

Mercer County 60 & Over Senior Softball

Code of Conduct

The Mercer County 60 & Over league provides an opportunity for individuals of like interest to pursue and participate in a senior softball league in the Mercer County area.

League Goals

To establish rules and regulations for the league officials, teams and spectators
To provide balanced competition via the draft
To provide control of play through acceptance of game rules adopted by the league Commissioner and Team Managers who comprise the Code of Conduct Committee (CCC).

League Rules

The CCC will have the final say on all matters regarding the operation of the league. Further they understand that not all situations are foreseeable and personal judgement may be needed. Conditions beyond their control may result in changes or revisions of the league schedule. They will determine all rules and regulations and reserve the right to establish or suspend same. At any time deemed necessary to ensure the efficient operation of the league they will interpret all rules and regulations deemed necessary to ensure a smooth and consistent program in keeping with the standards of fair play. The Commissioner has the responsibility and final say on all decisions and rulings. The Managers may petition in writing to protest a ruling by the Commissioner.

Rule Changes

League playing rules will remain in effect for the entire season unless they are found to be ineffective or create a safety hazard to any player. All changes must be presented and approved by the CCC.

Umpires

It is difficult to get good umpires. Unethical action by managers and players may cause good umpires to leave officiating and consequently leave a shortage of umpires.

It is unacceptable for anyone associated with the league to attempt to influence or object to an umpire decision in a disrespectful manner. Team members and especially managers have the responsibility to make certain that this does not occur.

Any criticism of umpire by managers and players on or off the field is unacceptable. During the game, the attitude of players and managers toward the umpire shall be controlled and undemonstrative. To openly criticize umpires or to indicate dissatisfaction with their decision does nothing but incite other players and spectators and bring discredit to the manager, his team and the league. Unsportsmanlike conduct is contrary to the basic principles of the Mercer County 60 & Over Senior Softball League and a violation of our player Code of Conduct and will not be tolerated. **Violation of the Code of Conduct could result in suspension or expulsion from the league.**

Player Code of Conduct

The Player Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Mercer County 60 & Over Senior Softball League and will be strictly enforced. A suspension may result when these rules are violated. A suspended player or team must leave the playing area. Adherence to the Code of Conduct, and as it relates to bodily contact and abusive language, is required by all league members. This Code of Conduct applies to players, managers and spectators.

ALCOHOL/DRUGS & TOBACO USE: Alcohol and Drugs as well as smoking tobacco will not be permitted on the playing field or in the dugout or bench areas.

MINIMUM PENALTY: First violation a warning will be issued

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Second violation will result in ejection

UMPIRE ABUSE: No player shall be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of an umpire's decision, not abide by the umpire's decision, or abusively and verbally attack another player, umpire, or spectator. Only the manager may discuss decisions made by the umpire.

MINIMUM PENALTY: First violation a warning will be issued.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Second violation will result in ejection and possible expulsion from the league.

ROUGH TACTICS: No player shall be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics during the game against an opposing player. Player is to be immediately ejected and remain suspended until the CCC reviews the situation.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Placed on probation for the remainder of the season

MAXIMIM PENALTY: Suspension for remainder of the season

ALCOHOL/DRUGS: No player shall appear on the field in an impaired condition. Player is to be immediately ejected and remain suspended until the CCC reviews the situation.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for two games and placed on probation the rest of the season

MAXIMIM PENALTY: Suspension for remainder of the season

PHYSICAL ATTACK: No player shall at any time physically lay a hand upon, shove, expectorate, strike, or threaten any official, player or spectator. The player is to be immediately ejected and remain suspended until the CCC reviews the matter.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Placed on probation for the remainder of the season

MAXIMIM PENALTY: Suspension for life and/or assault charges filed

SPECIAL NOTES

- A) Any player who violates the Code of Conduct while on probation will have his penalty doubled.
- B) Any player ejected from a game must leave the field immediately (out of sight and sound). Failure to do so will result in a two-game suspension.
- C) Appeals of any violation must be made in writing to the CCC who will decide the matter.
- D) All violations of the Code of Conduct should be noted in the scorebook and/or score card by the umpire. The umpire should contact the league Commissioner as to what occurred.
- E) The Commissioner shall have the power and full discretion to impose penalties for all violations of the Code of Conduct. In any violation not included in said code, the penalty shall be at the discretion of the Commissioner.

DISCIPLINE INFORMATION FOR MANAGERS:

- 1) The managers will be responsible to see that all their players know and abide by this Code of Conduct. Further, if a manager cannot control his players and spectators, he faces league action ranging from probation to removal as manager.
- 2) The manager shall be the official representative of the team and spectators unless he designates one of his players as the team captain prior to the game. Only the manager or the team captain may discuss a call or decision made by an umpire and are responsible for having the team cooperate with the umpire or any league official.
- 3) Anytime a player is ejected from a game, the manager must contact the league Commissioner prior to the next scheduled game. Failure to comply will make the ejected player ineligible until contact has been made and the player has been cleared to play.
- 4) A player ejected is required to leave the dugout/bench within two minutes. Failure to do so is grounds for a forfeit. The umpire must notify and warn the manager of any non-compliance before the game is forfeited.
NOTE: An ejected player that returns to the field or approaches an umpire with malicious intentions after the game will face a minimum two game suspension.
- 5) Any player that is ejected from the last game of the season must still follow the procedures before being cleared to play for the next season.
- 6) Any player who is ejected a second time during the season will be suspended for two games
- 7) Any team that is involved in any type of physical confrontation with the umpires or an opposing team or spectator, where more than one player is involved and no identification of the individuals involved can be made, the manager will be held responsible.
- 8) Any player, coach, or manager that incurs indebtedness to Mercer County 60 & Over Senior Softball League and does not correct this matter within the prescribed amount of time will be suspended from all activities until the problem is resolved.

Player Safety

1. All players, including pitchers, are encouraged to wear additional protective safety gear, comprised of head gear, heart/chest protection and shin guards. Players are not required to wear the protective gear.
2. The Mercer County Senior League makes NO warranty as to the protective qualities of any mandated or recommended safety equipment when used in softball, which may have inherent risks as an impact sport. The League does not make any specific claims as to any safety equipment's performance and will not accept any liability for personal injury. Players can still suffer serious injury while wearing any type of protective gear.
3. By electing not to wear the safety equipment, players waive any and all claims, individually, and by his or her heirs, and hold harmless The Mercer County Senior League, its Softball Committee, and any county or park facility employees.

NOTE: This Code of Conduct may be amended or modified by the Code of Conduct Committee.