

SUPPORTERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

BSF and BSUK coaches and administrators fully acknowledge that **parents, guardians, partners, wider family and friends** are an integral part of BSF and GB Team programmes and can help both young and adult players can enjoy their involvement in sport and experience an environment in which they can flourish and perform at their best.

The level of support and the number of supporters at tournaments is much appreciated by both players and staff and positive comments are frequently received from tournament organisers and others.

To help ensure that tournaments and events are a positive experience for players, staff and supporters, we encourage supporters to respect the following:

<p>Rights and Equality</p>	<p>Respect the rights of all players, staff and supporters; promote their welfare and be sensitive to their individual needs in relation to participation in our sport, irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, disability, culture, sexuality and religious beliefs.</p>
<p>Relationships</p>	<p>All relationships should be based on openness, honesty, trust and respect.</p> <p>It is important that participants in BSF programmes are able to feel important and valued.</p>
<p>Social Media</p>	<p>Social media should never be used as a medium by which to abuse or criticise players, staff, officials or the BSF.</p>
<p>General Conduct</p>	<p>Supporters will be viewed as representatives of the British Softball Federation and therefore appropriate conduct is important for our sport and reputation.</p> <p>Demonstrate sporting and positive behaviour.</p> <p>Do not engage in behaviour that is abusive or inappropriate. Bullying, shouting, racism or sexism is not acceptable.</p> <p>Always support team staff in eradicating unruly, coarse or abusive behaviour from the game.</p> <p>Provide positive verbal feedback during training and games.</p> <p>Remember that negative messages can adversely affect players' and umpires' performances and attitudes.</p> <p>People who persist in articulating such messages may be asked to leave the event.</p>
<p>Tournaments</p>	<p>The main purpose of trips by GB national teams to ESF or ISF competitions is to play softball and to finish as high as they can in the tournament.</p> <p>The focus of players and staff before and during the tournament must be on training, team bonding and competition, with as few distractions as possible.</p>

	<p>This means that team staff will decide what players can and cannot do, both with regard to the competition itself and any other activities undertaken or suggested.</p> <p>Team staff are always urged to create an ethos where supporters of the players can spend some time with them during the tournament as schedules allow.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the Supporters and Tour Principles document.</p>
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<p>Additional guidance for Parents and Guardians</p>	<p>Become familiar with the team coaching and management staff and communicate with them in a timely manner to ensure that your child is fully involved and that coaches are aware of your child's availability.</p> <p>Share any concerns with the team staff.</p> <p>Encourage your child in a positive manner – but don't force them to play.</p> <p>Focus on young player's efforts, rather than on winning or losing.</p> <p>Be realistic about young players' abilities and do not push them towards a level that they are not capable of achieving.</p> <p>Show appreciation of good play by ALL players, from both your child's team and the opposition.</p> <p>Respect decisions made by umpires and encourage young players to do likewise.</p>
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