

2025-2026
Michigan Storm Softball, LLC
COACHING CONTRACT



1. Being a coach means you must keep a coach to player relationship and do not become "friends" with the athletes.
2. For your protection, when at a practice, games, tournaments or team outings, NEVER be left alone with just one player (even if your child is present). The second to last player to leave, ask them to stay with you until the last player leaves.
3. Always encourage the buddy system with a teammate whenever they are leaving your sight at practices, tournaments or team outings (including hotel stays). Ideally keeping the athletes in groups of at least 3 is best.
4. All written communication (email, text messaging, Facebook, etc.) should be made with the parents and **NOT** with the players (you may include the player in the message but the message is to the parent. At the 16u – 23u level, GroupMe texting is ok with athletes/coaches only (entire team communication).
5. When creating distribution lists, the only distribution list for your team should be your parent email addresses (players may be added). Coaches should **NOT** be emailing, text messaging, Facebooking, twittering or instant messaging their players individually. When communicating information about practices, games, tournaments, etc., ALL written communication should go through the parents and NOT just the players and ALSO be placed on your Storm team website page.
6. Please do not call your players personally or ask your players to call you. When telephone calls are necessary, call and speak with the parents and if you ask them if you can talk with their son/daughter, that then is fine because they have given you permission at the time of the call.
7. Whenever there is a potential problem between a player/parent and a coach and written communication has been sent to you expressing the concern, do not reply with an answer to the email. First, think about the email for a 24-hour period and then reply with a quick response of something such as, "thank you for emailing me your concerns, let's select a time that we can discuss this in person and get to a resolution". When and IF this happens, it is imperative that Deb Sleeman is Cc: in on the return email and that you follow up with her on the resolution. Otherwise this could backfire on you if they contact Deb...
8. Keep all communication clean. You never know who might read your emails or overhear a conversation and what one says, can and often is misunderstood and the last thing that any of us wants to do is explain what was said.
9. When using the Storm Center for indoor practices, all equipment must be returned to the proper place when your practice concludes.
10. No equipment is to leave the Storm Center unless prior permission is granted by Deb Sleeman.
11. If you are not going to use your scheduled practice time at the Storm Center, a 48-hour notice must be given to Deb Sleeman.
12. Each coach agrees to a background check being performed on them and their coaching is subject to the results of the check.
13. All teams are expected to wear approved Michigan Storm uniforms in any round robin or tournament play. Approved uniforms consist of club administered uniforms. Shorts are not allowed and teams cannot create their own jersey shirt for games.
14. All coaches understand that Michigan Storm Softball is a club and not made-up individual teams. All teams are asked to support and encourage each other at practices and at games and that we are always focused on building our club from within. When a sub is needed by a team, please consider asking a player from within another Storm team first. If you do, you will first need to contact the coach for that team and make sure that they do not have any conflicts and they are ok with them playing for you as a substitute.
15. If an injury to a player occurs and they are under a physician's care, before returning to play, the player needs approval from their Dr., or their parents must sign off releasing Michigan Storm and the coach of ALL liability...NO EXCEPTIONS.

I have read and understand the Coaches Responsibility and will follow the contract for the protection of myself, my players, and Michigan Storm Softball, LLC. All coaches agree to a background check.

COACH PRINTED FULL LEGAL NAME

D.O.B.

DATE

COACH SIGNATURE

STORM TEAM NAME/AGE GROUP

BG CHECK CLEARED

☐ APPROVED