



# SUMMER 2016 PARENT HANDBOOK



**Bartlett Park District**

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Summer Softball at the Bartlett Park District. Whether you're new to softball or a seasoned softball mom or dad, we hope that this booklet provides some useful information and will answer some of your important questions. If you still have questions please don't hesitate to contact us. We hope your softball player has fun this season. Good luck!



### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**For more softball information please visit [www.bartlettparks.org](http://www.bartlettparks.org)**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

"The Bartlett Park District provides the Girl's Softball Program to offer youth the opportunity to learn about softball, sportsmanship, team work, and responsibility through the course of the season. We ask that staff, parents, coaches, spectators and youth help us in our effort to provide a positive and safe atmosphere for all those associated with the program."

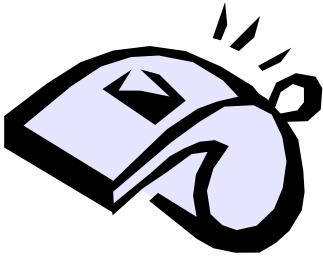
### **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

As a parent with a child in our softball program we have high expectations. Don't be surprised if your coach asks you to read and sign a Code of Conduct outlining our expectations but in addition please note the following:

Parents are responsible for:

- Getting the kids to practice and games.
- Communicating with the coach if you can't attend practice or games.
- Respecting the coach, and allowing them to coach.
- Respecting the officials and allowing them to umpire.
- Cheering, not coaching, from the sidelines and creating a positive environment for all the players.

## COACHING AND TEAM FORMATION



With between 100-150 participants we rely on approximately 20-30 volunteer coaches each summer season. Coaches are primarily responsible for scheduling and holding practices and coaching on game days. Coaches select where and when practices will be held and typically practice once or twice a week for 1-1.5 hours depending on the age of the team. Additionally, they should communicate information throughout the season regarding the team's events and activities. A head coach can request an assistant coach for the season.

Those players returning to play summer softball in 8U and 10U are assigned to the same team with new players making up the remainder of the team.

Unfortunately, due to the size and nature of the program we **cannot** honor coach, carpool, practice day or location or friendship requests and we appreciate your understanding. Please do not ask!

## UMPIRES

The majority of our umpires are experienced players, (many who have played in our leagues) and they all know the game. We have a zero tolerance policy as far as umpire abuse and ask that you respect the umpires, let them do their job and not shout or criticize from the sidelines. Remember, just like us, umpires are human and may make a mistake. Concerns should be reported to your coach who will forward them to the appropriate person. Remember, it might be your son or daughter out there umpiring one day!



## UNIFORM INFORMATION



Uniforms are purchased from "Protime Sports", a sporting goods company based in Seattle. The uniform cost is included in the registration fee. The uniforms add a great, professional look to our leagues and the kids love them. In addition to the jersey, girls are provided matching socks and a visor.

If for some reason a player receives a uniform that does not fit and there's no-one to exchange with on your team please contact Eric immediately. Replacements can be ordered if necessary, but it will take at least one week. Coaches are not responsible for resolving uniform issues. All uniform issues need to be resolved prior to the second game if possible, but definitely by Picture Day so don't delay in contacting us.



## **PICTURE DAY**

*Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>*

Your team coach will let you know when your teams scheduled time for pictures is and you can also check the schedule online. Your child should wear their full uniform and gym shoes (no cleats are allowed in the gym). You will receive ordering information from your coach prior to the date, but extra packets are available on the night of pictures. Pictures will be handed out at the end of the season along with participation medals.

## **ONLINE GAME SCHEDULES**

Game schedules are posted online for all divisions.

To view the schedules please visit <http://www.quickscores.com/Orgs/index.php?OrgDir=girls>

Click on the division to view the schedule.

Click on your team name (ex. Gators) to view only your team's game schedule.



## **TELEPHONE HOTLINE AND ONLINE UPDATES**

Hotline: (630) 540-4891-Bartlett (331) 240-2060-West Chicago

(630)761- 8325-Batavia (630) 232-7868-Geneva

Online: Visit <http://www.quickscores.com/Orgs/index.php?OrgDir=girls> homepage

Call the hotline or visit the web-site for updated information on field closures and canceled games. Your coach is responsible for canceling practices (unless the Park District closes fields) and the Park District is responsible for canceling games. Please contact your coach if you're unsure.

We will always try to reschedule games cancelled due to the weather but depending on the severity of the rain throughout the season we cannot guarantee it.

When the Park District closes fields, **ALL** community sports groups are made aware of the closure and we expect, but can't guarantee, that everyone adheres. Official field closure means **ALL** practices, at all locations, regardless of whether it's a Park District softball field, are cancelled.

## **What is Thor-Guard?**

Thor-Guard is a lightning prediction system. The system consists of sensors that measure electrostatic charges at ground level and in the atmosphere. These electrostatic charges, invisible to the naked eye, build up in the atmosphere prior to lightning occurrences. When conditions indicate that a lightning occurrence is probable, a signal is sent to two alarm horns and strobe lights located at the Apple Orchard Golf Course Clubhouse and the Bartlett Aquatic Center. Apple Orchard Community Park, both east and west sides, is included within the range.

A **Warning Signal** is one long 15-second horn blast. This means a potentially dangerous weather situation exists and all patrons must leave the park and take shelter. Patrons should avoid using trees as a shelter and should keep away from metal objects. The pavilions are recommended shelters.

The **All Clear Signal** is three short horn blasts. After the All Clear Signal sounds and strobe lights deactivate, park patrons may resume their activities.



## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/SPECTATORS**

Bartlett Park District strives to instill sportsmanship in all of its players: it also expects good sportsmanship and appropriate conduct from the parents/spectators. Unfortunately, there are times when inappropriate behavior occurs. With this in mind, we have established the following guidelines for parents/spectators. For these guidelines, inappropriate behavior is defined as conduct that is contrary to the philosophy and goals of the program and the Bartlett Park District. If inappropriate behavior occurs, the following guidelines will be followed:

### **Reporting of Inappropriate Behavior:**

The Park District may receive reports of inappropriate behavior in many ways. A few examples are as follows:

- 1) A full-time or designated part-time employee of the Bartlett Park District may personally observe actions taken by a parent and file a written complaint.
- 2) The Park District may receive a signed, written complaint from a parent describing inappropriate behavior by another parent.
- 3) A written complaint may be received from an official about a parents conduct during a game.
- 4) A coach involved in a program may file a written complaint about a parent's action.
- 5) A written complaint may be received from a member of a Park District Youth Sports Board regarding a parent's actions.

### **Informing the Parent of the Situation:**

The following steps will be taken to inform the parent of any reports of inappropriate behavior:

- 1) The parent in question will be notified by phone and in writing about the situation and informed about the nature of the complaint regarding their behavior. This notice will include the alleged actions that occurred, the date and time of the actions and why the actions will not be tolerated.
- 2) The parent will further be informed that he/she will be given one week to respond to the complaint. If he/she chooses not to respond, he/she will receive the appropriate disciplinary action.
- 3) If the parent chooses to respond to the complaint, the parent will meet with the Recreation Supervisor responsible for the program and the Superintendent of Recreation.
- 4) Following the meeting it will be determined whether the parent should receive disciplinary action as well as determine which level of disciplinary action will be imposed.
- 5) The parent will then be notified in writing of the decision.

### **Levels of Discipline:**

The Park District will follow a progressive form of discipline as outlined below, if deemed appropriate. However, the Park District is not required to do and may, in its sole discretion, forego lesser forms of discipline at any time and proceed immediately with the parent's removal.

**Probation:** The term “Probation” refers to a notice being given to the Parent that their behavior was inappropriate and that future breaches of the Parent’s Code of Conduct might result in suspension or dismissal. The grounds for the disciplinary action, “Probation”, may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- 1) The use of profanity of vulgar language while attending practices or games.
- 2) Failure to treat coaches, players, fans and officials with respect.
- 3) Failure to adhere to the Parent Code of Conduct.
- 4) Causing a game to be forfeited by an official due to conduct.
- 5) Any other actions, which, in the professional opinion of the Bartlett Park District, should result in probation.

**Suspension:** The term “Suspension” refers to the temporary banning of a parent from a specific number of games or practices. The grounds for the disciplinary action, “Suspension”, may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

(The length of the suspension will be determined by the severity of the action.)

- 1) Continuing actions that originally led to the probation of parent.
- 2) Intentionally threatening a fan, player, coach or official.
- 3) Attending a practice or game under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 4) Any other actions, which, in the professional opinion of the Bartlett Park District, should result in suspension.

**Dismissal:** The term “Dismissal” refers to the banning of a parent from practices and games for the remainder of the season. The grounds for the disciplinary action, “Dismissal”, may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- 1) Intentionally striking, pushing or laying hands on a fan, player, coach or official in a harmful manner.
- 2) Any other actions, which, in the professional opinion of the Bartlett Park District, should result in dismissal.