

# **COACHES**

# **INFORMATION PACKAGE**

**The following information contained within this “Coaches Package” has been provided to assist both new and seasoned coaches with the organizational and instructional aspects of coaching in the Palm Beach Gardens Girl’s Softball Programs.**

**The package contains a variety of important information ranging from how and when to fill out and return your teams uniform order forms to practice and game coaching methods. Hopefully the information provided will assist you, your team and the individuals on your team with achieving the maximum enjoyment the program can offer. Please thoroughly review the materials provided, as much of the information should save you valuable time and make your job as a team manager or assistant coach that much easier.**

# **PBGYAA**

# **GIRLS SOFTBALL**

# INTRODUCTION

## Thanks For Coaching

And...now that we have got you, know this...good coaching will require a substantial time commitment, patience, and a dedication to both the young girls on your team as well as all the other kids in the program.

## Defining Coaches Goals

Each coach must have a clear understanding of the league's coaching goals. The primary coaching goals are the same for all levels of play....*The primary goals for all age divisions are to provide competent softball instruction in a positive environment thereby improving the children's playing skills while providing an experience that will encourage their return to the program in future seasons.*

As you would expect the method of achieving the foregoing goals may vary with each age group. However, the fundamental point to realize is that our organizational goal, of which you are an essential part, is to provide a positive and enjoyable experience for *all the girls in the program!*

**Softball Instruction** – requires knowledge of softball skills; the ability to identify player's strengths and weaknesses and impart reasonable expectations for individual players; and the ability to communicate to players, their parents and other coaches.

**Control the Learning Environment** - Create an enjoyable environment that fosters participation for all not just a few. Define expectations of kids in a reasonable way so they understand the intent of the practice exercises. Encourage and praise effort, not just results. Consult with parents if a child is a discipline problem. Keep practices enjoyable and exciting utilizing steady movement and regular changes in activities. (Examples are discussed in “**Practice**” section of this Coach's Package)

**Make It Fun and They Will Return** – It is very important that efforts are made to provide a positive experience for all the kids (not just yours, her friends, and your team – all kids). To this end, positive not negative instructional methods should be employed to help encourage effort while building self-esteem. Good sportsmanship, such as refraining from negative cheering, arguing with umpires and other coaches must be maintained at all times! Negative verbal criticism or verbal outbursts by coaches, players or spectators are not acceptable.

**Important Note: All Coaches must sign the enclosed copy of the Coaches Code of Ethics and return it to the PBGYAA Softball Board prior to opening day!**

## **Background Checks**

As a manager or assistant coach you will be required to submit to a confidential background check prior to coaching. You can download a printable copy of a background check form at the PBGSoftball.com web site (see “Forms & Handouts” icon on the League Information page). If you have not already completed a background check form for this season please complete one and return it to the League President as soon as possible. Additionally, any parents interested in assistant coaching should also submit a background check form to the league. The forms must be returned prior to the first week of team practices, or their coaching privileges may be suspended until a background check can be completed. While this may appear to be an inconvenience, remember it is being done to help ensure the safety of the children.

## **NYSCA Certification**

All coaches must attend this training prior to opening day. Dates for the training classes will be published on the web and posted at the park. If you have not yet been certified by the NYSCA this year, you will be required to attend a certification class prior to the start of the season.

## **Future Informational Handouts**

Each coach will be required to check on a periodic basis for informational handouts relative to league activities. Future handouts for all ages will be available within the league office at the lake Catherine Softball building.

Additionally, all important messages will be posted on the league web site, [www.pbgsoftball.com](http://www.pbgsoftball.com) and on the bulletin board at the north side of the softball building.

**\*Please provide the above web address to all of your team’s parents and encourage them to visit the site for up-to-date information regarding league activities.**

## **Coaching DVDs**

Remember a good coach is always learning ways to improve his knowledge of the game! To assist you with your efforts to continue and expand your knowledge, we have a number of instructional DVD’s pertaining to various areas of the fastpitch softball game available for you and/or your teams viewing. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these instructional tools, as they often times touch on subject matter that you will be asked to help impart to willing and eager young girls that rely on your expertise to help them learn the game. As an experienced coach within the recreational league, I am very aware that I still have a great deal more to learn. Please don’t assume the instructional DVDs are beneath you or not necessary as “you already know all you need about how to instruct hitting to young girls”. Having been around the game for quite some time, I can say without exception, coaches that carry that attitude are consistently among the least knowledgeable and poorest coaches I encounter.

# FIRST TEAM MEETING

**Player & Parent Information Form** - A copy of a Player and Parent Information Form is available online on the “Forms and Handouts” league web page. Coaches should have the parents and their children fill out a Player and Parent Information Form at their first meeting. In this way you can be sure and obtain the appropriate phone numbers and/or email addresses needed to get information to the families; Identify potential future days or evenings in which conflicting activities may impact player involvement; and get a sense of the softball background of each player and their families, (positions the child would like to play, interest in pitching or hitting lessons, parent or sibling interest in assisting with practice or organizational duties).

**PBGYAA Rules of Conduct** - Each coach and a parent or guardian from each family is required to sign a copy of the enclosed PBGYAA Girls Softball Coaches, Managers and Spectators Rules of Conduct and return it to the PBGYAA Softball Board prior to opening day. A copy of the Rules of Conduct is available online on the “Forms and Handouts” league web page.

**Private and Group Lessons Information** - As many of you know we are fortunate to have a number of very qualified professional instructors that actively provide private and group lessons to our girls every year. We cannot overstate the role they play in helping to develop and maintain the individual skill levels of many of our girls. If any girl, regardless of age, feels they would like to try pitching, we strongly recommend they receive appropriate lessons from one of the private instructors, as learning the proper mechanics early is essential to property development for any pitcher. Contact information for the instructors is available on the league web site.

**Park Card Program Information** - The park card program is the one fundraiser we perform annually in which we ask every family in the league to become involved in helping to raise money for the league. The park card is a wallet sized card we produce that provides discounts at local restaurant and retailers for a period of a year. Information relative to the card and participating business will be posted on the league web site and copies of the park cards will be passed out to each coach for distribution to their players during the early portion of the season.

**Opening Day Information** - Opening Day and Closing Day are big events for the softball program. The money raised during those days help to offset the costs of running the league and maintaining our facilities and equipment. Typically, we provide multiple activities at the park on opening day. Information pertaining to opening day will be provided to you for distribution to our team during the first weeks of practice. Please be sure to distribute the information provided to insure each and every family on your team is informed. Information regarding the Opening and Closing Day’s events will also be posted on the league web site.

**Practice Schedules** - The assigned dates and times for your team's practices should be available for distribution at the time of your first team meeting. A master schedule will be posted on the league web site.

**Family Fun Nights** - Each year we attempt to offer a few Friday or Saturday evenings of fun at the park that we call "Family Fun Night". We try to plan four casual family dinner evenings, (pizza, barbecue, etc.) at which we will stage various contests designed for participation by both kids and parents. The intent of the evenings is to provide an opportunity for the softball families to get together as well as to provide an entertaining family night of fun for all.

Planning and preparing the evening's meals and events will be the responsibility of the travel coaches from the various age groups and their assisting families. All travel coaches are asked to contact the PBGYAA Softball Board as soon as possible so we can identify the date of their family Fun Night and begin organizing their activities.

**NYSCA Certification** - Should you add a coach to your team as a result of the parent meeting, please check with the softball board for the opportunity to enroll them in the NYSCA Certification program, as it is required for all coaches or assistant coaches planning to be on the field.

**Background Check Form** - If after you assemble your team and have your parent meeting, you decide to add a new assistant coach to your team, you must provide the softball board with a copy of a completed background check request form.

### **First Meeting Discussion Topics**

**EQUIPMENT** - The following is a brief summary of information to assist your team with equipment choices **Gloves** – The most common problem you will encounter in the younger age leagues is glove size. Small gloves sold in stores as starter or t-ball gloves are typically much too small to accommodate proper catching of an 11 or 12-inch softball. Additionally dad's glove or big sister's hand-me-down can often be too large and cumbersome. For most T-Ball and 8's a glove ranging from 11 to 12 inches is likely your best size choice (My preference is a light weight glove, closer in size to 11 to 11.5 inches).

**Bats** – For the younger kids, bigger is not better!!! When selecting a bat, for young players still developing their swings or perhaps just learning to hit, the bat must be light enough for the child to control it throughout the swing. The common perception that a ball hit with a heavier or longer bat will go farther is simply not applicable to young hitters. The key to power hitting is proper mechanics, which produce balance, control, and bat speed. To instruct proper mechanics the child must swing the bat as apposed to the bat swing the child. (A general guide is, T-Ball 13-15 oz., 8's - 14-18 oz., and 10's 17 –20 oz.) **Helmets** All girls participating in the softball program are required to wear a helmet with an attached protective face guard.

**Team Sponsorship** - Each recreation team is required to obtain a team sponsor. The cost of sponsorship is \$250. If you have a sponsor, please let me know who your sponsor is. The sponsorship is \$250 for all teams. If you do not have a sponsor, please check with your parents. There are parents who have volunteered to be sponsors. We need to know the sponsors as soon as possible. Your sponsor information (logo) will be printed on your uniform sleeve. To obtain a copy of sponsorship form for distribution to your team sponsor, please click on the “Softball Forms” icon on the League Information page.

**Banner** - Each team is required to prepare a team banner for use in the parade at opening day ceremonies. Typically the team banners are put together by the team’s kids at a team practice. Ideally, you should try to get one of the parents to volunteer to create an idea, obtain the materials and organize the banner decorating activity. If you are unsuccessful and recruiting someone’s help, don’t panic, the banner does not have to be anything fancy. A piece of heavy gauge cloth, or perhaps a bed sheet with your team name on it. I usually get felt pieces and cut the letters out and simply glue them to the cloth. The girls can paint it and decorate it any way they want. Spend a few minutes at one of your practices and let the girls express themselves artistically.

# PRACTICE

As you can never have enough practice time, it is very important to get the most of your field time. Plan your practices in advance. Have a clear idea of what you intend to do on the field prior to your arrival. Be sure you will have the assistance needed prior to your practice. Involve as many helpers as possible, but be sure you clearly explain their responsibilities so their participation aids the flow of the practice and is not conducive to injury or improper instruction.

Ideally, try to instruct in small groups. Smaller groups will allow you to be more flexible with instruction and work one-on-one when necessary. Consider rotating kids from one station to another to expose them to various elements of the game, (hitting station, throwing station, ground ball or pop-up station, base running station, ect.) Plan activities that are both interesting and instructional.

Try to complete each practice with a group exercise such as running the bases, home run derby, the catching game, ect.

The following are a few entertaining games sometimes used for instruction that you may chose to try.

## TEAM PRACTICE IDEAS

**Catching Game** – kids form two lines opposite each other approximately 20 feet, start with a ball in the hand of each girl in one line. Call out one-two-three throw. The girl throws to her partner in the other line. A dropped ball is a point for the paired team. After three points have been accumulated the pair is out of the game (however, they do continue to play, they just can't win). If play extends for some time, have the kids in one line step back a few paces and resume. The last team remaining is the winner. Once finished, rotate each girl down one player in one of the lines to match them with a new partner and play again. (I used to have the kids play for an imaginary championship belt).

**Home Run Derby** – Put half the team in the field and half up to bat. Draw a straight line in the dirt between first and second and second and third with a bat handle. Each girl hitting gets a defined number of swings, (keep the number low to keep the line moving and maintain the girls' interest). The girls hitting get a point for each ball they hit that crosses the infield line, two points for a ball that rolls into the outfield grass and three for a ball entering the outfield grass in the air. The girls in the field must remain behind the infield lines during each pitch. However, if they charge a ground ball and prevent it from crossing the line the batter is not awarded a point. If a fielder catches a ball in the air the fielding team receives a point and no point is awarded to the hitter. I prefer to play one group against another to take the attention off of individual scores. However, you could play for individual scores if you wish.

**Grounder Game** – Form a line at shortstop. One at a time a girl comes forward and takes a ready position. Hit her groundballs, one after another until a miss or bobble occurs. Count the successful plays to arrive at a winner. To keep all the kids involved, you can have them all count with each play the receiving girl makes. The game can become more advanced by incorporating the element of an accurate throw or a charge line they must cross prior to playing the ball to receive a point.

**“Peanut Butter and Jelly” Relay Race** – Split the team into two groups of somewhat equal cumulative speed. Place one group at home and one at second. One girl from each group starts and runs all the way around the bases, tagging the next player on their team. The first team finished wins. Prior to playing instruct the kids on the benefits of cutting tight turns by approaching the bases correctly and the shortest distance to the next base is a straight line, not a big half moon.

**Throwing Game** – **Game 1:** Place a bucket right-side-up against a high portion of the backstop. Draw lines in the dirt for the girls to stand behind. One at time each girl throws into the fence attempting to get the ball to hit and fall into the bucket. If the ball does not hit the fence and goes directly into the bucket no point is awarded. Each girl gets 5 throws. Work with each girl on form as they take their turn. Using more than one bucket and multiple lines is ideal. **Game 2:** Place a bucket on top of an upside down garbage can or atop another bucket. Have the girls line up approximately 30 feet or further away. Provide each with 2 to 3 balls. Call out a players name and they try to knock the bucket off the top. You can play multiple times from various distances. Work on over the top throwing technique. Another option is to start with the ball on the ground. The player must step forward, pick up the ball, employ proper footwork and make a quick throw at the target.

## HOME PRACTICE IDEAS

**Play Catch** - More than anything, the girls need to have as much practice as possible catching a ball. The girls should try to get out as often as they can with either their parents or siblings to practice.

**Bean Bag Toss** - For younger players, get a beanbag or similar small soft and squeezable object. Have the girl stand with her throwing hand at her side and toss the beanbag to her in various locations. The bag should be caught with just her non-throwing hand. This will help with hand-eye coordination. Finish up by catching with both hands to encourage bring both hands to the ball.

For additional coaching tips and instructional drills, please visit our league web site at [www.PBGSoftball.com](http://www.PBGSoftball.com), as we will be posting helpful information in our “Coach’s Corner”.

# GAMES

Request that all players arrive 20 to 30 minutes prior to the game. This will help ensure you have the team there in time for the game and will also give you time prior to the game to warm up.

Coaches should rotate their kids in the field every game. In the T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues, **each girl is required to play a minimum of one inning in the infield and outfield each game.** Although it is not required in the older ages, it is very strongly suggested. No child should be designated as an outfield player only, regardless of skill level. It's not only important to the overall skill and knowledge development of the less talented players, but this also helps to educate the better players about the importance of personal sacrifice and team play. Under no circumstances should a team have the same two girls playing first base and/or pitcher for an entire game in the T-Ball or Coach Pitch leagues.

In the T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues, the batting order should rotate with each game. By season's end every player on the team should have the experience of batting first and last. In the older ages, please do not establish a batting order and cut and paste it each outing. Remember our goal is to provide an enjoyable experience for all. No one desires to be the last or second to last batter in every game of the season or stand in right then left, then right field every game.

## **Post Game**

We strongly recommend that each game be followed with a team meeting in which the game is discussed and the efforts of the girls are praised. The impact of positive feedback on a girl's attitude toward playing the game cannot be overstated. Try to find something positive to say about each player, not just the same few talented kids who make the plays on a regular basis.

It is advised that each team establish a snack list, rotating parent's responsibility to provide post game snacks for each game.

## **Game Rules**

Copies of the game rules for each age group are available by selecting the "Game Rules" icon located on the league information page of our web site. Please review the age appropriate rules for your teams and present any questions you may have prior to the first game. Copies of the NSA Rule Book are maintained in the offices of the PBG Softball Board and are also available via our league website.

### **Playoffs**

The league game rules are modified for the 10 & Under, 12 & Under and 13 & Over leagues for playoff play. The pitching rule requiring rotation of pitchers is eliminated and pitchers are permitted to pitch complete games.

### **Closing Day**

Team pictures and trophies will be handed out at our closing day ceremonies. Individual pictures and trophies will be withheld from players that do not sell or return their park card funds or unsold cards. Details of additional activities for closing day will be provided in the weeks to come.

### **Travel Softball**

The league offers travel softball programs for girls interested in continuing to play ball once the recreation season is over. All participants in the recreation program are permitted to tryout for a travel team. Information relative to the travel programs is available on our website.

# TRAVEL SOFTBALL INFORMATION

## What is Travel Softball?

Travel Softball is a program offered by girls' recreational softball programs nation wide. The program provides girls the opportunity to travel to softball facilities outside of Palm Beach Gardens and compete with similarly formed teams from other areas of the state and on some occasions out-of-state.

## What are the benefits of playing?

The girls that participate in the program typically benefit in a number of ways. The following are just a few of the benefits most often cited by past and present participants:

1. **Friendship:** They bond and make friends with their teammates. Many of these friendships are long term, as a number of the same girls will often participate in the program each year. The friendships provide a desirable base group of friends with a healthy common interest, softball.
2. **Skill Level:** The girls' softball skill levels typically increase dramatically as the quality and quantity of instruction coupled with level of play provide the ideal learning environment.
3. **Self-Esteem:** Developing self-esteem is vital for young girls today. Helping them to excel in a sport provides one more avenue to attain a feeling of self worth. The girls that participate in the program typically improve their playing ability and simultaneously their positive self-image.
4. **Parent Bonding:** Parent involvement is encouraged. For those that do get involved, the program offers a physical activity in which they can participate with their daughter's development. The time commitment that accompanies participation in the program can be a wonderful opportunity to bond with your daughter.

## Who can participate in the Travel Softball Program?

Any girl registered with the Palm Beach Gardens Recreational Softball Program and that participates in a minimum of 50% their games played is eligible to tryout for a travel team in her age group. (Exceptions to the 50% rule may be made due to injury, sickness or board approved circumstances).

## When does it start and finish?

The travel program officially starts at the completion of the recreation season. However, teams are selected prior to the completion of the season to determine the number of teams participating in each age division and to enable coaches to meet with the families and coordinate their travel tournament plans. The travel season for 8 & Under's is typically completed by no later than mid-July.

## How are the teams selected?

Tryouts are held and the team coaches select the teams based upon player performance. It should be noted, multiple teams are typically selected in each age group. The teams are often referred to as the "A and B Teams" or the "Orange and Blue Teams". Selection of multiple teams provides the opportunity for play to a larger number of girls with a wide diversity of playing abilities.

### **Where are the tournaments played?**

8 & Under Travel Team may play one or two out of area tournaments in areas such as Orlando or Daytona Beach, depending upon the consensus of the participating families. Palm Beach Gardens annually hosts the “Swamp Classic” which is the venue for the National Softball Association’s 8 & Under Florida State Championship.

### **When are the tournaments played?**

Tournaments are almost exclusively held on weekends, with the exception of National venues which often encompass an entire week. On rare occasion, a tournament may include play on a Friday evening. However, this usually occurs only if the number of entries in a particular age group requires scheduling earlier games.

### **How many tournaments are played?**

The number of tournaments played varies with age and playing level. Assuming two teams are formed in the 8 & Under Division, it is likely the “A Team” will play between 7 and 9 two-day tournaments while the “B Team” is more likely to play between 5 and 7. The same is typical of each age group. However, individual coaches may wish to increase or decrease the number of tournaments played, and typically do so upon majority request by the participating families.

### **What is the time commitment?**

The time commitment typically varies with age group and level of play. For example, the time commitment for a 12 & Under “A” team player will be significantly greater than that of an 8 or 10 & Under “B” team player. The number of practices in each of the age groups typically ranges from a minimum of two to a maximum of four per week. In the 8’s a maximum of three would be expected.

### **What does it cost?**

There is no defined cost. Depending upon the number of local and travel tournaments entered the budget for teams can vary greatly. Tournaments registration fees range from \$250 to \$300 per team. Fundraising efforts are typically organized by each team and often offset the majority of the costs incurred. Each player is required to purchase her travel uniforms, which historically have ranged in price from approximately \$125.00 to \$175.00. Players can also obtain individual sponsorships to off-set uniform costs.

### **When are Tryouts?**

Tryouts are typically held in late February and/or early March. The tryouts are mandatory for any player desiring to participate in the travel program for the summer. If other obligations prevent your attendance, a letter of explanation must be submitted to the attention of either the Palm Beach Gardens Softball Board or the coach of the designated age group to maintain eligibility to participate.

**Visit the [PBGSoftball.com](http://PBGSoftball.com) Web Site for Additional Travel Softball Information**

# **PARK CARD FUNDRAISER**

## **PARENTS, PLAYERS AND COACHES**

**THIS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER IS VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR PROGRAM AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. THIS FUNDRAISER WILL HELP OUR PROGRAM TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT VITAL TO RUNNING THE SOFTBALL LEAGUE.**

- 1. EACH PLAYER IS TO SELL A MINIMUM OF 1 CARD FOR \$10.00 EACH.**
- 2. EACH COACH IS TO HAND OUT ONE CARD TO EACH PLAYER'S FAMILY AND HAVE ONE OF THE PLAYER'S PARENTS SIGN FOR THE CARD RECEIVED. A COPY OF A CARD RECEIVED FORM WILL BE PROVIDED.**
- 3. ALL SALE PROCEEDS SHOULD BE RETURN TO THE TEAM COACH. EACH COACH IS RESOPNSIBLE FOR TURNING IN ALL MONIES COLLECTED ONE WEEK PRIOR TO CLOSING DAY. IN ADDITION, ANY UNSOLD CARDS MUST BE RETURNED PRIOR TO CLOSING DAY OR TROPHIES AND TEAM PICTURES WILL BE WITHHELD FROM THE PARTICIPANT INVOLVED.**
- 4. A SIGNIFICANT PRIZE (to be announced) WILL BE AWARDED TO THE PLAYER THAT SELLS THE MOST CARDS.**
- 5. ADDITIONAL CARDS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PARK CARD PROJECT LEADER.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THIS FUNDRAISER IS VITAL TO OUR PROGRAM AS ALL MONIES RAISED GO DIRECTLY BACK INTO THE GIRLS SOFTBALL PROGRAM.**

# **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS COACHES ASSOCIATION COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

NYSCA member coaches pledge to live up to their certification as NYSCA Coaches by following the NYSCA Code of Ethics:

- I WILL place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I WILL remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering the large spread of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I WILL do my very best to provide a safe play situation for my players.
- I PROMISE to review and practice the necessary first-aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I WILL do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I WILL lead by example, in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I WILL insure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and that I will teach these rules to my players.
- I WILL use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
- I WILL remember that I am a youth coach, and that the game is for the children and not adults.

Coaches Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# PBGYAA GIRLS SOFTBALL COACHES/SPECTATORS RULES OF CONDUCT

*(Note: Reference to "Board" means the sports division board specifically involved in the rules violation manner. Disciplinary action by one board, especially extended, i.e. "for the season", suspensions of an individual's coaching privilege, will be enforced by all division boards. Only through formal appeal to the PBGYAA Board can this prohibition from coaching in another divisions be waived)*

Coaches will not taunt or verbally harass an umpire/referee.

1. Coaches must request and receive a time out from the umpire/referee before approaching umpire/referee to discuss a game situation. Discussions with the umpire/referee will take place "out of the hearing range" of the players (i.e. bench) and adults (i.e. stands). The umpire/referee will allow sufficient time for discussion and consideration of the issue. However the umpire/referee has complete discretion to conclude the discussion whenever no further progress is apparent.
2. Coaches will not "get into the face" of an umpire/referee; will not yell or become abusive (i.e. kick dirt, etc.).
3. In 1, 2, & 3 the umpire/referee will "conclude" the situation by distinctly asking the coach to return to the bench area, but only twice. If the coach will not comply. the umpire/referee will require the coach to leave the game/facilities.
4. Coaches will not use abusive or foul language, yell in anger or frustration, especially at the umpire/referee or players. If heard by the umpire/referee, the coach will be distinctly warned only twice, and then the umpire/referee will require the coach to leave the game/facilities.
5. Spectators and coaches are prohibited from "yelling at or taunting" players, umpire/referee, or other spectators or coaches. Only words of support or encouragement for the players and coaches are permitted. The umpire/referee distinctly shall request the person(s) who may be yelling or taunting to curtail such action only two times and will direct spectator(s) and/or coach to leave the facilities/game if continued.
6. Coaches are prohibited from taunting players, i.e. "(s)he's an easy out!". "(S)he can't skate". Only words of support or encouragement for the players, on both teams, are permitted. Coaches will be warned only twice about such conduct, and will be ejected from the game if continued.





**Manager:**

Dave Fleming xxx-xxxx (Cell: xxx-xxxx)

**Assistant Coaches:**

Debbie Calabria xxx-xxxx

Jim Bickel xxx-xxxx

David Schwartz xxx-xxxx

And anyone else who would like to participate!

**Game Schedule:**

The league will provide coaches with game schedules in the coming weeks, which is when we will know the total number and the dates of the games to be played. Once received, we'll provide you with the game schedule on a kitchen magnet.

Our first game will likely be on Opening Day, Saturday, February X<sup>th</sup>.

**Opening Day Ceremonies:**

The opening day ceremonies will be held Saturday February x<sup>th</sup>. Team pictures will be scheduled for the morning of Opening Day.

The day will include, team and individual photos, a team parade, dunk tank, climbing wall, homerun derby contest, silent auction, raffle, snack and gift booths, DJ music, and the first games of the season, which are projected to start at about xx:00am.

To help the PBGYAA with their fund raising efforts, each team has been asked to provide an item for the opening day auction. The money generated helps to fund the purchase of new equipment and other essentials needed to keep the quality "not for profit" program going.

Additionally, each team has been asked to provide a parent volunteer to assist with opening day activities. They will be asked to attend an organizational meeting and to provide volunteer service for the ceremonial day.

## **Snacks and Drinks:**

We will be implementing a snack and drink program in which each child's parents will be responsible for bringing post game snacks and drinks for the kids. The snacks are of your choosing and may include anything from donuts to fruit, to homemade cookies. The drinks may be individual juice boxes, or poured drinks (please bring cups). Once we have received our game schedule, a snack schedule will be passed around so you can sign up for a date that is convenient for you. You may be requested to assist in the dug out during the game on your "Snack Date". Should a conflict arise after you have selected your snack date, please let either Mary Fleming or Debbie Calabria know as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements can be made. **VERY IMPORTANT – BE SURE TO BRING ENOUGH FOR THE COACHES!!!**

## **Parent's Roll in the Game:**

Please send a drink with your child to each game and practice. Preferably in something she may keep on the bench.

Please make the game, regardless of the result, a positive experience for all. Encourage your daughter to listen to the coach, and to be a team player. As coaches, we will do everything in our power to make the games and practices a fun learning experience for the girls.

## **Uniforms:**

The team uniform consists of knee high socks, team shirts, hat, sneakers or cleats (no metal spikes), and shorts. This year each player will receive shorts as part of the league issued uniform.

Each player's shirt will be a unique creation produced in part by your daughters. We are planning to have a team shirt decorating party at our house (hopefully on February 2<sup>nd</sup>) the weekend prior to the opening ceremonies. Should the shirts not be available by the party date, we will try to make alternative plans later in the week. If for some reason your daughter will not be able to attend the party, please let us know so we can make arrangements to decorate her shirt prior to the beginning of the season and more importantly, prior to team pictures.

## **Rules of Play:**

The intent of the 8 & under league is to provide a positive and enjoyable playing experience for everyone. This year the 8 & under league will be permitting all players on each team to bat through the order in the first inning of each game. The three out rule will be implemented in the subsequent innings. The game time will be limited to 1 hour and 10 min. The bat through the order inning may be converted to a three out rule inning in the second half of the season, depending upon the future consensus opinion of the 8 & Under coaches. Score will not be kept and wins and losses will not be recorded. All the players on each team will be in the batting lineup and each girl on the team will have an opportunity to participate in various fielding positions.

**Additional League Rules to be Aware of:**

Jewelry is not permitted on any of players including, ear rings, finger rings, belly-button, nose rings, finger rings, bracelets, necklaces and those gross post things in the tongue.

**Patches:**

As a little something special, following each game, we will be awarding special iron-on patches to a few of the kids for various accomplishments. The patches to be awarded each game are as follows:

- F – for exceptional Fielding
- D - for a hitting a Double
- T – for hitting a Triple
- HR – for hitting a Home Run
- Star – for exceptional effort or improvement in play
- Softball or Psychedelic 60’s patch – Game MVP

The purpose of the patches is to encourage the kids, and reward them for putting forth their best effort. The patches will be awarded in a team meeting following each game. Please make sure your child doesn't leave a game without attending the meeting. If your child should receive a patch, please iron it on her jersey prior to the next game.

If your child doesn't receive a patch, give them words of encouragement, and don't worry, we'll make sure each girl receives some patches during the season.

**Team Roster:**

<b>PLAYERS</b>	<b>PARENTS</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>
<b>Corey Fleming</b>	<b>Mary &amp; Dave</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Gia Calabria</b>	<b>Debbie &amp; John</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Seinna Schwartz</b>	<b>Renata &amp; Dave</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Rachel Mock</b>	<b>Sharon and Brian</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Casey Nicklaus</b>	<b>Barbara &amp; Jack</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Jourdan Porter</b>	<b>Della &amp; Steve</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Sydney Bickel</b>	<b>Sandy &amp; Jim</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Cassidy Morris</b>	<b>Roberta &amp; George</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Natalie Riches</b>	<b>Karen &amp; Geoff</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Morgan Reichel</b>	<b>Linda &amp; Bill</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>
<b>Molly Walker</b>	<b>Wendy &amp; Daron</b>	<b>xxx-xxxx</b>