

# Team Handbook



Est. 2018

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## Introduction

The Coyote Fastpitch Club of Utah (Coyotes) is a social recreation club<sup>1</sup> and amateur athletic organization with the focus of educating youth on the game of fastpitch softball<sup>2</sup>. This team handbook establishes the foundation for the team so we as parents, players and coaches keep our goals in focus to ensure a successful and fun season(s). The Coyotes is a “player owned” entity led by the General Manager and its Coaches. Like a public company the General Manger is the Chief Executive Officer but each coach, parent and player are members of The Board (a.k.a The Pack) and have ownership in the success and failure of the Coyotes.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/social-clubs>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopice87.pdf>

## *Mission Statement*

To use the game of softball to teach confidence, selflessness, and how to have fun.

## *Team Motto*

To support our teammates in success and failure as we thrive to become better women, daughters, sisters and softball players.

## *Parent's/Guardian's Consent and Understanding*

As a parent or guardian, I give my full consent and approval for my child to participate as a member of the Coyote softball team. I understand that there are certain risks of damages and injuries, including death, inherent in the practice and play of softball, as well as in traveling in other related activities incidental to my child's participation, and I am willing to assume these risks on behalf of my child. These risks include, but are not limited to, those hazards associated with weather conditions, travel, playing conditions, equipment and other participants.

I as the parent/guardian understand that running into a softball base is dangerous to my child and other players and may result in serious injury or death. I understand that the very nature of the game of softball is hazardous and risky, including, but not limited to, the acts of pitching the ball, having the ball hit back at the pitcher, fielding the ball, swinging the bat, running, jumping, stretching, sliding, diving and collisions with other players, volunteers and stationary objects, all of which can cause serious injury or death to my child and to other participants.

Further, I agree that in consideration for the right to allow my child to participate as a member of the Coyotes and in consideration for permission to play on the fields arranged for and by the team:

1. On behalf of my child and myself, I do voluntarily elect to accept and solely assume all risks of injury incurred or suffered by my child (a) while practicing or playing as a member of the team so designated, (b) while serving in a non-playing capacity as a team member or observer during practice or play by other teams or by other players on my child's team, and (c) while on or upon the premises of any and all of the fields arranged for practice or play.
2. In addition to giving my full consent for my child's participation, I do hereby waive, release, discharge and agree not to sue the team, the owner or operator of any field, or any person or entity connected with the team, damages, costs including attorney's fees, or cause of action which I or my child have or may have in the future as a result of damages, injuries, including death, sustained or incurred by my child from whatever cause including, but not limited to, the negligence, breach of contract or wrongful conduct of the parties hereby released.

I hereby certify that my child is fully capable of participating in the sport of softball and that my child is healthy and has no physical or mental disabilities or infirmities that would restrict full participation in these activities, except as made known to coaches and officials of the team.

I further agree on behalf of myself and my child listed below, that I shall hold harmless and fully indemnify the parties hereby released from any and all claims, damages, costs including attorney fees, and causes of action which may arise from any cause of action made by me or by, through or on behalf of my child, even if the damages, injuries or death are caused in whole or in part by any of the persons or entities hereby released.

## *Player's Pledge*

As a Coyote team member, I agree to thrive to be the best teammate and softball player that I can become. I will cheer when we are successful and I will be supportive when we are failing. I understand that as a unified team we will win as a team and lose as a team. In either case, I will always support my teammates, listen to my coaches, never give up, and above all have fun every time I take the field.

## *Coaching Goals*

- ✿ To provide a balanced mix of practice and game play to ensure players are ready to compete at the next level.
- ✿ To provide numerous play opportunities to improve each player's ability.
- ✿ To properly equip the team and secure fields and/or facilities to develop each player's skill set.
- ✿ To teach each player softball skills and in-game knowledge that will be necessary to compete at a higher level.
- ✿ To allow players to experience valuable life lessons such as being part of a team, how to act as a humble winner and a gracious loser, and how to learn from success and failure.
- ✿ To create a family environment that fosters valuable friendships and lifelong memories for the players, coaching staff, and all of the family members involved.
- ✿ To build a well-rounded athlete through sports education, reinforcing good sportsmanship, and teaching the players how to conduct themselves in a respectful manner.
- ✿ To help every single player reach their fullest potential and reach their personal goals.
- ✿ To teach each player to have fun and never give up until the last out is made.

## *Expectations of Coaches*

- ✿ The Coyote Coaching Staff will thrive to ensure the Coyote players and its softball family (parents, siblings, etc....) have a positive experience through the game of softball.
- ✿ Will keep in mind the best interest of the players and the team, which may differ from those of the parent(s).
- ✿ The coaches will determine play time and positions for each player to maximize their potential and help to ensure a successful outcome. There is no guarantee to the number of innings or positions that a player will play. As such, we as coaches will teach each player the skills needed to be successful, but each player must thrive to prove their want to play and desire to become a better player.

- ❖ We as coaches have no favorites but will look at each player's ability, attitude and desire. We will help that player to achieve her next level of performance.
- ❖ We will do what we can to keep costs at a minimum while ensuring the team has the equipment and uniforms needed to play and practice at their best.
- ❖ We as coaches will keep parents informed to the best of our ability on team news, financials, and player progress.
  - ❖ The GroupMe application will be the primary communication method

## *Team Ground Rules*

### *Coaches:*

- ❖ Will never put a player in a position that will cause her harm.
- ❖ Will never conduct themselves in a manner that disrespects the team.
- ❖ Will never conduct themselves in a manner that hurts the players enjoyment of the game.
- ❖ Will always thrive to grow the team and each player.
- ❖ Will ensure financial stability of the team, ensure each parent knows how their team dues are spent, and will not put the team in financial hardship.
- ❖ Will never criticize a player publicly during a game (e.g. singling out a specific player by yelling at them from the dugout in a negative way)

### *Parents, Friends and Family:*

- ❖ Will never ask about playing time during or directly after a game. If you desire to discuss your player's playtime please address the coaching staff via email, not at the field during games and practices
- ❖ Will remember this is not a recreational program and there is no guarantee as to minimum playing time requirement
- ❖ Will never coach during a game, but will only cheer on the team.
- ❖ Will never conduct themselves in a manner that disrespects the team.
- ❖ Will remember this is about their players progression and not about my expectations
- ❖ Will make sure my player gets to practices and games on time.
- ❖ I understand the coaches support playing multiple sports, but during the Spring Season each parent and player needs to be fully committed to the team. When a conflict arises, parents will do everything in their power to make sure that their daughter is at the practices and games.
- ❖ Will never interrupt their player during the game (unless it is an emergency) to include but not limited to coming over to the dugout, screaming out to the field, correcting players on their performance, or congregating around the dugout at any time during a game.
- ❖ Will provide their child with drinks and whatever else they may need before each game.
- ❖ Will always respect the umpires and the opposing team.
- ❖ Will ensure payment of team dues are current.
- ❖ Help the team raise funds through fundraisers and seeking out sponsorships.

## *Players:*

- ❖ Will never conduct themselves in a manner that disrespects the team.
- ❖ Will sit with their teammates, to promote team unity, at all times during a game (e.g. in the dugout) and between double headers.
- ❖ Will at no time shall sit in the bleachers with their family members during a game.
- ❖ Will be in full uniform before each game and wear their uniform with pride and respect (e.g. jerseys will be tucked in)
- ❖ Will always respect the umpires and the opposing team.
- ❖ Will always respect their teammates and will only provide words of encouragement and constructive feedback.
- ❖ Will respect and take care of their equipment (i.e. not throw equipment).
- ❖ Will not act in a petulant manner, but stay composed (i.e. sportsmanship) after disappointing actions.
- ❖ Will show up at least 45 minutes before each game.

## *Team Dues and Equipment*

### *Team Dues*

- ❖ At the start of each season the Coyotes determine team dues to conduct all activities addresses in the Season Outline. The team dues are estimated and then divided by the number of player each coach expects to have on his/her roster of the season.
- ❖ The dues are collected is based on:
  - ❖ Number of leagues and tournaments the team expects to participate in
  - ❖ Membership dues required by different softball associations (USA Softball, USSSA, etc..).
  - ❖ Uniform cost (if included)
  - ❖ Team equipment
  - ❖ Winter practice facilities
  - ❖ Other events and/or items considered important to have a successful season (i.e. morale events)
- ❖ Individual uniform fees will be collected in full prior to ordering of any uniform item(s).
- ❖ It is the goal of the Coyotes to use all team dues (zero balance) by the end of the season
- ❖ Any remaining team dues will be used to prepare for the next upcoming season

### *Refunds:*

- ❖ Players that leave the team under their own accord or removed from the team for detrimental conduct will not be refunded any team dues
- ❖ If a player is injured and can no longer play during the season a refund of team dues is not guaranteed. An injured player (depending on the type of injury) can still support their team in many ways.

- ✦ As mentioned above, team dues are estimated and divided by the number of players expected on the roster. Once the team starts the season each player's team dues are now part of the collective and are committed to the team to execute the Season Outline. A refund of a single player's team dues results in a negative impact to her remaining teammates. This results in a negative consequence in the Coyotes ability to give those remaining players a complete season.

### *Equipment:*

- ✦ Each player will provide their own glove, bat, catcher gear, etc. (players can share equipment at each player's discretion). Bats must be USA/ASA and USSSA approved.
- ✦ Fees for equipment necessary to team training will be divided up amongst the players. This can include but not limited to balls, hitting nets, temporary bases, training aids, etc.

## *Summary*

We look forward to this upcoming season. We have a great group of players and feel confident the Coyote Family, aka "The Pack", will achieve great success, build strong friendships and create great memories that will last a lifetime.

## Agreement

*(Please sign and return to the coaches, this document is considered signed when you register your player)*

I acknowledge

(a) That I have read (or have had read to me) each and every one of the sections of the Coyote Team Handbook

(b) That I understand each of the sections in this handbook, and

(c) That I agree to abide by them.

(b) By signing the below, I commit to have my child play for the Coyotes for an entire season.

Name of parent or legal guardian (print)	
Signature of parent or legal guardian	
Complete address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Date Signed	
Name of child/player (print)	
Signature of child/player	
Date signed	