

## **SECTION 12 – Conduct**

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### **Conduct of Coaches, Players, Spectators and Other Personnel**

#### **Coaches' Conduct – SECTION 12.1.**

The highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct are expected of players, coaches and others associated with the game. Coaches are expected to be leaders by complying with the principles and ethics described in the Code of Conduct.

#### **Coaches' Misconduct – SECTION 12.2.**

Misconduct is any act of unprofessional behavior that discredits the game of softball. Specifically, a coach shall not remove his or her team from the field or refuse to continue play due to a dispute with game officials.

#### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct – SECTION 12.3.**

No coach, player or team shall at any time, whether from the bench, the coach's box, the playing field or elsewhere:

- a. Incite or attempt to incite, by word or sign, a demonstration by spectators.
- b. Use profanity toward, bait or otherwise taunt an opponent or umpire.
- c. Make insulting or disparaging remarks to or about opposing players or game officials.

**PENALTY (a)-(c) – The umpire shall issue a warning to the offending individual and notify their coach. If the umpire judges the act to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected without warning. Subsequent violation by the same individual shall result in ejection.**

- d. Call "Time/Timeout" or employ any other word or phrase or commit any act while the ball is in play for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher throw an illegal pitch. If an illegal pitch is thrown, it shall be declared "No pitch."

**PENALTY – No pitch and warning. A repeat of any such act by any member of the team that has been warned shall result in the offender(s) being ejected from the game.**

- e. Take a position in the batter's line of vision or act in any manner to distract the batter.

#### **PENALTY – Delayed dead ball.**

**If the batter contacts the ball and reaches first base safely and each other runner has advanced at least one base on the batted ball, the illegal pitch is canceled. All action as a result of the batted ball stands, and no option is given. Once a runner has passed a base, they are considered to have reached that base, whether missing the base or not, and no option is given.**

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If the batter does not reach first base safely or if one of the other runners does not advance at least one base, the coach of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play, or the illegal pitch is enforced by awarding a ball to the batter and advancing each other runner one base. If the illegal pitch is “Ball four” or hits the batter, the batter is awarded first base, and each runner is awarded one base.

The pitch does not have to be released.

**First violation:** The umpire shall issue a warning to the offending individual and notify her coach. Subsequent violation by the same individual shall result in ejection.

- f. No fielder shall take position in the runner’s line of vision to intentionally distract the runner or intentionally prohibit them from seeing the release of the pitch.

**PENALTY – Delayed dead ball.**

**First violation:** The umpire shall issue a warning to the offending individual and notify their coach. Subsequent violation by the same individual shall result in a one-base award to the obstructed runner and each other runner forced to advance.

### **Fighting – SECTION 12.4.**

The NAFA Softball Rules committee believes there is no place in softball for physical abuse of officials or fighting among opponents. While coaches are responsible for the actions of their players, cooperation is needed from players, coaches, and game officials to prevent incidents.

- a. Physical abuse of game officials is any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, kicking, throwing at or attempting to make physical contact.
- b. Fighting is any physical abuse of an opposing player, including attempting to strike with the arms, hands, legs, feet or equipment in a combative manner.

**PENALTY (a)-(b) – Participants who fight or who physically abuse an official shall be ejected from the game.**

**Exceptions:**

- 1) A player involved in a fight who in the act of defending themselves and not contributing to the fight shall not be ejected or suspended.
- 2) If a player or coach makes physical contact with another player in an obvious attempt to prevent a fight or confrontation, they shall not be ejected or suspended.

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### **Equipment Abuse – SECTION 12.5.**

No player or coach shall deliberately throw a piece of equipment as a result of disgust or frustration.

**PENALTY – The umpire shall issue a warning to the offending individual, unless the umpire judges the act to be so flagrant that the offender shall be ejected without warning. Any subsequent offense shall result in ejection of the offender.**

### **Intentionally Pitching at a Batter (Pitcher) - SECTION 12.6.**

A pitcher shall not intentionally pitch at a batter.

**PENALTY – If the plate umpire believes such a violation has occurred, the umpire shall warn the pitcher and both opposing coaches that future violations by any pitcher will be cause for immediate ejection of the pitcher and the head coach. If, in the umpire's judgment, the situation warrants drastic action to diffuse a potentially volatile situation, the umpire may eject the pitcher without first warning them. Each coach should be warned, but the coach of the offending team may be ejected at this time if the umpire believes it is appropriate. A warning may be issued to both teams before the start of a game or at any time during a game.**

### **Use of Video/Electronic Equipment – SECTION 12.7.**



- a. Non-uniformed team personnel may sit in the stands for the purpose of videotaping a contest, but may not chart pitches. Any scouting information involving current opponents shall not be relayed to the playing field or to team personnel. A team may film or videotape only contest in which it is playing.
- b. Electronic equipment used to relay information between coaches, players, and other team personnel shall not be allowed. Radar guns used for the purpose of clocking the speed of the ball from pitcher to catcher shall not be allowed. Cell phones must be turned off in dugout, and on the playing field.

**PENALTY – The umpire shall issue a warning to the offending individual. If use of the equipment continues, the offender shall be ejected.**

### **Use of Tobacco Products – SECTION 12.8.**

- a. The use of tobacco products by players, managers, coaches and trainers is prohibited while on site for practice and competition. For the purpose of this rule, the field, bullpens and dugouts are considered to be on site.

**PENALTY – Players, managers, coaches and athletic trainers who use tobacco products during practice or competition shall be ejected for the re-**



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**remainder of that practice or competition.**

- b. Umpires, scorers and other game personnel are prohibited from using tobacco products from the commencement of pre-game activities until they leave the competition site.

**PENALTY – If observed by the umpire or game administrator, the offender shall be directed to immediately dispose of the tobacco product. Failure to comply when directed shall result in ejection.**