



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
- learn to work with/as a team

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.

Tsunami coaches are SafeSport trained and have passed background checks. A few have USA Softball and advanced coaching certifications, and they have all participated in off-season trainings.

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 Tsunami team to anyone outside of it, so always make the impression they get a good one!

We expect you to give all of your available attention and effort at any given time. 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. All players and parents will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct/Ethics form as part of registration. This helps everyone understand appropriate attitudes, behavior, and expectations. Please be sure to read and understand it!

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 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 us to challenge you further, if you want or need it; we want you to grow every day.

Communication

TeamSnap is the team's primary platform of communication. TeamSnap is a free mobile device app available for iPhone and Android users. It also has a browser component. All parents will be expected to check TeamSnap for team, practice, and game updates.

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.

We want our communications to be as much of an “open door” policy 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, or how we coached a

game or tournament, 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 two 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. Please communicate with us as soon as possible AHEAD OF TIME any extended absences that you anticipate.

Practice and Games

We expect you to be ready to practice on time, which means arriving at the field at least ~~five~~ ten minutes beforehand, and being on the field ready at practice start time. Practice times are published on TeamSnap. Regular times/locations may need to be adjusted occasionally due to weather or field use conflicts. Practices are usually held outdoors at Jack Gist Park. Some indoor practices may be held at a local gym or in Bill Bell's softball dome.

As part of being honorable to your commitments to yourself and your team, we expect you to make up the missed time on your own time and honor the game of softball and your team. For example:

- If you are late to a practice or game, please take 50 extra thoughtful swings.
- If you skip a practice or game without letting your coach know beforehand, please take 100 thoughtful swings or a three minute run, field 50 balls, and 50 thoughtful swings.
- If you are gone because of a prior commitment, you can practice on your own time with 50 thoughtful swings for each practice or game missed.

We obviously encourage you to practice on your own time in other ways too, but this is a baseline unit of measure for ways to "make up" missed time that affects your team.

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 older players may be influenced by safety concerns. In the games against Kenai, we will strive to balance the competition levels, though that is influenced by who participates in the games. The more players we have, the more we can balance skill and age levels, and that actually means more playing time for all. 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! (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!)

Finally, if you do have to miss a game or practice for work, please let us know in TeamSnap by marking your availability as soon as possible. If it's on short notice—please contact at least 2 coaches via TeamSnap ASAP.

Game and Tournament Planning

You must confirm if you will or will not be attending a scheduled game or tournament by the published deadline. This is done by marking your availability in TeamSnap. If you do not mark "YES" for your availability, we will assume you are NOT going.

For overnight games and tournaments, you are responsible for your 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. 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

A \$150 player fee will be collected as part of your registration. This will help cover costs of gear, umpires, and tournament fees, as well as a ball and team t-shirt for each player. (If this fee 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. Loaner equipment may be available.)

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. Each family will

be asked to donate 10 hours of time through the season. We always need coaches/helpers as well as scorekeepers, umpires, a field maintenance crew, and fundraising minded parents. Donated hours may be actual hours, or may be fulfilled in other ways, such as food donations. For example, donating a case of waters for a game may equal 1 hour of time donated. More opportunities may be made available throughout the season as well. Please let us know how you would like to be involved!

Other Items of Note

Illness

If you are sick, please stay home. Use common courtesy for your fellow players. Coaches will do the same!

Additional Practice Opportunities

Following our summer season, there is the Great Alaska Showcase in Eagle River, which is an awesome opportunity for players to get college exposure and coaching the first week of August.

There is usually a Coaches Clinic with 3 awesome college coaches the last weekend of July in Homer. This is a wonderful opportunity for players 7th grade and up to get coaching and one-on-one instruction.

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. Dome time is also available on a drop-in basis. Contact a coach for details.

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

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