



Tsunami Softball Handbook

Welcome to Tsunami Softball!
We are so glad you are joining us this summer season!

Becoming a member of the Tsunami Softball team means that you are on the path to bigger and better things! Why is this, you might ask? Well, aside from “just” improving at softball, being a part of a good team encourages personal growth. It is not always easy to be on a team, and it is not always easy to play softball; a good team grows its members together to lift everyone to a higher level. Tsunami Softball embraces this challenge and has fun doing it.

Our Goal As Coaches

Everyone has different skills and strengths, and softball definitely reminds us that we are not perfect. Our goal, as coaches, is not only to improve your physical softball skills, but also to help you:

- gain confidence
- face challenges head on
- give yourself positive self-criticism (so you can identify what needs to be done)
- work through failures without shutting down or quitting

It is inspiring to see the growth each year that comes from actively choosing to commit to yourself and to your team! As coaches, we work to make the Tsunami an experience that teaches you things about yourself on the field, which you can carry forward and throughout the rest of your life.

Your Commitment as a Player and Team Member

Personal growth and excellence begins with respect for yourself and others, and we expect you always to be respectful to yourself, your teammates, coaches, umpires, other players, and anyone else you come into contact with throughout our travels. Whether you realize it or not, each of you represents the team, to anyone outside of it, so always make the impression they get, a good one!

We expect you to give 100% of your available attention and effort every day, and part of that is finding your own ways to help lift the team and your teammates whenever there is an opportunity to do so, both on and off the field. A really good attitude is infectious and can elevate the entire group to a new level.

Your coaches are here making an investment in you. We expect you to take advantage of that, and add to it by actively investing in yourself. “How can I improve my game today?” We expect you to challenge yourself, and to accept constructive challenges from your coaches and even from your teammates who just might recognize your ability even before you do. Remember, growth happens not when you remain in your comfort zone, but when you step *out* of it.

Finally, don't be afraid to ask for us to challenge you further, if you want or need it; we want you to grow every day.

Communication

WhatsApp is the team's primary platform of communication. WhatsApp is a free mobile device app available for iPhone and Android users. If you are unable to use WhatsApp, communicate this with a coach and we will work with you to get you updates on practices and games.

If you need to direct-text or direct-message coaches, please include at least two coaches in the communication, for the protection of both player and coach alike.

We want our communications to be as much of an “open door” practice as possible. If there is anything you feel needs to be discussed, whether about policy or expectations or otherwise, please come to the coaching staff at any time. There are two specific requests we would clarify for this “any time” policy:

- If it is a matter of safety, please contact us immediately, no matter what the time.
- If you are upset about how much game time you were given, please first wait twenty-four-hours. Then reach out and we can discuss it.

Our Season

The softball Summer Season runs from May through July and consists of approximately four tournaments as well as games against Kenai. This is part of the high summer season, and we understand that you want to travel, go camping, and enjoy your summer. (Coaches do, too!) Thus, while we do expect commitment of participation, it may look a little different from other sports or school year seasons.

Practice and Games

We expect you to be ready to practice on time, which means arriving at the field at least five minutes beforehand. Practice times are published at the end of this document, and may wind up changing if a different time works better for the majority of the team.

As part of being honorable to your commitments to yourself and your team, we will use practicing batting swings, on your own time and honor, as our unit of incentive. Thus,

- If you are late to a practice or game, it “costs” you 50 practice swings.
- If you skip a practice or game without letting your coach know beforehand, it “costs” you 100 swings.
- If you are gone because of a prior commitment, you can practice on your own time with 50 swings for each practice or game missed. (You can obviously practice on your own time in other ways too, but this is a baseline unit of measure.)

As coaches, we strive to get everyone appropriate game time during the short summer season. Please note that this may wind up looking a bit different for the 12-and-under (12u) aged players, for whom play in some games with many much-older players may be influenced by safety concerns. On the Saturday games against Kenai, one game will be focused for 18-and-under (18u) players, and one will be focused on getting the 14u players game time. Ideally, if we wind up with enough players to do it, we would field a whole 18u team of its own, as well as a 14u or 12u combined team with Kenai, to maximize age appropriate game time. By all means encourage your friends to join and help make this happen!

We understand that summer jobs can conflict with games and practices; please talk with your employer ahead of time about which days off you need. For our part, we will always strive to publish the schedule for games and tournaments ahead of time, so you can plan ahead! We understand of course that sometimes employers can't make changes, but often with advance notice they are able to make adjustments. A little courtesy can go a long way!

Finally, if you do have to miss a game or practice for work—and especially if on short notice—please contact at least 2 coaches via WhatsApp or text ASAP.

Game and Tournament Planning

You must confirm with coaches ten calendar days ahead of time if you will or will not be attending a scheduled game or tournament. WhatsApp or text are the preferred methods of confirmation.

For overnight games and tournaments, you must have a plan for travel and lodging! If you are struggling with transportation or lodging, please contact us. We want to see you be able to make the tournaments, and are willing to assist if necessary. This year we expect you to come to us ahead of the tournament, with your plan on where you will be staying, and who you are riding with. (Again – WhatsApp or text is best.) This will help us know who you are with if you don't show up at the beginning of the tournament. If plans end up falling through, please contact us as soon as possible and we will do our best to make sure you are taken care of.

Costs

We are instituting a \$100 player fee this year as a first step in commitment to your team. This will help cover costs of gear, umpires, and tournament fees. (If this is a financial stress on your family, please contact a coach. We will work with you, as we do not want financial stress to keep you from playing.)

Costs other than the player fee are essentially travel costs for away events. You will need to cover the costs of your own transportation to and from practices, games, and tournaments, and lodging for any away games and tournaments.

Parent Volunteers

In order for our players to have a successful season, we need a solid team backing them up and cheering them on! All parents are expected to help out in some way. We always need coaches/helpers as well as scorekeepers, umpires, a field maintenance crew, and fundraising minded parents. Please let us know how you would like to be involved!

Other Items of Note

COVID mitigation

Depending on current recommendations or mandates, protocols may change. Be prepared for changes on short notice. If you are sick, please stay home. See attached waiver form for you to sign.

Additional Practice Opportunities

Following our summer season, there is the Triple Crown event, which is an awesome opportunity for college exposure and coaching the first week of August.

You also have the option in the off-season to participate in what we call “dome time”. This is an optional indoor practice we hold once a week, usually on Sunday (November-May), where you can come and grow in skills and confidence. Contact a coach for details.

We look forward to this season and can't wait to play ball!

First official practice will be May 9th, 2022! 5:30-7:00pm

We meet at the JV Field at Jack Gist Park.

(If you are on the Homer High School softball team, we understand your focus is with your current Mariner team; we look forward to you joining us once your season is finished!)

Coaching Staff:

Hannah Zook: 541.852.1661 or hzook16@gmail.com

Bill Bell: 907.399.1042 or wmbell51@gmail.com

Cathy Wilmeth: 907.299.3505 (text or Telegram) or cewilmeth@gmail.com

Kevin Wilmeth: 907.299.3316

Updated: February 2022

2022 Tsunami Softball Game Schedule

June 11th doubleheader @ Homer vs. Kenai, 12pm & 2pm

June 17-19 @ Anchorage, Tudor Bingo Tournament

June 22nd @ Kenai vs. Kenai, 6pm

June 25-26 @ Kenai, Kenai Tournament

June 29th @ Homer vs. Kenai, 6pm

July 9th doubleheader @ Kenai vs. Kenai or possibly Anchorage team,
12pm & 2pm

July 13th @ Homer, 6pm

July 15-17 @ Loretta Sports Complex - Anchorage, Birchwood Jamboree
Tournament

July 20th @ Kenai vs. Kenai, 6pm

July 22-24 @ Anchorage, State JO Tournament

August 9-11 @ Loretta Sports Complex - Anchorage, Triple Crown *See
Additional Softball Opportunities in the handbook, as this is not a
tournament

2022 Practice Schedule

Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm at Jack Gist Park JV field