

# Player Expectations

Are you ready for some softball? Last year was great and we're ready to do it again. We are excited about our upcoming year and believe that you can be a great asset to our teams! We intend to participate in several tournaments this summer. We will decide, as a team, which tournaments we want to participate in.

## Goals:

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, high school ball and beyond. We feel that ASA participation is very important to your chances to make your high school squad and to contribute to the competitiveness of your team. This season will be a great opportunity to develop and hone your skills to a higher level. Each player will respect the wishes of her teammates in regards to use of their equipment (bats, gloves, etc).

It is important to understand that no one has been assigned a position in the field. 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.

## Expectations/Team Rules:

### ❶ PLAYING TIME

Playing time is at the sole discretion of the coaching staff. Considerations will be given to softball skills, attitude, commitment to the team, participation in team activities and game/tournament situations. Playing time is earned, not given.

### ❷ ATTITUDE and RESPECT

Team members will show respect for, be considerate of, and display a positive attitude towards teammates, coaches, umpires, opposing players and parents.

### ❸ CONDUCT

Players will conduct themselves in a proper and well-behaved manner while in uniform and during all team functions.

### ❹ DRUGS, ALCOHOL and TOBACCO

The use or possession of non prescription drugs, alcohol or cigarettes by any is prohibited.

### ❺ CELL PHONES

Cell phones will be turned off during all club activities. This includes, but is not limited to, practices, games, gatherings, meetings, etc

## ⑥ EMOTIONS

Always control your emotions and display good sportsmanship. No profanity; no throwing equipment; no arguing with teammates, coaches, opponents or umpires; no negative remarks to teammates, coaches, opponents or umpires.

## ⑦ PARTICIPATION

Participate in all practices, games and team functions unless you have prior approval from the head coach to be absent. You are expected to notify (email, text, call) the head coach at least two hours before the start of any activity you will miss.

## ⑧ TIMELINESS

Be on time for all practices, games and team functions.

## ⑨ PREPARATION

Always have your complete uniform and equipment with you for a game.

Penalty - Failure to comply with these rules can result in removal from a game and/or suspension from one or more future games.

### **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. 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.

### **Time Commitments:**

Lady Osprey ball is a commitment to your teammates and yourself. For those who are involved in Little League All-Stars and/or High School tournaments, this will be an extremely demanding experience. The majority of the tournaments we will participate in are scheduled for June and July. We will not participate (at the U16/U14 level) in any tournaments that conflict with your high school schedule. Little League All-Stars and ASA can turn into a 6-7 day a week commitment. This is a commitment to yourself and your teammates and we expect your best efforts. You may be forced to make a choice between two programs if there is a conflict. The choice will be yours but remember your commitments to your Lady Osprey teammates when making these decisions.

### **Participation:**

You are 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 you will be unavailable to attend a practice or tournament. This common courtesy will allow for better planning and increased team unity.

**Fundraising and Fees:**

We are requiring a non-refundable participation fee with an added expectation of getting additional sponsorships/donations. EVERYONE is required to meet these obligations. It is important that each girl contributes her share this year. We will keep track of each girl's contributions. Of course if you have opportunities to raise more than your required amount, please do so. We will provide each participant with various fundraising opportunities. You will be expected to participate in ALL fund raising activities. This is extremely important to the success of the programs. The balls, bats, helmets, catcher's equipment, tournament entry fees, training equipment are not free. Remember, this is an investment in your future, take it seriously.

**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. In 2003, we were invited as special guests to the Playball Missoula Hot Stove League Banquet. It was a special treat 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.