

## **COACHES CLINIC SPRING 2006**

### **THE SPORTSMANSHIP ZONE** **More than a place, it is our attitude**

**Vision:** The PCGSL will provide a positive social environment that will serve as a role model for our players, other girls, teams, and leagues, as well as the community

**Pitt County Girls Softball League**  
**Players Can Give Sportsmanship Lessons**



## **League Mission Statement**

To promote girl's softball and to provide a safe learning environment for all girls of Pitt County interested in playing softball.

## **League Code of Conduct**

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of **sportsmanship** and **six core principles**.

**Sportsmanship** Having qualities or behaviors of a sportsman/woman

### **Core Principles**

Trustworthiness	Fairness
Respect	Caring
Responsibility	Good citizenship



## Facts about kids and sports

- ? Sports can build character in kids **if** social environment encourages moral and ethical behavior
- ? The most common reasons kids play sports are to have fun and hang out with friends
- ? NCAA fact: 3-5% of high school athletes will play college sports (3-5 girls/100)
- ? NCAA fact: .02%-.09% of college athletes will be drafted by a professional team (2-9 girls/1000)
- ? 70% of kids drop out of sports by the age of 13
- ? 15-20% of youth sporting events involve some kind of behavior that requires a written notice (National Alliance of Youth Sports)
- ? The least favorite aspect of the game for kids is the ride home with parents



## **Promoting Girls Softball in a Safe Learning Environment**

### **Promote the Game**

- ? Ultimate goal is to teach girls the game of life while learning the game of softball
- ? Players who play in a fun, safe atmosphere will learn the games of softball **and** life and then go on to teach others
  - ?Role model for other players in our league
  - ?Role model for players outside our league
  - ?Role models in the community

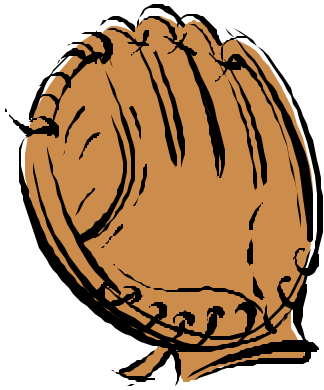
### **Learning Environment**

- ? Teach girls the game of softball
- ? Fundamentals are stressed
- ? Players are taught to strive for excellence
- ? Strive for success/winning while maintaining a commitment to fairness, honesty and respect



## Safe Environment

- ? Create the ideal sports environment
- ? Positive, fun atmosphere is created
- ? All can enjoy the game
  - ?Players are allowed to play
  - ?Officials are allowed to officiate
  - ?Spectators are a positive influence on the environment
  - ?Coaches are allowed to coach
  
- ?Players are allowed to play
  - ?Players should learn effort, working to improve skills, and good sportsmanship are rewarded
  - ?Don't turn the game into a negative experience through our behavior, criticism, and pressure
  - ?Players are role models for each other, coaches, and parents
  
- ?Officials are allowed to officiate
  - ?Officials are people
  - ?Trained to deal with controversy
  - ?Respect the call and move on
  - ?Think about what we are teaching kids as they watch us deal with an authority figure

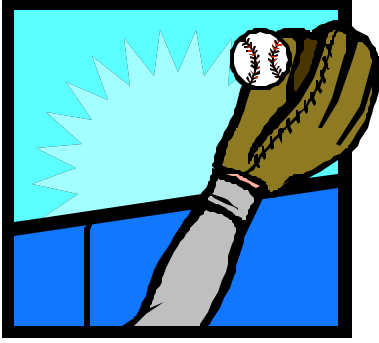


- ? Spectators are a positive influence on the environment
  - ? Enjoy the game
  - ? Remember players aren't perfect
  - ? Encourage and praise effort and good sportsmanship
  - ? Be accountable for your behavior

? Coaches are allowed to coach

### ? **Parents**

- ? Most parents recognize the benefits of sports participation for their children
- ? Caution:
  - ? Many are chasing a pot at the end of the rainbow
  - ? Living vicariously through their child
  - ? Over evaluation of their child's skill level
- ? Parents want so much for their kids
  - ? Do anything to help their child excel
  - ? Spend \$\$\$\$
  - ? Commit family to travel most weekends



## ? **Parent Reminders**

?Remind your parents:

?Coaches have difficult decisions to make

?No coach intentionally makes a decision that he or she hopes will be detrimental to the team

?Parents need to trust coaches

?If parents wonder why a child is not playing let them ask, but tell them they need to be ready for the truth (not listening, lack of hustle, poor attitude)

?After the game, ask their child:

Did you have fun?

Did you try your best?

Did you learn something?

Did you get better?



## ?Sportsmanship

?You are being watched

?Players watch every nonverbal gesture you make

?Players are listening

?Children learn moral behavior from interacting with others, watching the behavior of others and being taught ethical behavior

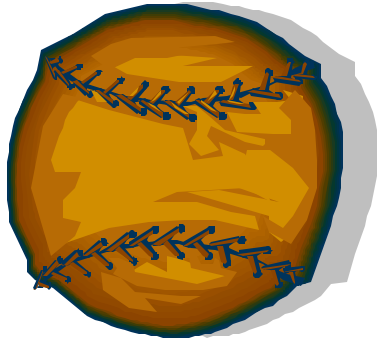
?Look for teachable moments when moral dilemmas arise

?Instill a desire for personal excellence

?Instill a desire to win, but do not overemphasize it

?No desire to win- not a big effort to make tough choices

?Overemphasis can lead to engagement of unethical behavior



? Ask yourself these questions:

?Do I scream or yell at players often?

?Have I blamed a loss on an official?

?Would I promote animosity between two teammates to motivate them?

?Would I run up the score on an opponent?

?Do I treat my players differently after a loss than after a win?

If you answered yes, you need to rethink your motivation for coaching!

?Recognize the power you have: you can build character or build characters- which do you want to do?

?Do not let your behavior be dictated by the social norm  
make a new social norm!

# Sportsmanship Zone

**Vision:** The PCGSL will provide a positive social environment that will serve as a role model for our players, other girls, teams, and leagues, as well as the community

**Construction site for “The Zone”**

**Support**  
**Accountability**  
**Visibility**  
**Education**





## Sportsmanship Zone

### ? **Support:**

?Players, coaches, parents, board

### ? **Accountability**

?We are all accountable to each other

?Good sportsmanship will be rewarded

?Wrist bands with the logo **Players Can Give**

**Sportsmanship Lessons** will be handed out based on sportsmanship. These can be given to players, coaches, and parents who exhibit characteristics of a good sportsman/woman

?Sportsmanship Award

?Player from each team

?Parent from each team

?Coach from each age division

?Players, coaches and parents sign a contract stating they will attempt to demonstrate sportsmanship-like behavior

?Behavior determined to be inconsistent with league policy will be handled as outlined in the league's handbook



## ? **Visibility**

?Signs around the park reminding everyone to be a good sport (inside and outside dugouts, bathrooms, concession stand, gates as exiting park)

?Try your best and let the refs take care of the rest

?Go around first base, but don't get into anyone's face

?Make a hit, but don't throw a fit

?Victory you may make, but don't forget a handshake

?When players and coaches are in defeat, please do not stomp your feet

?On the ride home talk about the good and the bad, just don't make you kid sad

?Parents can make it a lot more fun if they laugh and smile while enjoying the sun

## \***Education**

?Mandatory coaches meeting

?Mandatory parent meeting

?Mandatory player meeting held by team manager

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