

## Softball Coaches

Every team should have a **Head Coach** and two **Assistant Coaches**. More are allowed but not at SOGA Fall Games unless extraordinary circumstances exist and arrangements are made with the GMST Coordinator. Teams should also have a **team mom** and a **scorekeeper**.

### Responsibilities of Head Coach:

All coaches must have GMST/GAP **background check**.

You must have current SOGA medicals for all players and bring them to all practices, games, tournaments, etc. You can keep them in a sealed envelope for privacy but make sure you read and study them before you seal them up.

Work with players, parents, and GMST Coordinator to insure that **medicals** are up to date long before SOGA registration due date. **Read** medicals, request registration info, and familiarize yourself with your players' challenges.

Be aware of **concussion** guidelines and policy. **Take online concussion training**.

Be aware of lightning and severe weather requirements (30 minutes after horn sounds; see flyer).

Work with assistant coaches to fairly **evaluate all players** at start of season. Note that even modified players must be given an opportunity to try pitching. If they show promise a move to a traditional team should be seriously considered. If they can smack the ball to the outfield, then they are almost certainly a traditional player. A goal of all modified coaches should be to move up players to traditional. Obviously there are some who will not be able to move up but many can.

Work with GMST Coordinator and Softball Head Coach to obtain and distribute, practice **schedules**, game schedules, etc. Team Mom can assist in making sure all team members are informed.

Be aware of athletes and coaches **codes of conduct** and GMST's policy for violations.

Check your players' **bats** to make sure they are ASA certified. Don't allow non-certified bats in the dugout, especially in SOGA tournaments.

Make sure all players' batting helmets have **chin straps**.

Assess condition of team equipment and let Softball Head Coach know ASAP if replacements or repairs are necessary.

Make the **line-up** prior to all games.

Make sure all players play **at least one inning**.

If you are short players **DO NOT** use players from other teams without getting permission from the **opposing coach** first. Inform the umpire.

Leave all dugouts cleaner than when your team entered.

Calls - rainouts, etc. - Work with Team Mom - Calling Post is available.

If one of your team members is injured, get on-site medical person involved. **DO NOT TRANSPORT**. Use ambulance for transport. Use emergency contact info to notify and get advice from parent/caregiver. Make sure someone is accompanying athlete to hospital. Document the incident.

Make sure you don't leave any athletes on your team behind at a practice or game. Stay until they are picked up or designate someone else to stay.

Make sure your assistants, team mom, and scorekeeper get something at the banquet.