

Western Mass Heat Guidelines and Code of Conduct

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!!

Heat Softball Team Inc. is excited and proud to welcome you. The following pages contain information that is necessary for parent(s)/guardian(s) and players to read. By acknowledging these guidelines, we can ensure our teams, coaches and families can have a fun and successful season.

TEAM GOALS:

- A. Emphasize teamwork, skill development, leadership and personal growth.
- B. Develop and promote skill advancement of all players for every facet of the game.
- C. Develop and encourage effective communication with coaches, parents, players while ensuring courtesy is shown for umpires, officials and opponents.
- D. Promote healthy competition and encourage players to aspire to a higher level of play.

ATTENDANCE:

All players are held to the highest level of commitment in regard to participating in practices, games and tournaments. Your commitment to attendance is critical to develop team play and improve our player's physical and technical skills to play at the highest competitive level. Attendance and promptness to games/practices/tournaments is mandatory. Excused absences while for in-season sports (i.e. fall and winter) will be at the discretion of your daughter's coach. Commitment to your Heat team comes before all Rec League, Little League and All Star type games and tournaments. At the 12U level, participation in rec softball (e.g. Little League) is not permitted in the spring and summer. There are too many conflicts and we found players do not develop appropriately switching back and forth.

Each player must arrive 10 minutes prior to practice and be dressed to practice. Players must be at the field and ready to warm up one hour prior to a game, unless told otherwise by the coach. **CALL, MESSAGE OR TEXT YOUR COACH IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE RUNNING LATE.**

It is very important to notify the coach 24 hours prior to a practice or game if a problem has arisen and the player cannot attend.

UNIFORMS:

Players are responsible for bringing every article of uniform to EVERY game. All players MUST wear their complete uniform for all games. Complete uniform includes: appropriate uniform top, pants, game belt, socks, cleats, glove, facemask (10U and 12U and other ages as determined by coaches), and visor/headband (if applicable). You may not wear anything covering your game jersey during game play, such as a jacket or sweatshirt. We have multiple uniforms and it is the responsibility of the player to wear the correct uniform as instructed by your coach. According to the rules of our sanctioning bodies, players wearing the wrong uniform may not play in the game.

TEAM POLICIES:

- A. Parents/guardians need to complete all paperwork and pay team fees. Failure to make payments or complete paperwork on time will result in lost practice time with your team or removal from the team roster.
 - 1. All fees should be made payable to Heat Softball Team Inc. or through our website wmheat.com.
- B. All dues and fees paid to Heat softball are **NON-REFUNDABLE, without exception**.
- C. Everyone associated with this organization including parents, siblings, grandparents, etc. are bound by the associated league softball rules of decorum and etiquette. You are responsible for the guest you bring to games or practices.
- E. "Sideline coaching" by parents and family members will not be tolerated. This is a confusing distraction and usually goes against the play called by the coach. It undermines the coach's authority in front of the team. One warning will be issued, and any other occurrences will be dealt with as decided by the President, including possible ban from games/practice or player expulsion from the team.
- F. Do not enter the dugout unless the coach requests your presence. Your child/player should not leave the dugout unless a coach has granted permission. We do not want players wandering around during games. USA Softball rules do not allow any adults without certification into a team dugout.
- G. No player picnics during the games. There are concessions available during the tournament and you are free to bring food for BETWEEN games. Players should not eat meals during a game. Traditional ball-player snacks during the game like sunflower seeds (if permitted by field), Gatorade and water. We want the players to be engaged in the game and supporting their teammates at all time. If your daughter has a medical reason that requires them to have food, such as diabetes, please make your head coach aware of the conditions and we will absolutely make an exception.
- H. There is a specific Code of Conduct Guideline that we ask you to review together. If you have any questions, talk to your coach. These guidelines are put in place to make sure that everyone involved in playing this game is treated with respect, which will allow them to enjoy this game.

HEAT CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines and expectations for all who are involved in our program. This code extends beyond the players, to the coaches, parents, and guests who attend practices, games, and official functions.

The goal of the Western Mass Heat is to provide a positive and safe environment for the players wherein the coaches and parents are held to the same standards of courtesy, fairness, respect and responsibility

that we require of the players. We must lead by example if we are to expect the players to represent themselves, their families, their team and their organization in ways in which we can all be proud.

CODE FOR PLAYERS

1. I will represent myself, my family, my team, and the Western Mass Heat with sportsmanship, dignity, honesty, and integrity at all times.
2. I understand that I control my effort and attitude. I will try my best during games and practices, and will always encourage my teammates to do the same.
3. I will support my teammates and maintain a positive attitude at all times.
4. I will be courteous and respectful to my teammates, coaches and game officials.
5. I will not argue with game officials for any reason.
6. I will refrain from outbursts of anger, temper, and poor sportsmanship.
7. I will never direct negative or critical cheers or comments toward anyone.
8. I will not use vulgar or offensive language (swearing) or gestures, regardless of the circumstances.
9. I will not become hostile, nor will I resort to violence towards anyone.
10. I will not use physical or verbal intimidation towards anyone.
11. I will be properly and appropriately attired for participation on the field.
12. I will be responsible for my own equipment as well as team equipment.
13. I will do no harm to any facilities or fields, and I will not intentionally damage team equipment.
14. I will help put away team equipment and balls after practice drills and following practice and games.
15. I will not post inappropriate or negative comments on ANY social media outlet about my teammates, coaches or opponents. Additionally, no inappropriate photos should be taken in Western Mass Heat uniforms.
15. No alcohol, tobacco/vaping products, drugs or weapons of any kind.
16. I acknowledge that this is a highly competitive team and that playing time is not guaranteed; it will be determined by my performance, attitude and effort in practice and games as observed by the coaching staff.

CODE FOR MANAGERS/COACHES

1. I will treat all players, game officials, parents and spectators with respect, fairness, and in a positive manner.
2. I will always promote a sense of fair play and good sportsmanship.
3. I will not try to win at the expense of the health of my players.
4. I will provide training, instruction and motivation to all players so that they will perform at their maximum skill levels.
5. I will set a consistent example of self-discipline, appearance and professionalism.
6. I will maintain and encourage an environment of open communications with my players.
7. I will not engage in any behavior or action that would endanger the health and well-being of any player.
8. I will not engage in insulting, harassing or abusive language or behavior.

9. If I have any concerns or problems that must be addressed with parents, I will discuss in a civil manner, outside of the presence of the players.
10. I will not become hostile, nor will I ever resort to violence towards anyone.
11. I will have at least one coach in the dugout to enforce proper behavior and watch for any signs of inappropriate behavior including, but not limited to, bullying, harassment or disrespect.

CODE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

1. I will conduct myself responsibly at all practices, games and events.
2. I will be responsible for the actions of my guests.
3. I will remember that the game is about and for the players.
4. I will NOT coach my child or anyone else on the team during practices or games.
5. I will be a positive role model at all times and promote good sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy to players, coaches, game officials, and other spectators.
6. I will not engage in profane, insulting, harassing, or abusive language or behavior towards anyone.
7. I will refrain from smoking/vaping consistent with park rules and in absence of park rules within 100 yards of the playing venue.
8. I will not consume alcohol within the boundaries of the venue in which my team is playing, unless that alcohol is sold by the venue.
9. I will not become hostile nor will I resort to violence towards anyone.
10. I will not engage in any behavior or action that could endanger the health and well-being of any player.
11. I will not argue with game officials or other spectators. Remember umpires are human and they will make mistakes.
12. If I have concerns or problems with coaching methods or decisions, I will discuss them in a civil manner with the head coach, outside the presence of players. I will abide by a mandatory 24-hour cool-down period before discussing my issue.
13. If I am asked to leave the premises by game officials or coaches, I will do so immediately.
14. I understand excessive late payment is not acceptable.
15. I acknowledge that excessive tardiness or unexcused absences of my child is not acceptable.
16. I acknowledge that this is a highly competitive team and that playing time is not guaranteed; it will be determined by my child's performance, attitude and effort in practice and games as observed by the coaching staff.

THE CONSEQUENCES

Failure to abide by the aforementioned code of conduct may subject a player, coach, parent/guardian or guest to one or more of the following disciplinary actions by the officers and directors of Western Mass Heat:

1. A written warning from the president of Heat Softball Team.
2. A one or multi-game suspension during which you may not participate or be present as a player, coach, or spectator.

3. A suspension for the remainder of the season in which you may not participate, or be present, as a player, coach or spectator.
4. A permanent suspension from any future participation or involvement in the Western Mass Heat softball program.

All disciplinary actions and decisions will be made by the officers and directors of the Heat Softball Team. There will be NO refunds of registration fees, or any other fees or portions thereof, when disciplinary action is taken. All decisions are final.

WESTERN MASS HEAT
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To ensure that we have the same level of commitment and alignment of expectations from everyone who plays softball for the Western Mass Heat, we need the athlete AND at least one parent/guardian to sign the following acknowledgement. You acknowledge that you and your child have read and will abide by the Heat Softball rules, guidelines, and Code of Conduct as outlined above.

I, _____ have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Western Mass Heat rules, guidelines, and Code of Conduct as written above and as may be modified by time to time and published on the team website.

Player's Signature

Date

I, _____ have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Western Mass Heat rules, guidelines, and Code of Conduct as written in this handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Western Mass Heat

Photograph Permission Form

I, _____, give the Western Mass Heat and Heat Softball Team, Inc. permission to photograph and video my daughter during softball practices, tournaments and games. I understand that the photographs and videos will be used as a coaching tool AND for marketing purposes such as the team website, banner, pamphlets and other media to promote the team.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date