**EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS**

If this is your first time experiencing travel softball, this is not little league.  The girls will be practicing and playing at a level far above what is typically seen during the little league. There will be more practice in preparation for the games and we anticipate your girls will greatly gain from this practice.  The game knowledge and skills that they acquire will make them better players and team leaders going ahead into future softball seasons.  
  
It is important for us, as the team coaches, to note that because this is a competitive team, we will put the best team on the field based on the game situations and the skills that we need on the field.  This means that many of the players will be asked to support the team from off the field.  We as the coaches of the team promise to be fair and honest about the decisions that we make, but you as parents need to know that playing time may not be equitable.  We need your support in reinforcing the team concept with your daughters on this issue.  
  
Each and every one of you is your child's first and most important teacher and coach, please always keep that in mind.  The following is a listing of general expectations that will promote getting the most out of this season for yourselves and your girls.

* Parents are to get their children to practices and games on time.  The players should be dressed and ready to go 1 hour before games and 10 minutes before practices.  Games and practices will start promptly at their scheduled times.
* Parents should practice with their children.  This is crucial on developing their child to becoming a better ball player.  One or two practices a week are a good foundation to becoming a better player, but it is not enough!  So get out in the yard and throw with them as much as possible.
* Do not yell at the umpires or the other team.  Let the coaches deal with the umpires.  Cheer for your child and her team only.  Let’s show everyone that your team and our parents have CLASS.
* Coach your child in the same way as their coaches.  If you do not believe in the teaching methods utilized by the coaching staff, discuss the concerns with the coaches so that we may come to some conclusion.  It is important to keep continuity with the coaches because you want to reinforce the mechanics and style that coaches are teaching so your child can build the proper muscle memory.  If you are teaching the child something different, it will confuse the player.
* Educate yourself about the game.  Read books, watch games, go to practice, ask questions, get involved, and do anything that you can to make the experience positive for your child.
* Get your child the proper equipment to play the game.  Do not send them in tennis shoes to play softball.  If you have any questions with regard to equipment, please do not hesitate to ask one of the coaches.
* When one of the other coaches is speaking, please refrain from talking to your child.  This is an interruption to the rest of the team and with your cooperation it will make it much easier to communicate with the team.
* If your child is going to be late or is going to miss a game, call me as soon as possible (ideally 24 hrs in advance) to let us know.  If you are going on vacation, please give 2 weeks notice if possible.
* Please keep younger children away from the field during practices for safety reasons.