

Parent Expectations

Levels of Play/Team:

The Lady Osprey Fast Pitch Softball club expects competes at all levels. U10 (ages 9 and 10), U12 (ages 11 and 12), U14 (ages 13 and 14), U16 (ages 15 and 16), and U18 (ages 17 and 18). Your daughter's playing age is determined by her age on January 1st of the playing year. Your daughter will be assigned to the appropriate level based upon her age.

Goals/Expectations:

We expect to be a competitive club, but will put an emphasis on the experience and not our win-loss record. We will strive to win at all levels and will have to work hard to earn our victories, but it is important to remember that we are still learning fundamental skills, and are working to advance each player's overall performance and competitiveness. We will emphasize preparation for the next level. The next level may be an all star team, high school or college. We feel that ASA participation is very important to your daughters chances to make your high school squad and to contribute to the competitiveness of your team. Participation does not ensure a spot on the High School roster. This season will be a great opportunity to develop and hone your daughter's skills to a higher level. As your daughter moves up through the levels of the program (as she gets older), the emphasis of what we are doing changes. We will always put a significant emphasis on having fun!

Emphasis items/priorities for each level

U10

1. Skills development
2. Basic fundamental Enhancement
3. Competitiveness

U12

4. Skills development
5. Basic fundamental Enhancement
6. Competitiveness

U14

1. Continued skills development
2. Competitiveness
3. Fundamental enhancement and reinforcement (it is assumed that these skills are in place)

U16

1. Competitiveness
2. Continued skills development
3. Fundamental enhancement and reinforcement (it is assumed that these skills are in place)
4. Exposure to College Coaches and garnishment of scholarships

U18

5. Competitiveness
6. Continued skills development
7. Fundamental enhancement and reinforcement (it is assumed that these skills are in place)
8. Exposure to College Coaches and garnishment of scholarships

It is important to understand that no one has been assigned a position in the field. Playing time is earned, not given. Everyone must be willing to try new positions as assigned by the coaches. Players will be placed in the position that the coaches determine will best benefit the team. We place a great deal of emphasis on team unity, and players are expected to support each other at all times. Players will always exhibit good sportsmanship.

Practices and Games:

Team practices will be scheduled for 2-3 times each week starting in March (as weather permits) with off season work outs (at least) once a week generally starting in November and going until we can get outside. Little League and High School schedules will be accommodated as much as possible, but players are expected to participate in all of our practices! Outside practices will be scheduled on weekends and some afternoon/evenings . We strongly encourage as much field time as possible. Pitchers and Catchers should work out as often as possible.

It is expected that you will arrange for transportation to and from practices, your daughter will be at practice on time and ready to go when practice is scheduled to start (not rolling in at start time) and that they have their needed equipment. This is greatly appreciated.

All games will be in a tournament environment. Tournaments are scheduled for weekends. It is not uncommon to have a game scheduled for a Friday evening. We will generally play 4 to 6 six games each tournament. We will not participate in any tournaments that conflict with a high school athlete's schedule.

Fundraising and Fees:

ASA softball is not only a time commitment but a financial one. We are actively pursuing sponsorships and have had some success. We are requiring a non-refundable Participation fee with an added expectation of getting additional sponsorships/donations. Specific amounts vary from year to year and level of program. It is important that each girl contributes her share. EVERYONE is expected to meet their fundraising obligations. The success of the program depends upon it.

We will keep track of each girl's contributions and strongly encourage taking advantage of opportunities to raise more than your required amount. We will provide each participant with various fundraising opportunities. Examples include 50/50 sales at Missoula Osprey professional baseball games, concession sales for other sports as well as working the tournament that is hosted by the Lady Osprey. Fees and donations will be used to offset tournament entry fees, equipment costs, and off season practice facility rental. The funds you raise will go directly to the team your daughter is playing on, however there are some expenses that are attributed of the entire club. The balls, bats, helmets, catcher's equipment, tournament entry fees, training equipment are not free. Lack of participation in fund raising does not go unnoticed. Remember, this is an investment in your daughter's future, take it seriously.

Parents will be expected to participate in these fund raising events.

Special Events:

Throughout the season and some of the off season we have opportunities to participate in events that are related to softball but not specifically on the field. For Example, In 2003, we were invited as special guests to the Playball Missoula Hot Stove League Banquet to meet Jenny Finch and spend some one on one time with her. We also have Lady Osprey night(s) at the Missoula Osprey ball park. These events are treated with the same expectations as practices, If you can not make them, let us know.

Uniforms:

Uniforms are considered club assets. The uniforms are to be returned to the coaches at the end of the season. You should expect to turn these in at the last tournament or other scheduled event.

Participation Fees:

Each participant will be given a set of team logo wear. This varies from year to year but consistently includes sweatshirt, sweat pants and practice T shirt. These are the players' equipment to keep.

Player Equipment:

Each player is expected to have their own glove, sliding shorts and knee (sliding) pads. It is preferable that each player have their own bat, but is not required. We will provide protective batting helmets, catcher's gear, uniforms and some team bats. If an individual player provides their own bat, her team mates will be expected to ask permission to use the bat each time they wish to use it. Do not be embarrassed to ask that only your daughter use her equipment. Each player will respect the wishes of her teammates.

Travel

The majority of tournaments we will be playing are out of town and will require transportation and lodging. When ever possible we will travel as a team and lodge as a team. Room reservations will be coordinated by the coaches but individual room expenses will be covered by the parents. Rooms will be reserved in a block with specific cut off dates. We will provide you with the lodging information but you will be expected to confirm a room for yourself. If you are unable to attend a tournament, we will expect your daughter to bring \$25.00/night to put towards the cost of the room or to give to whomever provides lodging for her. We would like to travel in as a team with parents who are attending the tournaments providing rides for the team.

Participation:

Your daughter is expected to participate in all practices, tournaments and scheduled events. Where there are circumstances that preclude 100% participation, please let you head coach know as far ahead of schedule as possible if your daughter will be unavailable to attend a practice or tournament. This common courtesy will allow for better planning and increased team unity.

Little League All-Stars:

Participation in the Lady Osprey has NO affect on your daughter's selection to the Little League All-Star team. These are two entirely separate programs and playing ASA will not help your daughter's likelihood to be asked to play Little League All-Stars. There may be conflicts in tournament scheduling and you must ensure that you do not have any conflicts. This may result in having to make a choice between programs. We ask/prefer that you chose Lady Osprey. We will honor any choices that you make but ask that these choices be communicated as early as possible to all involved parties so that other arrangements can be made.

Playing Time:

Playing time is at the sole discretion of the coaching staff. There is no "minimum play" rule in ASA. While all players will have an opportunity to play there will be games where the coaches make decisions not to play everyone based upon specific circumstances. It is the coach's intent to maximize the involvement of all girls, but it is unlikely that playing time will be distributed exactly equal. It is important to understand this. Playing time will be dictated based upon effort, attendance, commitment, attitude and ability. This includes off the field obligations such as fund raising and event participation. Playing time is earned, not given.

Parental Involvement:

It is extremely important that all parents exhibit good sportsmanship. We encourage everyone to root for our team, and expect that our fans will not root against the opposing team. It is very helpful if the parents reinforce the message of team unity and remind players of the how critical each position on the field is. At this level of play, everyone must contribute for us to be successful. We promote attendance at all tournaments by family members. Parents will be responsible for their own lodging.

Insurance:

We will carry the required ASA insurance coverage but encourage you to ensure that your personal policies cover potential injury. Your personal insurance is the primary coverage and the ASA insurance is supplemental insurance.

Coaches:

We have high standards for and expectations of our coaches. We provide them training opportunities and expect them to provide a safe and high quality learning environment for your kids. Each coach is required be ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) certified on a yearly basis.

Thank You