



# Player/Parent Expectations



Welcome to the Lady Eagles Softball team! This program is designed to give players the best opportunity to succeed in high school athletics. It is the coaching staff's responsibility to ensure that players are safe and mature both in life and as athletes, not to necessarily win every game, although that is always what we strive for. Every decision made will be made with the best interest of ALL players in mind.

## **PLAYER EXPECTATIONS**

### **Practices & Games:**

Players are expected to be ready to work at the designated start time for all practices and games.

Players must always be in proper workout attire for practices, including long socks and softball pants. Players should have their equipment with them at all practices and games including glove(s), cleats, helmet, sliding pads/shorts, water and a great attitude. Prepare to get dirty and slide everytime.

If for any reason you will be late or unable to attend a practice or game you **MUST** communicate with Coach Stevens ASAP.

### **Coach-ability:**

Great attitudes are a must. An athlete must be coachable and willing to try new techniques if they want to improve. Coaches may push players to exceed their current abilities by putting them in new situations and advancing their current techniques.

While a player or parent may not agree with a coach's instruction/decision or may not have experienced the instruction before, the player is expected to follow the instruction and perform at 100% of the coach's discretion and respect their coach's decision making at the time.

### **Communication:**

There may be times when a player disagrees with something or does not understand a coach's decision. The player is encouraged to approach the coaches and ask to discuss the situation. Coaches prefer verbal, REMIND app or email communication depending on the situation. For communication about events, practices, games and general team activities, using the REMIND app is encouraged for everyone's convenience and follow-up. *Verbal or In-Person:* For communication about player specific details or player development, verbal and/or in-person communication is preferred and is often more successful.

Discussing player questions or concerns right before practices or before or after games is not an appropriate time for communicating to the coaching staff, unless it is an emergency. If the concern is due to a decision made in a game please allow for a 24 hour cooling off period before addressing the concern.

All coaches have an open door policy of communication from both its players and parents. All communication and privacy in all situations will be respected. If at any time a player feels a meeting is needed the following actions should be taken:

1. The concerned **player** should approach the **coaching staff** to schedule a time to discuss her questions or concerns. If the player is not comfortable or satisfied with the outcome of this meeting, she should move forward to step 2.
2. The concerned **player** should request a meeting involving the **player, Vision Softball coaching staff, and their parent(s)/guardian(s)**. This request must be made via email and include a brief explanation of the player's concerns. If this meeting does not resolve the situation, the player and her parents should move forward to step 3.
3. The **player** should request a meeting involving the **player, Vision Softball coaching staff, parent(s), and the Athletic Director(s)**. This request must be made via email and include a brief explanation of the concerns. If this meeting does not resolve the situation additional alternatives will be discussed to resolve the matter.

#### **Absences & Attendance:**

*Practices:* If a player is unable to attend practice, she must contact the coaches before practice, starting with the head coach if reachable and then moving to the assistant coach if the head coach is not available. This is ultimately the player's responsibility, not the parents.

Players missing practices should not expect to start in the next game, but this will be entirely up to the coach's discretion depending on the situation. This is not meant to punish players, but meant to reward and encourage those players who have made the effort and commitment with their attendance.

#### **Respect:**

At all times, players will show respect for teammates, opponents, umpires, coaches and parents. Good attitudes and sportsmanship are expected both on and off the field. Disrespectful conduct can result in loss of playing time, suspension or removal from the team.

As a Vision Charter softball player, you represent the team whether you are on the field or on the street. This means that you can be held accountable to your actions at school, at your friend's house, around town, or online. Disrespectful or disparaging comments made at the expense of teammates, coaches, the team, or the school can result in loss of playing time or

other consequences. This includes what is said on social media sites like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

During games and practices, players must stay in the dugout and pay attention to the game at all times, unless to use the restroom. Players are not allowed to leave the dugout to visit family or friends during a game nor be on their phone. If a player has to leave before the team is dismissed, they need to check out with a coach.

## **PLAYER CHARACTER AND PROPER CONDUCT**

### **Actions speak louder than words!**

- **HUSTLE** at all times during practices and games.
- **Work Hard!** Put forth **100% effort** all of the time! Do your “work” with all your heart, strength and mind. **Practice makes Permanent. Preparation Produces Results!**
- **Stay Focused.** Keep your head in the game. Pay attention during practices and games.
- **Have Fun!** Enjoy the process. Keep a sense of humor, but know when to be serious. Remember, softball is a game.
- **Take pride in how you play the game,** how you approach the game, how you wear your uniform, etc. Have **class** in all that you do! Play sharp, look sharp, be organized.
- Play the game with **Energy & Quickness.** Have a little “spring and bounce” to your game!
- Be **Confident**, not cocky.
- Be a **Positive Role Model and Example.** Remember, others are looking at you, so influence them in a positive way.
- Use **Proper Communication** both on and off the field. Develop communication skills whenever you can.
- **Be Respectful** of: Umpires, Coaches, Teammates, Opponents, Parents and the game itself.
- **Overcome Adversity.** Deal with the circumstances you are dealt. Develop the courage to persevere. Never give up or quit!
- **Demonstrate Self-Control.** Strive to improve on this in the heat of competition. If you disagree with the officiating, make an error or strike-out, practice self-control. There are certain things you cannot control, however, you can control your attitude, effort and behavior.
- Be a **Team Player, not an Individual.** Play for your team, not for yourself.
- **Encourage** your teammates.
- **Expect Errors, Mistakes and Failure, but don’t be satisfied with it-strive for mastery and excellence!** Remember the games of softball and life are difficult “games” to master. It’s a process and nobody is perfect. Try to reduce the amount of physical errors during a game and set a goal to make even fewer “mental errors”. This is a good goal for life, too!
- **Seek to Improve** as a player and as a person. **Be a Learner!** Try to learn something everyday, in every game, in every practice and in every circumstance-win or lose...good or bad...easy or difficult.

- **Demonstrate Class** at the end of each game, in both victory and defeat-shake hands, look the opposing team and the umpires in their eyes, and hold your head up high because of the effort you put forth.
- **Safety** needs to be a top priority!
  - All injuries or illnesses must be reported IMMEDIATELY to the coaching staff
  - .Stay alert, use common sense, and make good decisions and choices always.

## **INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT**

**The following behaviors will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken:**

- Attitude problems or back-talking a coach or parent
- Crude, profane or vulgar language
- Throwing equipment in a display of anger or frustration
- Outward displays of displeasure with the officials. Questioning umpires in a clearly visible and inappropriate manner (verbal and non-verbal)
- Critical, negative or judgemental talk directed toward teammates, either directly to them or behind their back to others
- Leaving the dugout or bench area during a game without prior approval

**Consequences for the above actions and attitudes include:**

- Sent home early from practice
- Not permitted to participate in a drill or practice station
- Some form of extra physical fitness exercise (ie: running foul poles, push-ups, etc.)
- Removal from a game
- Suspended from playing in an upcoming game

These policies regarding character & conduct on the Vision Charter softball team have been established for your protection, well-being, and character/leadership development. In light of these principles, the final decision regarding any issue resides with your team leadership. Team members who willfully and repeatedly disregard these policies may be temporarily suspended from games and other team activities.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

Parents are expected to behave in a respectful manner and have appropriate sportsmanlike conduct with players, coaches, umpires and other parents. This applies to anyone and everyone in any setting wherein you are representing Vision Charter softball.

As a parent of a VCS softball player, you represent the team whether you are at a game or in your hometown. This means you can be held accountable to your actions and comments.

Disrespectful or disparaging comments made at the expense of players, coaches, or the team can result in your child having consequences. This includes what is said on social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.

## **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND SUPPORT**

The following policies regarding the conduct of VCS softball parents are being established in support of the Player Code of Character and Conduct.

- Be supportive of, and reinforce all elements of the Player Code of Character and Conduct on and off the field.
- If you have a problem with anyone on the coaching staff, go directly to that person and work it out. Discussing questions or concerns right before practices or before or after games is not an appropriate time for communicating to the coaching staff, unless it is an emergency. Always allow for a 24 hour cooling off period
- Be a team fan, not just a fan of your kid
- Gain an understanding of the rules of the game
- Let the players play, the coaches coach, and the umpires umpire. Your role is to be an encourager and motivator.

## **INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT**

**The following behaviors will not be tolerated:**

- Allowing a player to leave the dugout to sit with you (except in emergency situations). Send them back to the dugout. Likewise parents and fans are not allowed in the dugout.
- Use of crude, profane or vulgar language
- Critical, judgemental, or negative talk directed toward players, coaches, umpires and opposing team members
- Coaching from the sidelines. Your job is to encourage and uplift.

**Consequences for the above actions:**

Most often, you will be asked by the coach to stop the inappropriate behavior. In some cases, particularly if you have offended an official or disrespected a coach, you will be requested to leave the field area. If you do not cease from the behavior or refuse to leave the field area when asked, you may be banned from Vision Charter activities and events.

## **COACH CONTACT INFORMATION**

Head Coach Michelle Stevens [michellestevens@visioncsd.org](mailto:michellestevens@visioncsd.org)

Asst Coach Vicky Holmes [vickyholmes@visioncsd.org](mailto:vickyholmes@visioncsd.org)

Remind App class code 8ek7gg

By signing below we agree to the expectations set forth by the Vision Charter coaching staff and understand that if these are not met it may result in disciplinary action being taken.

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Player's Name Printed

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Player Signature

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Date