

2021 Millsap Lady Bulldogs Softball



Breathe, Believe, Battle

Breathe - Be in the moment.

Believe- Have faith that you can rise above it.

Battle- You have to be prepared to go for as long as it takes.

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Millsap Softball

Athlete Code of Conduct

By choosing to participate in the Millsap Lady Bulldog Softball Program, athletes choose to abide by a certain set of rules, responsibilities, and guidelines that mandates a higher standard of moral and ethical conduct above that of the general student body. These guidelines are designed to ensure that the entire program is successful and that each individual athlete is aware that her actions play a vital part of the overall success of the team. Consequences for violating these rules will be based on the nature, severity, and number of times the offense occurs.

Strikes and Write-Ups:

When an athlete has broken a rule(late or unexcused missed practice, forgot practice gear, uniform or equipment, violates dress code), a strike will be assigned.

1st Strike- extra conditioning

2nd Strike- extra conditioning, possible loss of playing time.

3rd Strike- extra conditioning, possible loss of playing time or sent to a lower level.

4th Strike- Parent discussion about possible removal from the softball program.

All parents will be notified of any violations the athlete has committed and the incident will be documented.

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Softball Program Guidelines

All athletes are expected to follow all rules and regulations in the Millsap ISD Athletic Handbook. These guidelines are written to clarify the MHS Softball Program. It is written as an aid to eliminate any misunderstandings that may occur. It is not meant to eliminate communication between players and coaches, but to make certain that the lines of communication are open at all times. If there is something you are unsure about, please come to the coaches immediately so we can discuss your concerns. We are all here for the same reason; let's make it a great season.

Team Goals and Objectives

The following are the general goals and objectives of the MHS Softball team and coaching staff:

- 1. To practice with heart, intensity, and determination so that it may carry over on the field in each game.***
- 2. To mature as young ladies by overcoming adversities and trials throughout the season.***
- 3. To learn how to focus on my own role in the context of a larger team and know teamwork is the only way we will be successful.***
- 4. To dedicate myself and do what it takes to improve and be successful for the Millsap Softball program.***

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Go Home Rules- Practice and Games

I have established these rules to ensure the integrity and welfare of the softball program. If an athlete has a bad attitude, poor work ethic, or disrespect at any time that is detrimental to our practice or a game, the following rules will apply;

1st offense- athletes will be sent home from practice or a game.

2nd offense- athlete will be sent home from practice or game and will condition the whole time at the next scheduled practice and loss of playing time.

3rd offense- athlete will be dismissed from the team.

***It is a privilege to practice or play softball for Millsap.
All offenses will be documented and parents will be notified.***

Missed practices- Excused vs. Unexcused

If a player misses a practice and has a doctor's note or we have been notified via email or phone call by the parent explaining the severe circumstances about your child's illness, that will be an excused absence. All other absences will be considered unexcused.

All athletes who miss practices will have to complete extra conditioning before participating in the next competition.

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Games/Bus Rules

All players will ride the bus to and from all games. There may be times, at the coach's discretion, that athletes will be allowed to leave after the athlete's game. No athlete will be allowed to ride home with anyone that is not designated by the parent. A note or an email message will be required for your child to ride home with anyone other than the parent.

We will have a NO CELL PHONE policy on the bus or at a game. All phones will be taken up by the coaches and stored safely, and returned at the end of the trip. If you have a need to contact your child, send the coaches an email message or text.

Please pick your athlete up in a timely manner. If coaches have to wait longer than 15 minutes from the time we arrive to the school, a strike will be assigned to the athlete.

Quitting in Season

If at any time an athlete decides to quit during the season, she will have 24 hour cooling off time. If you do not change your mind within the 24 hour time period, you will not be allowed back. If you decide to continue playing, your decision must be discussed with the coach prior to coming back to the team.

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Player Expectations

- 1) *ACADEMICS come first. That is why you are here!***
- 2) *“We not I” - the TEAM must come first***
- 3) *Believe in each other and the coaches. We WIN and lose together.***
- 4) *Have the three D’s- DESIRE-DEDICATION- and DETERMINATION.***
- 5) *Don’t play to just play- PLAY TO WIN- COMPETE EVERYDAY!***
- 6) *Be enthusiastic at all times.***
- 7) *Out work our opponent’s everyday in class and on the field.***
- 8) *Good sportsmanship is not expected- it is REQUIRED.***
- 9) *Be a winner on and off the field.***
- 10) *Treat the teacher with RESPECT. Earn the teacher’s RESPECT.***
- 11) *You will attend study hall as needed, either with coaches or teachers.***
- 12) *Dress in a respectful manner at all times.***
- 13) *Players will not consume alcohol or illegal drugs of any kind.***
- 14) *Be on TIME- this means be 15 minutes early to scheduled games, practices, etc.***

Millsap Softball
Softball Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are a very difficult vocation. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know and understand the expectations placed on them, and their daughter. Coaches have the right to know that if the parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place, not behind their backs or in the stands.

Communication parents should expect from their daughter's coach:

- 1. Expectations the coach has for your daughter.***
- 2. Location and times of practice and contests.***
- 3. Team requirements i.e. special equipment needed, school and team rules.***
- 4. Procedures that will be followed if your daughter becomes injured during participation.***

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- 1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.***
- 2. Concerns regarding their daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place. Preferably the athlete will discuss issues with me before parents get involved.***

As your child becomes more involved in high school athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way your or your daughter wishes. These are the times when discussion with the coach is encouraged. Your daughter needs to have a discussion with us first, and then if it is not handled, or it remains an issue please call and set up a conference at the High School.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach:

- 1. What your child needs to do to improve.**
- 2. Concerns about your child's behavior.**

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope or like. Know that going into any sport, there are certain roles for each athlete; the coach will determine which role best fits your daughter and her skill level. I make decisions based on what I believe is in the best interest of all athletes participating and the team in order to be successful.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with the coach:

- 1. How much playing time each athlete is getting**
- 2. Team strategy**
- 3. Play calling**
- 4. Any situation that deals with other athletes**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. Conferences are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's position.

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

- 1. The athlete should express their concerns to the coach first.**
- 2. If the coach and athlete cannot resolve the situation, set up a conference with the coach.**
- 3. If the coach cannot be reached, have the Middle School secretary set up an appointment.**

- 4. Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.***

- 5. Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them. Do not bring up other athletes or questions that are not up for discussion.***

- 6. Do not confront the coach before, during , or after practice or game. These are emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it causing more harm.***

It is a big responsibility coaching your young athlete and I take it very seriously. We are a family and I will treat them with respect and love. I am so excited and blessed to have this opportunity to teach your daughter and I am looking forward to a great season.

Thank you for all you give to Millsap ISD Athletics,

Gerri Lawyer- Head Softball Coach

glawyer@millsapisd.net

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Priority Scheduling:

If we are to achieve any of the goals we have set, we should all be willing to make sacrifices and stick to the following priority schedule:

- 1. GOD***
- 2. Family***
- 3. Academics***
- 4. Softball***
- 5. Everything else (i.e. - work, doctor's appointments, dentist, hair appointments, etc.)***

If an athlete misses a practice regardless of why, they still have to make up the practice before being able to compete.

UIL and Club or other organizations:

UIL is to be chosen over any other event during your UIL season. If you choose to participate in another event instead of your UIL event scheduled, there will be punishment given by the head coach. Please do your best to coordinate with your other event schedule compared to your UIL schedule.

Club and other organizations are very important and play a major role in developing skills outside of UIL. Please understand that club and the other organization events are very important to participate in but UIL is just as important.

If there is a conflict between two UIL events, then it is up to the athlete and parent to decide which is the most important. Be aware of the importance of district and non district competition.

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Definition of my Go Home Rules:

- 1. Bad Attitude, Poor work ethic, disrespect- talks back to the coach, teammates, opposing teams, umpires. Throws or slams equipment of any kind at any time. If the athlete does not give 100% effort on the field in practice or a game. This means if the athlete is walking around, dragging feet, or just does not want to be there to get better, they will be sent home.**

My tolerance is very thin and if your daughter gets sent home, it will be for a valid reason.

I understand the difference between being passionate about the game, but not if it affects the play of others and the overall attitude of the team.

“ Too often, players believe that displays of temper, anger, and frustration show that a person is highly competitive. Actually, when athletes show these kinds of emotions, they are the opposite of true competitors, for they have allowed their emotions to get the best of them. Displays of temper, anger, and frustration are just wasted, unfocused energy. True competitors control their emotions in difficult moments. They don't let adversity knock them off track in pursuit of their goal. True athletes and competitors have a perfectly disciplined will. Their spirit can never be broken”. - Proactive Coaching.

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Program Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Athlete's Name(print) _____

I understand and agree to follow all the guidelines of the Millsap ISD Athletic Handbook and Millsap Softball program guidelines as stated in the Program Handbook.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read, understand, and agree to follow all the program guidelines of the Millsap Softball Program and Millsap ISD Athletic Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____