

Spring Girls Softball: T-Ball/Coach Pitch League

Parent Packet

Athletic Supervisor:

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Welcome to the 2025 Spring Girls Softball League!

We are excited to get the season underway! But before we do, make sure to read through this packet as it contains all the information for the upcoming season. If you still have questions after reading through this packet, or if you have questions/concerns throughout the season, do not hesitate to contact me. Keith Blomberg – 630.353.3400 – kblomberg@woodridgeparks.org

Sport Parent Code of Conduct

The Woodridge Park District (WPD), believes in holding all of its members (coaches, participants, parents, guardians, etc.) accountable to a strict code of conduct/behavior policy when playing, watching, or coaching any activity. This is a key principle to making sports, especially youth sports, a safe, fun, and positive environment.

- I pledge to conduct myself in a manner that will reflect positively on the WPD to show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans and officials.
- I pledge to encourage in a positive manner the efforts of players and will refrain from yelling out instruction to my
 child or his/her teammates for I understand that this is the coach's responsibility and such instructions may conflict
 with their teachings. I understand that games are chaotic times for players to deal with fast-paced action and need
 the flexibility without ridicule to learn how to respectfully respond to game situations, opponents, teammates and
 coaches.
- I understand that mistakes are inevitable part of any game and that players need to learn from their own mistakes and I pledge to encourage their pursuit in advancing their skills and knowledge of the game and to not criticize their mistakes.
- I pledge to refrain from using alcohol and illegal substances during any practice or game whether on WPD property or elsewhere.
- I pledge to educate myself on the rules of the sport, so that I have a better understanding of the game and calls made by the official(s).
- I pledge to not use inappropriate language, profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, trash talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- I pledge to refrain from confronting opponents, opponents' fans, coaches, or officials in a manner that would
 escalate any situation to a verbal or physical confrontation and I understand that it is in everyone's best interest to
 remain silent.
- I understand that it is a best practice to take a timeout (24 hours) prior to dealing with a coach about any player issues I have. I will not confront the coach in public, rather I will talk to the coach while calm and rational and will do so in a private manner. Public confrontation is embarrassing to the player and entire program and may result in myself being suspended from watching my child/player and/or result in my child/player being suspended from play for the team.

Signed Parent's Promise

At the beginning of the season, your coach will ask you to sign a form to confirm that you have read the Sport Parent Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with this code of conduct, will result in disciplinary actions being taken to resolve the issue. Actions may include but are not limited to verbal and/or written warnings, ejections and/or suspensions. Incidents will be handled how staff deems appropriate based on the severity of the incident.

Team Information

Coaches have until Thursday, March 27 to contact their team. If you do not receive any contact from your coach, email Keith Blomberg at kblomberg@woodridgeparks.org on Friday, March 28 and I will have the information for you. When you are contacted by your coach, they will go over the following information:

- Practice Schedule
 - Location, Day of the week & Time
- Confirm your contact information
- The contact information of the coaching staff
- Any allergies or medical conditions of your player that the coach should be aware of
- Time and date of the Parent Meeting

Equipment

Each player will need to have the following equipment to participate:

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Fielding Mitt	Softball Bat*	Fielding Mask (This is not required but it will
		help the player get used to the equipment)
Game Pants	Batting Helmet with mask*	Cleats (No metal spikes)
*The Park District will provide each team with limited equipment for players to share		

Practice Information

Practices will start the week of March 31. Teams will practice for 1.25 hours, once a week at either Orchard Field 1, Janes NE Field or Jefferson SE Field.

Game Day Information

- Season will start Saturday, April 19 and conclude Saturday, June 21 (weather pending)
- Games days will be Saturdays. Times are still TBA but you can plan for Saturday mornings.
 - o Games may be rescheduled during the week due to inclement weather.
- This league will co-op with Darien Youth Club (DYC), therefore some games will be played in Darien.
- Your coach will notify you when the game schedule has been released.

Inclement Weather Policies

- Coaches will be responsible for cancelling their own practices. If there is availability, practice may be moved inside the ARC in either the Turf or the gym. If practice is held in the gym, then players must wear gym shoes and leave their bats at home.
- If a game is cancelled, the coach will be notified at least one hour before game time and they will then inform the team.

Picture Day

Scheduled for Sunday, May 4th at the ARC in the Program Rooms. Pictures will be taken between the times of 2PM and 4PM. The schedule will be emailed closer to the date. At season's end, each team will receive:

- 2 Coach Plagues (1 for the Head Coach and 1 for an Assistant Coach)
- A Coach & Child Photo
- 1 Team photo for each member of the team

Volunteer Coaches Make It Happen!

We are extremely grateful for the volunteer coaches in our leagues! These programs do not have the success without them. Throughout the season, they may ask for help at practice or on game day. If you can, please step up and volunteer to help the team.

Helpful Resources

Whether this is your first time being a sports parent or you have been doing this for a long time, you can always learn how to do better. Below is a list of different resources to help you as a sport parent throughout the season.

- Guidelines For Parental Involvement In Youth Sports
- 10 Tips For Sports Parents
- <u>8 Sideline Behavior Tips For Parents On Gameday</u>
- Silence On The Sidelines Lets Kids Learn And Coaches Coach
- Parents Need To Stop Trophy-Chasing And Let Their Kids Learn
- Why Kids Staying In Sports Is Important
- My Kid Acts Disinterested In Sports But Says She Loves It
- Maintaining Support For A Coach During A Losing Season
- WHY AND HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT REFEREES IN YOUTH SPORT