



Dear Parents, Guardians and Players,

Welcome to the Comets! We are excited about having you on our team. For over a decade, the Comets Youth Sports organization has provided opportunities for girls to improve their softball skills, develop character, and compete against the best female athletes in the country. We are fortunate to have dedicated coaches providing excellent instruction to help every girl be the best that she can be at the game of softball.

Our hope is that your experience with the Comets will be positive. Our organization is not just about softball. Having fun, making new friends, and learning to be good sports are all key elements of our organization. In addition, our coaches encourage team members to excel in the classroom as well as on the field.

The following pages will help to explain our expectations from players as well as the parents and guardians. Please take time to carefully read and understand the following information. Enclosed you will find a signature requirement from both player and parent/guardian's stating that you have read, understand and agree with the expectations and requirements of our organization.

Best wishes to you and your teammates for a successful year. Feel free to contact any member of our coaching staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Head Coach
Comets Fastpitch Softball

Mission

The mission of the Comets Youth Sports Organization is to provide an opportunity for the area's top female athletes to improve their softball skills; increase their self-confidence; learn structure, how to be a good teammate, and the value of hard work; and compete against the best teams in the region and nation.

Goal

Our goal is to provide a year-round softball program, for girls of all ages, that offers advanced instruction in softball fundamentals and team play concepts. This instruction, along with participation and exposure in competitive tournaments, will help prepare girls to play at the college level.

Expectations of a Comet

The Comets believe that discipline, mental toughness, respect for coaches and teammates, and the development of a "team" attitude are as important as batting, defensive, and scoring ability. Becoming a great softball player requires dedication and sacrifice; thus, Comets team members are expected to:

- Attend and be on time for all games and practices. Practice and game times may vary. Each player must arrive 15 minutes before practice start times or they will be considered late. Failure to attend practices and games on time will result in punishment, as the coaches consider appropriate.
- Notify the coach, prior to a game or practice, if unable to attend. Coaches will determine when repeated lack of attendance will result in suspension or dismissal from the team.
- Stretch and warm up prior to all practices and games.
- Respect and cooperate with coaches and other teammates at all times.
- Display good sportsmanship. Profanity and inappropriate behavior (as determined by the coach) is unacceptable.
- Exhibit unselfishness by being a team player.
- Make good decisions off the field. Tobacco products will not be tolerated by players under the age of 18. Use of alcohol, or drugs will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the team.
- Participate in all team fundraisers.
- Strive for academic excellence. A grade average of less than a "C" (2.0 GPA) is not acceptable. Coaches may request transcripts at any time to verify acceptable progress.
- To the best of the knowledge of the Comet's Player and Parent or Guardian, the Player's equipment is certified by ASA and is legal for usage for all practices and tournament games (Example: bats, helmets, face mask, gloves, etc.).

Expectations of Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are a key ingredient to the success of the Comets. Parents can demonstrate the importance of discipline and dedication by meeting the following expectations:

- Ensure players arrive at games and practices on time and are picked up on time.
- Set a good example at games and practices by having respect for coaches, umpires, other parents, and members of other teams.
- Be encouraging, not critical, during and after games.
- **Leave the coaching to the coaches. Do not provide instructions to the players from the stands.**
- Do not use profanity and use of alcohol will not be tolerated.
- Respect the coach's decisions on playing time.
- Help organize and participate in team fundraisers such as car washes, bake sales, raffle sales, and other team fundraising events.
- Accompany your child to tournaments. If this is not possible, a note giving permission for another specified person to obtain necessary medical treatment is required for the player to attend the event.
- Attend all parent meetings scheduled by the coach or team's leaders.
- To the best of the knowledge of the Comet's Player and Parent or Guardian, the Player's equipment is certified by ASA and is legal for usage for all practices and tournament games (Example: bats, helmets, face mask, gloves, etc.).
- Pitchers must wear a face mask while pitching.

Practices

Practices will be held 2 to 3 times weekly. During the course of the year, practice days and times may change based on the needs of the team and coaches. Each player is expected to arrive at practice 15 minutes before the instructed practice time and arrive at tournaments 60 minutes prior to the official game time. The additional time is required for the players to stretch and prepare for practice and/or the game. Your coaches' time is valuable – please do not waste their time performing activities that do not require their assistance. Each player is expected to come to practices or games prepared to practice and play.

Practice is meant to be a time for individual and team development. We believe hard work can be a fun experience and expect each player to take this time seriously. **YOU PLAY LIKE YOU PRACTICE!**

Playing Time

In the Comets Youth Sports Organization, **playing time is earned, not guaranteed**. Unlike community recreation leagues, players will not always play in every game. Coaches determine which team members will play. Playing time is earned by attendance and performance at practice

as well as in games. Who to put into the game is often the most difficult decision a coach has to make, but it is the coach's decision.

Coaches will make the decisions they feel are most likely to give the team a chance to win. While you may not always agree with these decisions, please respect the coach's right to make them. Coaches are available to discuss a player's development, her future prospects with the team, and her playing time. **Please choose an appropriate time and place to have these discussions.**

Player Positions

As is the case with playing time, the coaches will decide the proper position for each player on the field. These decisions are often based on the team being played, who is pitching, who is catching, position of need, and where the player provides the best chance for the team to win. Players may be asked to play multiple positions and the positions may change game to game. **It is expected regardless of position that each player gives the team 110% effort - softball is a team sport not a me sport.**

Participation on School Teams

Players for the Comets are encouraged to play for their school teams. The coaches are available to discuss any potential conflicts between school athletics and playing for the Comets.

Costs and Fees

Costs and expenses associated with being a Comet team member include:

- Player Fees – This fee goes towards tournament fees, uniforms, equipment, field rentals, and memberships (Top Gun, NSA, USA, USSSA, etc.). Each individual team may require additional funds based on the needs of the team.
- Meals and overnight accommodations for player and parent/guardian while on tournament trips.
- Transportation (personal car) expenses to practices and tournaments. Carpooling among team members is allowed and encouraged.

Fundraisers

The organization of fundraisers is vital. Parent/guardian participation is essential. Everyone is required to assist the coaches with organizing and by participation in these events. The funds raised by these events go directly to the team.

I have read, understand, and will fully comply with all the expectations, rules and regulations required to be a member of the Comets Youth Sports ("Comets") Fastpitch Softball organization. **I understand that failure to fulfill any of the above conditions may result in a dismissal from the group. All monies given to the Comets (a non-profit organization) are considered a charitable contribution and are not refundable at any time.**

Players Name

Date

Players Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

COMETS YOUTH SPORTS CONSENT FOR TREATMENT FORM

I, _____, hereby give permission as parent/guardian for _____ ("participant") to be medically treated in case of accident or injury while being transported to and from practice(s) and/or tournaments. Consent is given for said coaches, i.e. Head Coach _____, Assistant Coach _____, Assistant Coach _____, or Team Manager _____.

I, the undersigned parent or guardian of the above-named participant hereby give consent for the participant to participate in tryouts, practices, and games. I understand that in practice, play, and any participation related to Comets Youth Sports softball, there may involve risks of injury or dangerous activity.

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, agree to hold the Comets Youth Sports organization, including coaches, board members, volunteers, and its representatives harmless from any and all liability due to injury or loss including death that may arise in connection with participant's participation.

I specifically acknowledge that softball can be a violent contact sport involving even greater risk of injury than other sports.

As parent or legal guardian, I hereby give my consent for any emergency medical treatment in case of illness or injury while participating in the Comets Youth Sports softball program. I understand that this is to prevent undue delay and assure prompt treatment and that only a licensed physician will be engaged for such an emergency. Parents or guardians will be notified in case of serious illness or injury as quickly as they can be reached, but this consent will make immediate treatment possible.

Please list any allergies or special difficulties: _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION:

Insurance Company Name: _____

Policy Number: _____

Insured's Policy Name: _____

PARENT INFORMATION:

Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) Signature: _____ Date: _____

COMETS

TEAM PLAYER PROMISE

I _____ am a member of the Comets _____ Softball Team. I am an important part of this Team and I am committed to being the best team member that I can be. Being a great team member requires great attitude and effort. To demonstrate that attitude and effort, I am making the following promises to myself and to my Team:

1. **I will always hustle.** I will hustle on and off the field. I will hustle on every ball I hit, on every pitch I throw, and every ball I chase. I want everyone who sees me play to say “look at that kid hustle!”
2. **I will treat practices seriously as an opportunity to become the best player I can be.** Practice is my time to polish my tools while the game is my time to shine. I know that I can only play as good as I practice, so I will practice my heart out.
3. **I will work hard when no one is watching.** My work ethic is based on the hard work I put in during team practices as well as private practice at home. I will always work hard, even if I think no one is watching.
4. **I will always prioritize safety of myself and others around me.** I will be properly equipped and aware of my surroundings when throwing a ball or swinging a bat.
5. **I will never throw a bat or other equipment in anger.** Not only is this unsafe, but it is a selfish display of poor self-control and bad sportsmanship.
6. **I will practice self-control, setting a positive example for others.** I will not get down on myself when things aren’t going my way. I will not pout or sulk, my teammates deserve my best effort.
7. **I will always support and encourage my teammates.** I will be helpful and courteous, treating my teammates the way I would want to be treated. When a teammate is struggling or feeling down, I will lift her up.
8. **I will leave the coaching to the coaches.** My job is to play, not to instruct my teammates. That’s what coaches are for.

9. **I will represent my Team with class.** I understand that how I behave and present myself will reflect either positively or negatively on my teammates and coaches. I will always put my best foot forward.
10. **I will respect the dugout. I will store my gear on the back fence or in my cubby so I can see the field. I will not leave the dugout without permission.** When I am in the dugout, my focus needs to be between the lines and supporting my Team. I will always leave the dugout in as good or better shape than I found it.
11. **I will always be prepared.** I will come to practices and games with all my necessary equipment and gear. I will be well rested and ready to work. Being prepared is my job, not my parent's job.
12. **I will embrace my role, position on the field and in the lineup, and I will not complain or feel sorry for myself.** This is my Team, and I will always do what is necessary for my Team to be successful. Unless I am seriously injured and unable to play, I will never ask to sit. I will play whatever position my Coach asks and my Team needs. My Team deserves my best effort.
13. **I will respect my coaches and parents and do as they ask.** I understand that they come from a place of experience and want to help me become the best I can be.
14. **I will practice good sportsmanship before, during and after games.** I will appreciate the good play of our opponents and remain humble during my shining moments.
15. **I will treat all opposing players, coaches and fans with respect.** The only difference between us is that they are pulling for the other side.
16. **I will respect decisions made by the umpires.** I cannot change their decisions, and I recognize my reaction may reflect poorly on both me and my Team.
17. **I will handle winning with class and losing with grace.** A player's true character is shown in handling both winning and losing with similar reflection and appreciation.
18. **I will NEVER quit.** No matter the score, inning or number of outs, I will always give my best. My Team deserves nothing less.

19. **I will learn from my mistakes.** I will make mistakes, but I will use them as opportunities to learn.

20. **I understand my grades in school and behavior at home and outside of softball may impact my position on the team.** There is more to life than softball.

I will always do my best to keep these promises. My coaches, my teammates, and I understand that I am not perfect and that I may occasionally have to be reminded of these promises. But those occasions should be few and far between – because I am committed to being the best player and teammate I can be. **I understand that the failure to routinely keep these promises would demonstrate that I am not committed to being the best player that I can be - and that would negatively impact my standing on this team, including appropriate punishment and/or dismissal.**

I gladly make these promises to myself, to my parents, to my coaches, and most importantly, to my TEAM.

PLAYER SIGNATURE

By: _____

TEAM SIGNATURE

By: _____
Accepted on Behalf of the Team