

# *FALCON FASTPITCH SOFTBALL*

Established in 2006  
2013-2014 FFS 7th SEASON  
FOR PARENTS OF PROSPECTIVE PLAYERS

**If you join the team, your daughter will be playing ball with friends that she will continue with through middle school and high school.**

**The head coaches are in charge of line-ups, playing time, and positions. Some of our coaches are from the Cactus Shadows High School Softball program and others are volunteer coaches that have coaching experience of three or more years with our club team.**

**Our Season:** The competitive season begins in **May** and goes through **June** (dependent on each level and coach); our teams break in July for family vacations, and then resume from **August** through **January** (concludes just before school softball season begins in early February). This schedule allows the girls to play year-round and refine their skills and knowledge of the game, all in preparation for school softball or even Little League.

**Goal:** To train the girls in proper softball techniques, develop good character and discipline, and create a softball family atmosphere among the girls as they will be playing together throughout high school.

We want all of our girls to be well rounded scholars and athletes. Their education is of the utmost importance. As far as other sports, we don't ask the girls to drop their other sports to focus only on softball. We work with the girls on their schedules and try to have a balance. **However, when tournaments/games are scheduled and posted, the girls are expected to play.** Conflicts are to be reported to the head coach immediately. The tournament schedule for our season will be emailed to you by your head coach.

**Team History:** The 12U and 14U competitive teams were formed in April 2006, and our first season was a tremendous success! The 14U team earned a berth to play in the USSSA WORLD SERIES in their first season! The 12U team learned about team effort, respect, and stepping up their game. Each girl improved her skills, and became part of our 'softball family.' In our second season (2007-2008) we grew to 3 teams; 12U, 14U, and 16U. This took all of our girls to a new level in their game as they focused in on more detailed techniques for playing. Our 18U went to Nationals in Park City, Utah in the summer of 2009 and placed 5<sup>th</sup>. In 2010, the 18U qualified, yet again, for Nationals in Park City, Utah.

**Qualifications:** All players live in the Cave Creek Unified School District, including home schooled students.

These competitive Falcon Fastpitch Softball teams are feeder teams to our Cave Creek Unified School District. Playing competitive softball builds the necessary skills for the girls to play middle and high school softball. Your daughter will be taught proper softball techniques, and to play at a competitive level. Please understand that by your daughter playing with the competitive team, they are NOT guaranteed a position on either the middle or high school softball teams. In like manner, if your daughter does not play on a Falcon competitive team, it will not influence her chances for playing on a school team. Team players for school ball are selected on ability and good attitude. The better the skills and attitude of the player, the greater the chance of being chosen for school ball at any level.

**Our schedule:** We practice twice a week (Saturday and a weekday...some teams have three practices) and play one tournament a month (June and September through January). We also participate in either the City of Phoenix league or Victory Lanes League when offered for each age group.

**Fees:** While most other competitive teams in the Phoenix metro area charge \$1,800 or more per girl, per year, our fees for the 2013-2014 season will range from \$550-\$1,100 (based on each team, younger to older). These fees cover team expenditures of equipment, tournament fees, league fees, coaching compensation, field maintenance, team insurance, and more.

**On the Field:** We focus on hitting, fielding, conditioning, and individual work. We like to work in stations and give each player enough repetitions, whether fielding or hitting, so that the correct motion can be committed to muscle memory. Fundamental skills are emphasized and there is a routine involved. Once the girls show progress, new skills are taught, be it baserunning, types of bunts, or fielding footwork. Although there is no substitute for an actual game, we feel our practices touch upon all elements of a true game, which will help them once they get in a ballgame.

**College Scholarships:** Head Coach Gianni assists each girl who is interested in playing college softball. She helps parents to be more informed on what they need to do, along with the player. Girls who would like to play college ball are encouraged to attend college camps throughout the year, such as those offered by ASU, U of A, and various junior colleges. Meeting with the coach to determine skill level, such as Division I, II, III or junior college would be one of the first steps to scholarship success. Educating parents and players about the necessary paperwork, applications, timeline, college visits, and skill video, are just some of the areas covered by Coach Gianni. Because scholarships are in short supply, being proactive is a requirement.

**Equipment Required:** Each player is required to have their own sliders, cleats, bat, mitt, batting gloves, NOCSAE approved helmet with a face guard and chin strap. Mouth guards are highly recommended. Catchers are required to have their own equipment and a throat protector. Team uniforms and required items will be purchased by players this season and will be directed to a special website to place their orders.

Email Director, Danica Gianni at [dggianni@uicalumni.org](mailto:dggianni@uicalumni.org) if you have any further questions.