

Provincial Women's Softball Association Recruiting Players at P.W.S.A. Sanctioned Events

Policy Statement

The P.W.S.A. has a policy on tampering. Simply stated, tampering is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

The P.W.S.A. has become aware that individuals or groups may be attending P.W.S.A. sanctioned softball activities in an attempt to recruit players for their non-P.W.S.A. sanctioned softball activities. This interference is an unacceptable annoyance that detracts from the sanctioned activities the athletes are competing in. It is also clearly tampering.

The P.W.S.A. acknowledges that community softball is the approved development path for participation in Team Ontario. Significant resources are dedicated at the local community level across Ontario at all ages and levels to provide a place for children and youth to play the sport that they love. The P.W.S.A. requires that its members and participants, including volunteers and coaches, adhere to appropriate codes of conduct, rules, and procedures, and that standards are met to ensure a safe and respectful sport environment.

The P.W.S.A. takes its responsibility to ensure that its participants operate within a proper safe sport environment very seriously.

The P.W.S.A. recognizes that individuals and groups who show up at P.W.S.A. sanctioned activities with a goal to take players out of the community softball system are not just a distraction to the community softball being played in the moment. They are also selfishly putting their interests, and often their own financial interests, ahead of the community system. Further, they are operating outside the approved and mandated safe sport model generally.

The P.W.S.A.'s Board of Directors treats this as a very serious matter. Recruiting players and tampering with their participation in the community softball system at P.W.S.A. sanctioned events is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Enforcement

Accordingly, groups or individuals found to be tampering in an attempt to lure players away from community teams and P.W.S.A. governed softball programming will be subject to sanction by the P.W.S.A. given the disruption that this may cause to P.W.S.A. governed activities. The P.W.S.A.'s Board of Directors shall have the authority to implement any sanctions that it deems appropriate in the circumstances.

Related to this, the P.W.S.A. reserves the right to sanction anybody associated in any way with such groups or individuals. The P.W.S.A. cautions athletes and their parents that any participation in softball activities operated by or conducted in association with individuals or groups who are engaged in such activity could result in a loss of eligibility for the Team Ontario development path and selection to Team Ontario.

Commitment to Safe Sport

Our softball community is strongest when working together. We understand that parents want what they think is best for their children. However, the P.W.S.A. has an obligation to protect all of its participants while growing the game of softball. Private and non-sanctioned operators are not subject to the same rules and protections that the P.W.S.A. offers. The P.W.S.A. has an obligation to provide a safe and respectful sport environment. We expect, and thus require, that P.W.S.A. sanctioned activities be conducted in a safe and fun environment, not one where adults are trying to steal players away for their own purposes.

Reporting

Should you see anything at a P.W.S.A. sanctioned event that you believe is inappropriate, please contact the P.W.S.A. at info@PWSAontario.com.

Policy Name: Recruiting at Sanctioned Events Policy

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