

Emerald City Classic (ECC) CODE OF CONDUCT

Overview

All players and participants are expected to behave with maturity and exhibit good sportsmanship.

Players, participants, and representatives shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the integrity and reputation of their respective leagues, NAGAAA, and the Gay Softball World Series.

Players and participants will conduct themselves ethically with respect to the rules of the game.

No player or participant may refuse to abide by an official's decision, threaten an official, or at any time push, shove, or strike an official. Team managers and coaches may be held accountable for the actions of their players and fans.

No player or participant may demonstrate objection to an official's decision by throwing any object, in any manner, for any reason, that an official judges to be dangerous.

No player or participant may unnecessarily use rough tactics in the play of the game against any other player or participant.

No player or participant may direct an abusive verbal attack upon any player, participant, official, spectators, and/or ECC Volunteers. Any use of profane, flagrant, obscene or vulgar language in any manner, at any time, will be subject to disciplinary action.

No Player, Coach or Manager shall engage in activities to negatively reflect upon their member city league, Emerald City Classic and the Emerald City Softball Association.

Rulings from an Umpire-in-Charge:

- The umpire-in-charge has general authority to handle game situations in accordance with USA Softball Rules and/or any other prevailing rule.
- For any infraction of the Code of Conduct or any other prevailing rule, an umpire may eject a player from the game and shall report the incident to the Tournament Director and/or Field Directors. The umpire-in-charge may either suspend or declare a forfeit of any game where, in the umpire's judgment, there has been a violation of the Code, making it unsafe to continue the contest.
- Any ejected player or participant shall automatically serve an additional one game suspension.
- Under penalty of forfeit, a suspended or ejected player or participant may not be present or in the vicinity of the field for a game from which they are suspended or ejected.
- No ruling of the umpire-in-charge is subject to appeal, except as provided under USA Softball Rules or within the ECC Rules.

Rulings from Tournament Director, Field Directors or any ECSA Executive Board members:

- May impose sanctions for any violation of the Code of Conduct, up to and including permanent expulsion from the Emerald City Classic.
- Under penalty of forfeit, a suspended player or participant may not be present or in the vicinity of the field for a game from which they are suspended.
- Have the authority and full discretion of imposing sanctions for any violation of the Code of Conduct. For any violation explicitly or not explicitly stated in this code, the penalty will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director on the advice from the ECSA Executive Board.

Procedures

The Tournament Director will adhere to following procedures with respect to any disciplinary action:

a. Procedures for Sanctions by the Tournament Director:

- The Tournament Director is authorized to suspend any player or participant for a period of up to one game for any action deemed to be a violation of the Code of Conduct.
- The Tournament Director may delegate authority under this procedure to any member of the ECSA Executive Board designated as “board member-in-charge” at the field of play. The ECSA Director of Competition is the board member in charge. If he or she is not available the Assistant Director of Competition for the B, C, and D Divisions will be designated.
- Sanctions under this procedure are not subject to appeal for review by the Tournament Director, Field Directors and ECSA Directors of Competition.

b. Procedures for Sanctions by the Board:

- **Notification:** Any player or participant subject to disciplinary action will be first notified of possible sanctions for violation of the integrity of the league, the Code of Conduct, or any other rule. Notification may occur at the discretion of the Commissioner or by agreement of any three Executive Board members and will include a description of alleged violation and a deadline for response.

Response: A notified player or participant shall have at least 48 hours (or possibly longer, at the discretion of the Commissioner) to provide a documented response.

Deliberation: The Executive Board will consider a documented response from the notified player or participant in deliberation of any sanction for possible violation of the Code of Conduct. At the discretion of the Commissioner, deliberations may be in-person, by telephone, or by e-mail.

Sanction: The Executive Board may vote to impose any sanction, up to and including permanent expulsion, by a majority vote of all voting members. Any sanction imposed under this procedure for a period of up to two weeks is final and not subject to appeal

Request for Appeal: Sanctions greater than two weeks may be appealed to the full Board for further review or an in-person appeal meeting, which will be granted at the discretion of the Commissioner or by agreement of a majority of Executive Board members.

Appeal: In the event an appeal meeting is granted, the sanctioned player or participant will have no less than 20 minutes to make a presentation to the Executive Board. Any subsequent change to the sanction shall require the vote of a majority-plus-one member of the Executive Board (i.e., 5 votes of a 7-member board or 6 votes of an 8-member Board.)