



**2014-2015**

**PARENT/Player AGREEMENT  
(Revised 10/22/2014)**

*Sign and Return to Coach (Player/Parent – Retain copy for Reference)*

## **Agreement Purpose**

This agreement sets minimum standards to create an environment conducive to learning softball skills necessary for our players to perform at the highest level possible while still having fun. You, as a parent, have a very important role in your daughter's success and the success of the team.

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of Black Widows Softball Club is to create a team culture where these young athletes have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. We are a small, volunteer-based organization which is dedicated to providing the best overall experience for every athlete.

## **Goals and Expectations**

In order to execute our mission, we are committed to the following goals and expectations:

- Providing quality training and coaching for all of our players in order to develop a solid base of both fundamental and advanced skills.
- Developing and providing opportunities for players to pursue playing opportunities beyond high school.
- Challenging athletes to test and push their limits as they find their true potential.
- Emphasizing an athlete's personal well-being and providing a consistent and fair environment.
- Valuing teamwork, dedication and discipline as well as developing young people who are responsible and confident individuals.
- We expect parents to work with their daughters on setting personal goals as it relates to the game.
- We expect parents to actively work with their daughters on their softball skills outside of practice and game situations either directly or through specialized training.

## **General Information**

### **Insurance Coverage**

As part of their individual membership fees, all players are covered by a secondary insurance policy to the players' primary policy. This is a liability policy that covers all club activities and injuries that may occur during an event whether practice or tournament. Note that this is a *supplemental* policy to your own. A copy of this insurance is available on request. All parents are required to fill out an injury liability waiver form acknowledging this statement.

## Fees and Payment

- Black Widows Club Softball is a pay-to-play organization. All costs incurred are transferred to each family and payment expected for actual costs from every member of the team. Additional funding may be obtained through fundraising or sponsorship to offset those costs. As an organization, we do not collect any fees that go directly to the organization or to pay our coaches. Fees cover ALL actual costs to include: field rentals, tournament entry, uniform and equipment cost and any umpire fees. All fees for the upcoming month will be published five days prior to the beginning of the month and payment is required by the seventh day of the month.
- If you choose to leave the team, no refunds will be provided.

## Scheduling

- Tournament scheduling is done well in advance and posted for everyone to review. We expect our players' families to schedule around our planned events. We provide adequate time off for our players which coincides as closely as possible to scheduled school vacations. This being said, we cannot accommodate every deviation in schedule as we have players from multiple school districts.
- We are a travel team. Plan on playing tournaments outside of the greater Phoenix area from June through September. We will mainly look to travel to northern Arizona during this time frame; however, we may look at select tournaments in the San Diego, CA and southern Colorado areas.
- In the event you know for sure you cannot make a scheduled tournament, please give us advanced (at least a month) notice so we can plan accordingly. Full due payment will still be expected for that month **REGARDLESS** of whether your daughter participates in the event.

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## Uniforms

- We will have set uniform combinations and expect parents to purchase and acquire various components of the uniforms. All game jerseys will be provided by our supplier and either paid for by the parents or sponsor money.
- Parents are expected to provide, light grey, black and red pants. We will provide the details on how to acquire the red pants.
- Parents are expected to provide red, black and light grey socks.
- If the girls choose to wear an undershirt or sleeves they **MUST** match the color of the jersey.

## Roster Size

- We do not have a set roster size; however, in order to maximize developing player potential, we will keep the roster size between 12 to 14 girls at all time.

- This being said, we expect all girls to show up for every competitive team event. Utilizing “pick-up” players is not an option we, as a coaching staff, like to resort to as this is a distraction from our team unity and overall strategy.
- In the event certain players consistently miss published tournaments, we may have to expand our roster size which could affect your daughter’s playing time.

## **Black Widows Club Policies**

Each athlete and her parent/s are expected to comply with the policies set forth in this club handbook. Any athlete or parent who does not comply will be subject to discipline, suspension or expulsion from the club program.

### **Player Conduct**

- Players are expected to act in an appropriate manner and set a proper example during all club events, including practices, travel, tournaments, fundraisers or any other activity in which the club chooses to participate.
- Players will not talk negatively about themselves, their teammates, coaches, opponents or umpires. They will refrain from all profanity and offensive language.
- Team unity should take precedence over individual needs and can only be created with commitment by each player. An attitude that is not conducive to team unity will not be tolerated. Excessive insubordination by the player may result in disciplinary action, activity suspension and finally removal from the team.
- Players are not allowed to have cell phones turned on and out during any practice, tournament or other team event.
- In the event of a suspension or expulsion from the team, no refunds will be given.

### **Parent and Spectator Conduct**

- Parent/spectators are expected to cheer positively for their daughter’s team. Negative parent/spectator comments, sideline coaching or even overly enthusiastic encouragement of your daughter can be disruptive to the team effort and will not be tolerated. If this situation does arise, the coach or organizational director will discuss the situation with the parent. Lack of cooperation will result in dismissal of the parent/spectator from the team event and ultimately could result in the removal of the player from the team.
- Parents are not allowed in the dugout during the game at any time, we also ask that parents refrain from coming to the dugout during the game to talk to their daughter. Please ensure the player has everything necessary prior to the pre-game warm-up (water, sunscreen, ice, etc.). We expect the girls to pay attention to the game and cheer on their team as well as receive coaching. If a situation arises where the player feels they need to talk to the parents, please instruct them to ask the coach. In the event that we, as coaches, feel a parent needs to be alerted and brought out of the crowd (injury for example), we will alert you.

## **Player/Coach/Parent Interaction**

- Coaches are available to approach with any concerns or questions; however, we ask that you adhere to the appropriate times for such interaction:
  - Coaches are always available before or after practices to discuss any of your concerns.
  - If you want to talk about your daughter's progress, playing time or positioning we ask that your daughter be present in this conversation. Given the age group, this is your DAUGHTER's softball career and we respect that and ask that she is present during this conversation. Regarding any other topic, she does not need to be present.
  - We will not discuss playing time or positioning as it relates to your daughter during a tournament weekend (not before, not during and not after!). Please wait until the next practice and we can discuss this before or after. Failure to follow this policy may result in suspension or ultimately expulsion for your daughter from the team.
  - Finally, keep in mind all of the coaches within this organization are volunteers! We don't get paid for this nor do we make any money for coaching. Please respect our time outside of softball by not calling us to discuss these matters. We will reserve time before and after practice to talk to parents, and under no circumstance will we discuss it via email or text. Outside of softball, we have full time jobs and are parents as well...please respect this.

## **Practice**

### **Attendance**

- If a player needs to miss a practice, we ask that the player herself call or contact the coach as soon as possible. Athletes who miss practice are missing valuable instruction and training time, and potentially may have their playing time affected by consistent absences or tardiness. As coaches for this age group we are working to install responsibility into our players, and we do NOT want parents to call on behalf of the player.
- Your daughter can be dropped from the team roster if she misses two consecutive practices without contacting her team coach. Please do not send messages of missed or late practices through other players or parents.
- Please have your daughter at practice at least 10-15 minutes prior to starting time, we want to have them throw and warmup prior to the actual start time so we can maximize our practice time. We will start stretching and conditioning at the scheduled practice start time.
- If your daughter is late to practice, we, as coaches, will not inquire as to why the player is late. It happens and we understand; however, we have to ensure that practice progresses without interruption and distraction. In the event your daughter is late, we require the following of your daughter:

- Immediately run her late lap. It's one lap around the outfield running backwards along the outside fence.
- If the team is still in the initial stretching and conditioning session they can join in, after which they must throw in order to get warm. They can ask a coach to assist in this.
- If the team has already begun the first set of station drills, the player must stretch on their own, and then warm up throwing as we want to avoid injuries.
- Once this is done, we will put the player into the drill stations at the next logical break.
- Players must wear proper attire and have proper equipment for all practices. Sliding shorts are recommended and shorts are not allowed on any occasion unless otherwise specified. We will require the players to wear specific practice uniforms on given days, as again this is part of the responsibility and discipline approach. Practice uniforms are as follows:
  - First practice of the week, regardless of day of week
    - White Practice T-shirt, black pants, red socks, white sleeves if needed
  - Second practice of the week, regardless of day of week, red sleeves if needed
    - Red practice T-shirt, grey pants, black socks
  - Third practice of the week, regardless of day of week, grey sleeves if needed
    - Grey practice T-shirt, black pants, red socks
- During periods of cold weather the girls are not allowed to wear sweatshirts or hoodies during practice or games; it interferes with their movement and the organizations who run events do not allow it. Please ensure your girls have proper undershirts.
- As we are a pay-to-play organization, coaches reserve the right to cancel practices when the expected turnout does not meet the requirements of our practice plan. We will not adjust the fees schedules for such cancellations.

I understand that I have an important role in the success of my daughter, her team and the Black Widows Fast Pitch organization, as outlined in the sections above. I (We), understand that my (our) daughter has been invited to be a member of the Black Widows Fast Pitch organization for the 2014-2015 softball season. I (we) understand the items outlined in this agreement and will abide by them at all times. I (we) also understand the consequences of my (our) failure to abide by the Player and/or Parent Agreement

**Should my daughter no longer be a member of the team, all team equipment will be returned and may be purchased back by the organization depending on current condition and team needs.**

**In the event of a suspension or expulsion from the team, no refunds will be given.**

I, have read, understand, and agree to all Black Widows policies listed within this agreement.

Players Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_