



# Community Softball League

London, Ontario

## Operating Principles

The Community Softball League has several important objectives for the operation of its House League ie:

- Provide a fun experience for all participants at every division and skill level.
- Create an environment of competitive softball that every player can enjoy.
- Provide a schedule to coaching staff that will include games with various teams from the registered associations.
- Make our House League as enjoyable as possible so that every player will want to return, year after year.
- To provide a house league experience for teams and players as an alternative to playing at the competitive level. It is intended that each team commits to our program, NOT in conjunction with OR in preparation for other leagues of play or competitions (qualifiers or finals).

## Key Participant Responsibilities

To meet our objectives each participant has important responsibilities that they must follow. This includes the C.S.L. Executive, Convenors, Umpires, Coaches, Parents and Players.

## **1. League Executive Responsibilities**

The League Executive steers the C.S.L. House League from year to year, making sure that we can meet our financial obligations and seek to provide for an overall positive environment for the most important asset we have--the player.

The most important responsibilities of the League Executive are:

- Fully consider the implications of all changes to rules, personnel, and policies to ensure that they result in a positive experience for the girls in our House League program without changing the spirit or nature of the game.
- Provide communication to the convenors to keep them up to date on important changes and provide information on league experiences
- Listen to our convenors, to collect ideas and input on possible improvements to how we operate.
- Show leadership in building a positive C.S.L. atmosphere by reinforcing all of the responsibilities of the Convenor, Umpire, Coach, Parent and Player as we participate in events and games throughout the season.
- Create an organization that provides our players with the enthusiasm to continue a life-long participation in sport and brings them back to the C.S.L. year after year.
- Support and uphold the intent of the league objective and rules of the game.

## **2. Convenor Responsibilities**

The Convenors play a critical role in making sure that we can meet the C.S.L. objectives. They serve as the front-line volunteer, directly supporting the Coaches who have the most influence on whether a player has positive experiences and thereby wishes to return the next year.

The most important responsibilities of the Association Convenors are:

- Fairly divide the available talent, when making up teams to make possible an equitable and competitive level of play.
- Provide support to our front-line volunteers, the Coaches and Umpires, to enable them to be successful in building and managing our House League.
- Be available to ensure that our objectives are being met and the Coaches are managing their teams in a way that allows every participant to have fun, improve their skills and play competitive ball.
- Convey information back to the Coaches, Umpire-in-Chiefs, Parents, and Players about league rules and activities to keep them up to date on important changes and information on league experiences.
- Be decisive in resolving conflicts and making sure that all involved understand that any judgement made is consistent with supporting the league objective of ensuring that all participants are treated fairly, and the intent of the rule is upheld.
- Show leadership in building a positive C.S.L. atmosphere by reinforcing all of the responsibilities of the Umpire, Coach, Parent and Player as we administer the divisional games throughout the season.
- Ensure that the individual Association makes personnel available to the C.S.L. to ensure the success of our playoff series.

### ***3. Umpire Responsibilities***

The Umpire has a difficult role to fill, ensuring that all the participants follow the rules while trying not to negatively influence the playing experience or determine the outcome of the game. They must have firm control of the game and not let conflicts escalate to the point where it creates a situation that overshadows the objective of having fun and playing competitive ball.

The most important responsibilities of an Umpire are:

- Make sure that all conditions are right for any game to begin--a safe playing surface, any safety issues addressed, and any field problems that may affect play noted and that both teams are ready to play.
- Be familiar with the Softball Canada and C.S.L. amended rules as they apply specifically to each division.
- Give your best effort at managing the rules and staying alert throughout the game to provide a positive playing situation for the participants.
- Apply your best judgement fairly to both teams. If necessary, clearly explain your decisions to both Coaches while controlling the game.
- Discuss any issues with the Coaches between innings or after the game to improve the level of officiating in the C.S.L. To pass on constructive criticism to the Coach to improve his knowledge of the rules or how to manage a given situation. To accept feedback from Coaches or Convenors and never be afraid to acknowledge and learn from mistakes.

### ***4. Coach Responsibilities***

You could be one of the most influential people in a child's life. Your job is not only to teach how to hit a ball or make a play, but also to teach how to win and lose graciously. You must also remind them that the sport is meant to be FUN. The athletic skills these young girls learn from you may only be used for a few years. The attitudes they develop toward themselves and others will last a lifetime.

As a Coach your most important responsibilities are:

- Serve as a positive role model to your players, both on and off the field.
- Display good SPORTSMANSHIP in all cases, both as a winner and as a loser.
- Teach respect for all players, both teammates and your competitors.
- Show respect for the rules, the officials, and their decisions.
- Show leadership in building a team atmosphere, by using constructive advice and positive reinforcement.
- Help your athletes develop a positive self-image of themselves, no matter what their skill level.
- Give all your players an equal opportunity to learn skills and play different positions.
- Provide your players with the enthusiasm to continue a life-long participation in sport.
- Teach them that Softball can be competitive and fun. Don't ever let the competitive part destroy the fun part.

## **5. Parent Responsibilities**

Parents have the opportunity to lead by example every day. To ensure that your daughter has a fun and fulfilling experience with softball, and hopefully with sports for the rest of their life, you should support and encourage their efforts.

The most important responsibilities of the Parent are:

- Make it possible for your child to fulfil their commitment to the team and the coaches by seeing that they get to games and practices in time.
- Not put pressure on your child to play a sport or a position.
- Remember that your child should play softball for their enjoyment, not for yours.
- Lead by example and serve as a positive role model. To applaud good plays and performances by both teams on the field. To never resort to abuse or hostility towards any other participant, coach, umpire, or league official.
- Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a game. Offer support and stress the fun that they had that day.
- Teach your child to display good SPORTSMANSHIP in all cases, both as a winner and as a loser.
- Show respect for the rules, the officials, and their decisions. Support the coaches, umpires and league officials and show appreciation for the time that these volunteers give to provide a fun and competitive environment for your child.
- Provide your child with the enthusiasm to continue a life-long participation in sport.

## **6. Player Responsibilities**

The player has made a commitment to the league and their team by signing up to play softball in the C.S.L. They should make the most of the experience by joining in, having fun and participating in every practice and game to improve their skills.

As a player your most important responsibilities are:

- Participate because you want to and to remember to have fun.
- Remember to always play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- Remember that winning isn't everything--that having fun, improving skills, making friends, and doing your best are also important.
- Contribute to your team by giving a full effort and supporting your teammates. It is important not to let your team down by missing games and practices without good reason.
- Respect opponents and acknowledge all good plays--both those of fellow teammates and of opponents.
- Show respect for the rules, the umpires, the coaches, and their decisions. Display good sportsmanship in all situations.
- Recognize and thank all those who volunteer their time--Convenors and Coaches-- to provide you with the support and organization to play a sport that you enjoy.