

2019 WEST ZONE SOFTBALL PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

1. Every tournament will have a strict **ENTRY FEE** for all non-players and coaches. Only World Series players and coaches (with badges) will be allowed into any gated facility for free.
2. Home town crowd / league must pay entry fee.
3. **Outside food and beverage WILL NOT be allowed through the gate.**
 - a. ONLY teams playing a game will be allowed 'cooler' entry (teams know the rules on this)
 - b. Special circumstances will be addressed by tournament host (i.e. diabetic, baby issues)
4. NO noisemakers will be allowed and are subject to confiscation.

The general Rules of the game (during the game):

1. Although most *leagues* mandate minimum play, during All-Star tournaments PONY does not mandate who plays when or where. ***There is NO minimum play during tournaments.***
 - a. PONY encourages managers to play all their players, but it is solely their choice.
 - b. Game time discussion / contact by parents or fans with managers or players is not allowed.
2. At no time will anyone be allowed on the playing field without the invitation of the umpiring crew or PONY official. Scrapes and bumps do not usually warrant invitations.
3. ***Contact with the players by parents or fans is not allowed*** and may make a player, or coach ineligible for the game.
4. Scorekeepers are not allowed (by rule) to share information with the team while playing any game.
5. There are defined viewing areas, and these may change throughout the game or tournament.
6. Encouragement of your team is expected. Any negative comment toward the other team or their fans is not allowed.

How to treat the coaches: (yours and the other team's)

They have volunteered, and they want to win - so remember that. If you have an issue you wish to discuss with your coach, request a private conversation (not during their game).

The coaches are not professional. They probably know more than you, and have reasons for their game time decisions, such as defense and batting order.

Rules mandate ***no contact between the coaching staff and anyone outside the fences during a game.*** Coaches are not allowed to respond to your questions or concerns during the game – they will be ejected from the game if found to have contact with you. *We stress this so you know they are not ignoring you.*

On the ride home:

Always encourage your player, even if they dropped the fly ball that lost them the game (they know they did – they don't need a reminder). They will have many times in their life to be the winner. If they are discouraged by you, they'll have fewer and fewer of those times. Your kids want to know you are a fan of theirs. Never suggest coaches or a team-mate made a mistake. Sometimes we all have to bite our lip. Make the game fun for the kids.

Ask them what the coaches have told them, so you can be on the same page. And finally, think back to when you were a kid. Positive encouragement goes a lot further than negative.