**Coach Code of Conduct**

Coaching a youth sports program such as Ipswich Travel Softball (ITS) is a privilege. As a coach, appointed by the ITS Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of good sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. In order to ensure each coach is acting in the best interest of the children, ITS has developed a Code of Conduct for all coaches. This code pertains to interactions with players, parents, fans, other coaches, and umpires.

1. **Players** – When there are interactions with players, appropriate language and behavior is expected.

A. Language - Cursing or yelling at a player is not allowed. As a coach, you are a mentor and should focus on the positive. A coach should always be looking for opportunities to praise and encourage the players.

B. Discipline – At the beginning of the season, coaches are encouraged to establish and communicate rules of acceptable behavior to players and parents, as well as the consequences if not followed. If an occurrence will warrant discipline to the point of disruption to the team’s practice or game, a coach is required to release the player from the practice/game to a parent for corrective action. If a player is a child of a coach and discipline is required, the coach is expected to pull the player aside for proper corrective action. Physical contact with a player is not allowed.

C. Sportsmanship - A positive attitude and good sportsmanship are an important part of softball. Cheering on your team and encouraging your players teaches this. Harassing the other team is not allowed. Acts such as switching batter’s boxes, shaking the bat in the strike zone, or loud chanting or banging of fences or bats intended to break the concentration of the pitcher are examples of negative coaching and do not teach the sportsmanship we desire in our children.

2. **Parents/Fans** – Coaches are expected to interact with parents in a professional manner. Appropriate language and behavior is expected. At no time should a coach respond to comments from fans during a game.

3) **Coaches** – Coaches are expected to interact with opposing coaches in a professional manner. At no time should a coach yell from the dugout at an opposing coach. Coaches are to address opposing coaches between innings and the umpire must be present. If the need arises to address an opposing coach before the end of the half inning, the coach should ask the umpire to call timeout to address the opposing coach at home plate.

4) **Umpires** – Coaches are expected to interact with umpires in a professional manner. At no time should a coach yell from the dugout to an umpire. Coaches are to address the umpires between innings with the umpire’s permission. If the need arises to address an umpire before the end of the half inning, the coach should ask the umpire for permission to call timeout to address the umpire at home plate.

5) **Representatives** - Coaches are representatives of Ipswich Travel Softball. They have an obligation and responsibility to refrain from any comments that can be viewed as disparaging to ITS, the Board of Directors, or any volunteers. If a complaint is received by the ITS Board of Directors of a coach failing to comply with the above listed code of conduct, the Board may decide to 1) dismiss the case, 2) draft a warning letter, or 3) revoke all or part of the coach’s privileges. By signing in the space provided below, you are agreeing that you have read and understand the Coach’s Code of Conduct for Ipswich Travel Softball.

Printed Name of Coach Signature of Coach Date