

# **CAROLINA CYCLONES SOFTBALL COACH'S HANDBOOK**



**“IT’S NOT JUST SOFTBALL, IT’S A MOVEMENT!”**



## **CAROLINA CYCLONES SOFTBALL COACHING PHILOSOPHY**

It is the goal of the Carolina Cyclones softball coaching staff to provide **student athletes** with the opportunity to experience success in a variety of situations, both individual and team; on and off the field of play. Athletes will be challenged to reach their full potential, encouraged to develop emotional maturity, and will have the opportunity to learn how to deal with success and failure. Not only will players learn the physical skills of softball, they can learn other life-long skills such as: self-confidence, self-discipline, self-motivation, goal-setting, teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship, and leadership.

Our coaching staff believes that players are young ladies and daughters first, students second, and athletes third. We recognize and support obligations to family, school, and softball. Players will learn about commitment and balancing many obligations.

Decisions made by the Carolina Cyclones Softball coaching staff will be based on what is good for the softball program, what is good for the team, and what is good for the individual. Our coaches will strive to win, however, winning is defined in many ways as a result of goal-setting and thus, our top priority will always focus on building young ladies of strong character through our softball program.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF CAROLINA CYCLONES COACHES**

Supporters of the Carolina Cyclones Fastpitch Softball Club can expect the following from the softball coaching staff:

- WE will be a positive role model.
- WE will be a leader and one who motivates the ladies to get better.
- WE will be a firm and fair disciplinarian.
- WE will foster the "Team first, individuals second" belief.
- WE will be committed to the softball program, to the team, to the players, to the parents, and to the Onslow County communities.
- WE will be positive, supportive, enthusiastic, and encouraging.
- WE will be fully prepared and organized for each practice and game.
- WE will be honest with players and parents about roles on the team.
- WE will communicate up, down, and laterally with each other, players, parents, and administrators.
- WE will follow and uphold all Carolina Cyclones Softball Program expectations.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF CAROLINA CYCLONES COACHES

**Head Coach:** The head coach is the leader of the entire program, and, therefore, ultimately responsible for the overall strength of it. The duties of the head coach are many, but can be categorized into the following:

- **Character**—the following are character traits that all head coaches should possess. Of course, every individual has his or her own personal strengths and weaknesses. Any weakness in the following characteristics would be an area of personal growth for the individual.

-Honest	-Fair	-Organized
-Loyal	-Knowledgeable	-Positive
-Patient	-Caring	-Resilient
-Dependable	-Disciplined	-Humorous
-Consistent	-Objective	-Self Controlled
-Transparent	-Enthusiastic	-Poised
-Humble	-Committed	-Industrious

**Professionalism**—there are certain professional qualities that all good coaches should strive for. Again, any areas of weakness that a coach possesses should be an area that he or she looks to improve in.

- Good rapport with staff, team, officials, administrators, and parents
- Sets and works to meet personal as well as department goals
- Communication with squad, staff, media, administration, and parents
- Loyally supportive to the community, organization, program, team, staff, administrators, and parents
- Is able to accept constructive criticism in a positive way

**Team Management**—the coach must be able to manage the entire program by showing the following skills:

- |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Planning of Practice | - Care of Facilities             |
| - Being on Time        | - Team Discipline/Control        |
| - Supervision          | - Motivation                     |
| - Time Management      | - Understanding of Budget Issues |
| - Leadership           | - Creating a Sense of Ownership  |

**Coaching and Team Performance** — ultimately, a head coach will be evaluated on the success and failure of his program.

**Assistant Coach:** The Assistant coaches will be held to the same moral, ethical, and professional standards as the head coach. They will be expected to manage their respected teams, and other duties as assigned by the head coach.

## Carolina Cyclones Softball Coach's Handbook

It is a privilege to be a part of the Carolina Cyclones Fastpitch Softball Program and Softball Team. Because of that privilege us coaches, must strive to be role models that we are trying to teach these young ladies to become. As coaches, we will adhere to and uphold all Carolina Cyclones Fastpitch Softball Organization rules and regulations. We will not deviate from any organizational rule. We will be 100% supportive of all administrative decisions.

- **Attendance:** Every effort shall be made to attend all practices, and be on time. That means, we as coaches have to be at practice and have a plan to conduct. Pitchers and catchers will be required to show up 30 minutes early to get in some additional work so we have to be there to assist them in these endeavors! However, I realize things come up so if you are running late please notify the head coach to make proper arrangements. While in attendance of all events and as a member of the Carolina Cyclones coaching staff, we are expected to give to maximum effort at all times. ***NO EXCEPTIONS***
- **Absences:** Coaches are required to attend all practices unless there is a legitimate excuse. If a coach must miss a practice, this must be communicate that to the Head Coach. If a coach misses too many practices, he will be asked to step down from their official capacity as a coach. This is not meant to punish coaches, but we have to set the example for the ladies as we demand the same from them.
- **Communication:** All communication with the parents will be conducted through the Head Coach to alleviate miscommunication throughout the staff and parents. If there are issues/complaints, DO NOT try and answer the concerns but rather have the parent discuss the issue with the head coach. After that, the coaching staff will discuss the issue at hand and devise a plan to best support the organization, team and individual player. We are a TEAM and need to be on the same page before addressing concerns of a parent.
- **Conduct:** The Carolina Cyclones will be a first class organization that prides itself on a strong reputation for good sportsmanship and professionalism both on and off the field. Good sportsmanship and professional behavior is expected at all times, and in all circumstances by all coaches. There should be no conversation with umpires, players, or parents regarding a call or a play. We will not tolerate coaches that show disruptive behavior on the field or in the dugout. The Coaching Staff acknowledge and agree that when participating in activities organized by the Carolina Cyclones Softball Organization, their actions reflect on the reputation of the Carolina Cyclones Organization as a whole. Carolina Cyclones reserve the right to dismiss anyone who breaches good sportsmanship or ethics, or who engages in any activity with the Carolina Cyclones where its sole and absolute discretion determines it to be contrary to the best interest of the Organization.

The Carolina Cyclones team guidelines are intended to help make our softball team run as smoothly as possible. We understand that problems and concerns will come up throughout the year, however it is our hope that these guidelines will help to eliminate some of those issues and provide the proper foundation for our teams to be successful. Remember that we are all working toward a common goal of making our young ladies better individuals both on and off the field.

I understand the responsibilities and will uphold all of the standards that is expected of me as a Carolina Cyclone Coach

**Coach's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_