



# Team Guidelines

## **ACADEMICS:**

Players are expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must turn in a report card or transcript at the end of each semester. Players whose GPA drops below 3.0 may not be eligible to play until grades improve. Players who do not provide a GPA and/or a report card, will not be eligible to play.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Players have made a commitment to the team, which means practice is not optional. It is required for the success of the team. Obviously, emergencies will occur, but that does not mean you can miss practice week after week and expect to play at game time. We expect for the team to be a priority, not just something you “do”.

## **ABSENCES:**

If it necessary to miss practice or conditioning, you must call **(not your parents)** or text Ernie and your Head Coach and let them know. If you miss a practice or have excessive absenteeism do not "expect" to star and/or play, come game time. This is not meant as punishment if you miss a practice, it is meant to encourage and reward players who put in the work. Players that are consistently absent from practice or conditioning will not be given the same playing time as players who attend and may not remain on the team. If a player misses a practice or game or must leave early from either, you must call or email to get any updated information for upcoming events.

## **PRACTICE:**

Players are required to wear the designated practice uniform, arrive a minimum of 10 minutes early and be "on the field, warming up", by the start of each practice. If you are running late for practice, you need to hustle to the field; players who disrespect the team by strolling up without urgency will be subject to disciplinary measures. All players will pick up equipment after practice and put it away before going into the dugout.

Friends are not permitted to attend conditioning or practice as this is a distraction to all players.

## **CELLPHONES:**

**Are not permitted during practice, conditioning or on game day from the time we arrive on the field until we leave. If you are on your phone, it will be taken away until we are done.**



## Team Guidelines

### **INJURIES:**

In the event of an injury, if possible, the player should still attend practice. Much can be learned from helping coaches and listening to practice. If you are injured or become ill during a game or practice it is your responsibility to your team to report it to the manager immediately.

### **DUES:**

The recruitment divisions are the most expensive to play in, most major tournaments and recruitment tournaments must be paid in advance sometimes this means a year in advance. Dues must be kept up to date and could affect your playing time and your place on the team. Spots will not be held for players who are not current on dues.

### **FUNDRAISERS:**

The funds raised from this effort are used for travel expenses during our upcoming seasons. The donations received through ongoing fundraising is a major source of our funding to further the development of our players and softball program throughout the year.

Fundraisers are mandatory for active and injured players, as they aid in keeping dues from increasing exponentially. Players who do not actively participate will have the monetary value of the fundraiser added to their dues.

Parent participation is a must. Parents are expected to volunteer on fundraisers.

Any fundraiser donations are non-refundable if player chooses to leave the team after the donation has been made.

### **ON THE FIELD GAME DAY RULES:**

Ball bags, equipment, bats and gloves will be lined in an orderly fashion during warm up. Ball bags will be hung on the outside of the dugout fence during game time. All players are expected sprint and hustle on and off the field at all times. Ensure that you have an ice chest with snacks and drinks with you for the entire day.

Players will remain together as a team during all game breaks. If games are back-to-back, they will either remain in the dugout or move to the next field as a team. If we

have a game break, players will remain together to discuss their performance and watch the game in progress at our next field. This is an opportunity to increase players softball IQ.



## Team Guidelines

### DUGOUT:

Only coaches and players are permitted in the dugout during practice and games. Parents, you are encouraged to support your daughter, however, during practices and game you should refrain from approaching the dugout or backstop to coach, counselor, or to critique.

Players make sure you pack everything you need in YOUR ice chest, do not leave dugout to ask your parents for water, etc. College Coaches want confident, independent players; you will be crossed off the recruiting list if you have to ask mom or dad questions.

### CONDUCT:

Good sportsmanship and professional behavior are expected at all times, and in all circumstances. There should be no conversation with umpires, coaches, players, or parents regarding a call or a play. Parents are encouraged to work with their daughters, but not during game time or practices. That includes comments or instruction when up to bat and especially after an error. During game time, be your daughter's mom and dad...be her biggest fan and allow the coaches to coach.

### TRAVEL:

During the season there may be extensive travel. Please be advised that these travel days are not vacations. A lot of money has been spent to enable us to go to a tournament. As a team we are going to a tournament with a purpose and that is to play softball. On each occasion it is the sole responsibility of the Ernie to determine any extra curricular activities. It is the responsibility of the player to adhere to all curfews.

### ADDRESSING CONCERNS/PROBLEMS:

We encourage an open relationship between coaches, players, and parents. In the event of an issue, players are encouraged to work it out amongst themselves. If that doesn't work, they need to go to a coach for resolution. We will have a conversation with players involved. Parents, please allow your daughter the opportunity to learn to resolve conflict, it is important that they learn this skill. Parents should be involved as a last resort (this may be difficult – but necessary).

Parents or players can call Ernie to set up an appropriate time to address questions or concerns. For your sake and for the sake of the players, **Do Not** bring up concerns during and after a game or in the middle of practice.

It's easy to exhibit good sportsmanship when things are going our way. How do we conduct ourselves when things are not going our way?



# Team Guidelines

## **36-HOUR RULE**

Parents/guardians are not allowed to confront a coach, team, player, board member, or league official to discuss any “negative” game or practice situation(s) with the coaching staff until at least 36 hours has passed from the completion of the game or practice. A confrontation shall consist of any conversation, which elevated from a normal speaking tone and demeanor to one which involves yelling, profanity, or derogatory comments toward said coach, team, player, board member or official.

If parents respect the 36 hour rule, their concerns are MORE likely to be fully addressed in a reasonable discussion. More importantly, the kid’s enjoyment of a game won’t be marred by an ill-timed confrontation. The intent of this rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of the players, and to allow the parties to ‘cool off’, compose themselves, and put the incident or situation that occurred in the game in perspective before meeting to discuss it.

*These guidelines are meant to make the program run as smoothly as possible. Please take each of them as seriously as we do!*

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Player Signature