

Sportsmanship and the Spirit of the PPWSL

The PPWSL was conceived in 1981 as an instructional softball league designed to provide an opportunity for women of all skills and experience levels to participate in an organized, competitive sport. Integral to that mission is the inclusion of a diverse population of players. The league contends that its competitive and instructional goals are compatible. We encourage development and endorse the benefits of supporting players at ALL levels of play, who are committed to working together, exhibit good sportsmanship, challenging themselves, and enjoying the camaraderie of their teammates and the PPWSL Community. The longevity and success of the PPWSL is driven by volunteers who provide administration, governance, and support for league-wide activities. Potential volunteers should be mentored with respect and enthusiasm with the goal of developing new leadership over time, continuing the success and Spirit of the League. Along with observing the PPWSL and USA softball Rules, the integrity of PPWSL Softball depends on each player's responsibility to uphold the Spirit of the League. This responsibility should remain paramount throughout all aspects of the PPWSL.

- Respect your managers, coaches, teammates, and opponents while being inclusive of players of all races, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, age, disability (physical or mental), sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, parental status, pregnancy status, marital status, political affiliation, military and veteran status, as well as health or mental health status, socioeconomic status or background, education level, neuro(a)typicality, or physical appearance.
- The League places the responsibility for fair play and sportsmanship on each player, coach, and umpire.
- Competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of mutual respect among competitors, adherence to the instructional nature of the league or community, or the basic joy of playing, the reason we are all here!
- Respect the decisions of the umpires. If a call is in question, only your team manager/coach may approach the umpire with knowledge of the rules and respect for their time and position.
- Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct and encourage others to do likewise.
- Congratulate your opponents on their successes and enjoy those of your own team. We are a league and all in this together!
- Thank the officials and your opposition at the end of the game with the traditional "line up, high fives", no matter the result.
- Such actions as taunting opposing players, aggression, intimidation, intentional infractions, or other 'win-at-all-costs' behavior are contrary to the Spirit of the League and must be avoided by all players.
- Current players of the league should set a positive tone by creating a positive atmosphere, modeling good sportsmanship, knowledge of league rules, and guiding new players in the instructional basis of PPWSL.

- The onus for ensuring that a team complies to the PPWSL Spirit of the League is placed firmly on team managers, coaches, representatives, and players who may be required to “take action” against any player on their team whose behavior is unacceptable.
- PPWSL is not just a league but a community of friends, teammates, and a role model for others to follow - so let's support each other with care, respect, and love for the game.