

<p style="text-align: center;">2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ERIE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS</p>

1. GENERAL PURPOSE OF PLAYING SOFTBALL FOR THE ERIE ROYALS

- A. To get an education, and graduate from high school, and potentially go on to get a college or technical degree.
- B. To participate in the softball program, and assist your team in winning regular season games as well as the Region, District, and State Championships.
- C. To develop lifelong friends in an atmosphere of cordiality and purpose, both on and off the softball field.
- D. To learn leadership skills and understand the concept of Teamwork.
- E. To have fun and enjoy the game of softball

2. AS SOFTBALL COACHES, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST YOU IN THE ABOVE. WE WILL DO THIS BY:

- A. Monitoring your courses and grades to insure that you are faithfully attending class and doing the work necessary to achieve graduation.
- B. Giving you the best possible softball education to assure that you respond properly on the playing field and to allow you the opportunity to develop your skills to prepare you for the potential of college or professional softball scouting.
- C. Placing you in a proper environment, for all softball related activities, so that you may be allowed every opportunity to enjoy your High School experience.
- D. The goal of the coaches is to build a competitive softball team while providing an enjoyable environment for players to develop softball skills, knowledge, teamwork, sportsmanship, and commitment with a respect for the game both in victory or defeat and the ability to function as a team. We encourage and support our girls to excel on the field as well as in school and their community.

3. TEAM POLICIES TO INSURE THE ABOVE.

A. Appearance:

- 1. You will be required to dress properly around school or softball team activities as you represent yourself and the softball program.
- 2. You will be required to wear your game uniform properly.
 - a. Follow all PIAA guidelines including but not limited to:
 - i. Uniforms

- ii. Jewelry
- iii. Bats, helmets, and other gear

B. Attendance and Grades:

1. In school, you will attend classes regularly and on time.
2. You will not use any class assignment nor exam preparation as an excuse to miss practice. You will prepare yourself for assignments and exams over the entire quarter or semester, not on the last day.
3. Your first responsibility will be your classes. Your second responsibility will be the softball team. They are both very important to you and the coaches. As coaches, we want to coach student/athletes.
 - a. Maintain the PIAA grade requirements. Passing 4 full credit core classes.
 - b. Unsatisfactory grades will result in loss of playing time.
 - c. Recurring instances of poor grades will result in dismissal from the team for the students benefit as well as the team.
4. You are allowed to participate in any school sponsored activity as long as it does not interfere with your classes and/or softball.

C. CONDUCT ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

1. You will be expected to conduct yourself in a first-class manner because you represent the Erie Royals and yourself. Behavior that is deemed disruptive and detrimental to the team can bring consequences ranging from diminished playing time to dismissal from the team.
2. Any player caught with tobacco products, alcohol, Inhalants (vapor pens, etc) or drugs that are not prescribed by a physician will be immediately suspended or dismissed from the softball program.
3. Refrain from using any inappropriate language.
4. Fighting is not acceptable. You will immediately be suspended or dismissed from the team for such behavior.
5. Disrespect for coaches, parents, teammates, and umpires will not be tolerated. Always lead by example on and off the field and set the standard high for future Royals players to follow.
6. Do not transfer blame or make excuses. It is not acceptable. Learn from your mistakes and get better.
7. Hazing will not be tolerated. Students who disregard this rule are subject to suspension or dismissal from the team
8. Players are expected to use social media, email, blog, website, and other electronic communication and sharing platforms appropriately. Players shall not make inflammatory or derogatory comments or posts of any kind regarding other players, staff members, coaches, or the likes of other teams or schools..

D. PRACTICE AND GAMES

1. All weekday practices will begin at 4:15 PM and end at 6:30 PM; Saturday practice will begin at 10:00 AM and end at 12:00 PM. **During the spring due to weather and gym times, practice times, or the location of practices might have to change.** We must be flexible to adapt to spring weather conditions. Coaches will try to give you 24 hours notice of changes if possible.
2. If for some reason you will be absent, late for practice, or leave practice early you must PERSONALLY talk or Text Coach Niebauer - Cell phone number 814-392-2405.
3. Practices are key in development of all players. All planned practices are mandatory. Games are won or lost during practices.
4. No one will leave a practice session or game without prior approval of Coach Niebauer.
5. Only softball personnel are allowed in the dugout or around dugout. (Coaches, Trainer, and Players only)
6. All players must remain in the dugout during games unless a coach gives permission.
7. Keep gym, dugouts, home or away in first class condition.
All trash will be picked up before leaving the field, gym or dugouts.
8. There will be absolutely no horseplay during practices.
9. If you are attending practice and unable to participate, you will assist your team in practice to whatever extent possible and not become a distraction to others.
10. All cell phones must be turned on vibrate in the player's bags at all times. Players are not to make phone calls or text messages at any time during games and practices, or team meetings, unless it is an emergency and permission is granted from a coach.
11. Players are expected to use sportsmanlike conduct AT ALL TIMES AND TOWARD ALL PEOPLE INVOLVED (INCLUDING OPPOSING TEAMS).
12. Work or non-school activities are not an excuse to miss practices or games.
13. Practice at "Game Pace" you are expected to treat practice just like a game. Practice is the time to learn and improve. We will not coach poor attitudes, we cannot coach effort, because effort comes from the player. Failure to attend practice without a legitimate excuse will result in loss of playing time. Coach Niebauer must be notified of absences in advance.
14. If a player misses a game without a legitimate excuse and/or notification of their absence, they will be subject to suspension or dismissal from the team.

15. **Accept your role on the team. If you do not like it, work harder to change it. Playing time is earned in practice and on the field. Those not currently playing are to keep a positive attitude and support team members that are currently on the field.**
16. **Be Coachable. Listen to your coaches' instruction. Ask questions if you are not sure. Be willing to try new positions, new techniques. Be willing to do whatever your team needs you to do.**
17. **Softball isn't the most important thing in life, but during practice, it is.**

E. INJURIES AND SICKNESS:

1. **All injuries and sickness will be reported immediately to the coaches and athletic trainer so that treatment can be initiated as promptly as possible.**
2. **If you are sick or have an appointment and must miss practice, advanced notice to coach Niebauer is required.**

G. EQUIPMENT:

1. **You will be responsible for any equipment issued.**
2. **You will be required to take care of your equipment in a first class manner.**
3. **ALL TEAM EQUIPMENT WILL BE PUT AWAY BEFORE ANY TEAM MEMBERS LEAVE PRACTICE OR GAMES**

I AGREE TO THE ABOVE TERMS FOR THE 2023-2024 SOFTBALL SEASON

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Player	Parent/Guardian	Date