

SVGLS / SPS - Sacramento Pride Softball - Code of Conduct

All members of SVGLS as Sacramento Pride Softball are expected to behave with maturity and exhibit good sportsmanship. Members agree first and foremost to treat opponents with respect as guests and fellow human beings. Members agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and conduct themselves with integrity at all league meetings, games, events, and tournaments (including tournaments outside of Sacramento).

Minor Violations – Unsportsmanlike conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as:

- Verbal attacks (including profanity, jeering, or taunting league members), in person, online, or via personal communication
- Throwing objects (including bats)
- Refusal to abide by decisions of league officials
- Any other action deemed to be unsportsmanlike

No first offense warnings will be given in the case of:

- Using intoxicating substances during the course of game play or appearing to be in an intoxicated state
- Threats of violence
- Unnecessarily rough contact during gameplay (unintentional). If deemed to be intentional or dangerous, this is a Major Violation.
- Ejection from the game by a league official.

Penalties:

First Offense:	Verbal and written warning
Second Offense:	One game suspension
Third Offense:	Two to five game suspension at the discretion of the Team Advisory Committee
Subsequent Offenses:	One calendar year suspension or lifetime expulsion from league play at the discretion of the Board of Directors

Major Violations – Physical contact

Physical contact is defined as:

- Unwanted physical contact, including spitting at, pushing or striking another person
- Striking another person with an object
- Any other action deemed to be dangerous or a flagrant violation of the Code of Conduct

Penalties:

First Offense:	Two to five game suspension at the discretion of the Team Advisory Committee
Second Offense:	One calendar year suspension or lifetime expulsion from league play at the discretion of the Board of Directors

Reporting Procedures:

All members are encouraged to report any incident that they believe is in violation of the Code of Conduct (whether or not they were involved) by informing a Board member verbally or in writing.

Reports can also be made anonymously by emailing a complete description of the incident to the SPS Commissioner and/or Vice Commissioner at Commissioner@SacramentoPrideSoftball.org or ViceCommissioner@SacramentoPrideSoftball.org from an anonymous email address.

Members of the Board of Directors are required to report any incidents they believe to be in violation of the Code of Conduct. The Report will be reviewed by the Board and forwarded to the Team Advisory Committee to investigate if it is believed that a violation may have occurred.

The Team Advisory Committee will interview involved parties and determine whether the Code has been violated and assign penalties within one week after the report.

Either party may appeal the Team Advisory Committee ruling to the Board of Directors by informing a Board member of the desire to appeal. If appealed, a final decision will be made by the Board of Directors within one week after the appeal request.

SPS reserves the right to amend this Code of Conduct at any time.

Code of Conduct Procedures (See Page 3)

Code of Conduct Procedures

Once a Code of Conduct violation has been reported, the Chair of the Team Advisory Committee will interview the reporting party (if known), the accused party, and any witnesses as soon as possible (this interview may be conducted via telephone or email as necessary). They will write a brief report describing the incident and statements of the interviewed parties.

The Team Advisory Committee will meet, discuss the report, and decide whether the Code of Conduct has been violated by majority vote within one week after the initial accusation. The Team Advisory Committee will have the discretion to determine the appropriate penalty of any proposed violation it hears. If the reporting or accused party is a member of the Team Advisory Committee, they may not vote or participate in the meeting.

The Team Advisory Committee will turn over the report and results of the vote to the Board of Directors. In the case of fourth or subsequent Minor violations or second Major violations, the Board of Directors will confirm the penalty by majority vote within one week after receiving the Team Advisory Committee report. If the Team Advisory Committee vote is tied, the Board of Directors will break the tie by majority vote.

The Board of Directors will inform the accused party of the findings and penalty as soon as possible.

Code of Conduct Appeal Procedures

In the case of an appeal, the Board of Directors will hold a closed meeting within one week after the appeal to confirm or overturn the Team Advisory Committee ruling by majority vote. If the penalty is discretionary, the Board of Directors may also alter the penalty by majority vote.