team is required to sign up for a total of two concession shifts, each lasting two hours, throughout the season. Concession duties are an integral part of maintaining the league's operations and contribute significantly to the overall game day experience. Failure to meet this mandatory requirement may result in consequences, including the potential for a forfeit and/or suspension of coaching privileges. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in fulfilling this obligation, as it ensures the smooth functioning of our league and fosters a sense of community among all participants. Please coordinate with your team members to schedule concession shifts promptly, and contact your division representative if you have any concerns or challenges in meeting this requirement.
11. **Division Rules and Umpire Respect:** As coaches, it is imperative to familiarize ourselves with and strictly adhere to the division rules governing our softball games. Equally important is the treatment of umpires with respect and professionalism. As leaders on the field, coaches are not only responsible for their

team's conduct but also for ensuring that parents and fans uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship. Any form of misconduct, especially mistreatment of umpires, will not be tolerated. In cases of unruly behavior, coaches are empowered to take necessary actions, including the removal of fans from the premises. Additionally, any questions or concerns related to umpire decisions should be referred to the league rules for proper clarification. Let's collectively foster an environment that promotes fair play, respect, and positive engagement for the benefit of all involved.

Thank you for your dedication to our softball community. We wish you a rewarding and successful season, filled with growth and memorable experiences for you, the players, and their families. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your division representative. Best of luck, and let's make this season a great one!

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**President - Northwest Girls Softball**

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**Coach**