



## 2009 Summer Team Guidelines

The Lady Wolfpack Fastpitch organization is dedicated to providing players the opportunity to compete at the highest level while building self-esteem through hard work, dedication and teamwork. Our goal is to provide a world-class softball playing experience along with top-level coaching and instruction so that players may achieve their maximum potential.

### We love this sport!

We strive to be the best that we can be as an organization, coaches, supporters and players. Our objectives this year are very clear:

- Develop lasting softball skills
- Prepare our older girls for college play and possible athletic scholarships
- Be competitive
- Qualify for Nationals
- Have Fun

We hope to accomplish these goals through a series of practices, local and out of town tournaments and social events. **In support of this effort The Lady Wolfpack Organization has developed the following player/parent guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with them and don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.**

### GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Lady Wolfpack is made up of competitive "A" level softball teams. We are not a recreational or "B" level organization—the commitment by the players, coaches and parents is significant. Coaches expect a lot from players once they are signed to a team roster. However, we know every player can improve in multiple areas and grow their individual skills. Wolfpack coaches will strive to push each player to play to their potential and recognizes that each player may be at different stages of development and skills.

### TRY-OUTS

Players will be chosen based on their current skill level, demonstrated potential for growth, drive for the sport and most importantly their exhibition of good sportsmanship and fair play.

### PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each player and parent must take responsibility in making your team a success by committing to the following:

**Practice:** Practice attendance is mandatory; this is an important key to the success of each player and their team. By signing on to the team roster it is expected that **ALL** players are committed to the team's tournament and practice schedule.

- Players should arrive 10-15 minutes prior to practice start time and be fully ready to play with all the necessary equipment. **Every effort should be made to show up on time**

**and attend all practices.** However, we realize things come up, if you are running late please call the coaching staff and let us know.

- Players may practice up to 5 days a week for the first two weeks prior to the first tournament of the season. After the first tournament practice will be 2-3 hours per practice, twice a week or three times a week if there is a weekend gap between tournaments.
- Players are expected to be prepared for practice and have all personal equipment (cleats, sliding shorts and gloves) with them at practices and games.
- Appropriate softball practice clothes are to be worn during practices. Practice clothes must be a white t-shirt (no other travel ball team logos/names are allowed), black pants and black or red socks. Cleats must be clean and shirts must be tucked in or at least fit appropriately, not too tight or too loose. Jeans, short shorts, and bare feet are not acceptable. Wolfpack game uniforms are not to be worn for practice. If the player comes dressed inappropriately they may be asked to sit on the bench during practice.
- Players should be prepared to slide at each practice.
- Players are responsible for the set up and pick up of all equipment at practices and games.
- Each player should also have one or two water bottles.
- Coaches may also request a player(s) to attend additional practices outside the team to work on specific skills or to practice a specific position.
- Weather can affect practices. However, do not assume that practice is cancelled because of inclement weather. We may just meet at the batting cages that day! Contact your coach and check the LWP website calendar to verify the status of that day's practice.

**Absences:** If a player must miss a practice, she must call her coach and let him/her know. Players missing practice should not “expect” to start the next tournament game; it will be entirely up to the coach’s discretion. This is not meant to punish players, it is meant to encourage and reward players who make the commitment and effort to attend. As a rule, the more a player is absent, the less her chances are of playing.

**Injuries:** In the event of an injury, if possible, the player should still attend practice. Much can be learned from helping coaches, watching and listening during practice.

**Game time:** Players should not leave the dugout during games unless it is to use the restroom. Players are not to make phone calls or text message at any time during practice, tournament play or team meetings. Exception can be made for emergency—please check with your team coach before making any call.

**Conduct:** Good sportsmanship and professional behavior is expected at all times under all circumstances. There should be no bickering with umpires, coaches, players, or parents regarding a call or a play. There will be no tolerance for players that throw bats, helmets or display poor sportsmanship or disruptive behavior on the field.

**Uniforms:** Uniforms will be distributed prior to the start of the tournament season. Each team will provide each player with two (2) jerseys, two (2) pairs of pants, jacket, batting helmet and bat bag. Each player needs to provide her own socks (one red pair and one black), batting gloves (if

desired), sliding shorts, Under Armour (black or white) and cleats (color RED). It is expected the two (2) uniforms will be returned at the end of the season.

Players should arrive in the correct uniform (clean and in good shape) for all games. Before warm ups start **ALL SHIRTS ARE TO BE TUCKED IN** and remain tucked in for the entire game! All jewelry is to be removed before the game starts.

**Player Conduct:** Violation of the following will result in a verbal warning or if severe enough, immediate consequences, including but not limited to (benched for the next game or team expulsion).

- Be respectful to all umpires, coaches, players, and parents.
- No foul Language.
- No horseplay/teasing during practice or tournaments.
- When attending tournaments, include all players in activities (No Cliques).
- No criticisms or put downs of coaches or players.
- Curfew will be observed—room checks will start 15 minutes before curfew.
- If a player is not with the team at designated warm-up time before a tournament game, she will not start that game.

**Players General:**

- Between games, players will be required to rest and stay together as a team until released by the coaches.
- Players are expected to demonstrate positive attitudes and good sportsmanship at all times on and off the field.

**PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Lady Wolfpack is comprised of players, coaches and parents. For each team to meet its goals and objectives, everyone has to be committed to being involved. Without strong participation from EVERY parent or guardian, the road to success will be difficult if not impossible. Please help by observing these guidelines:

**Sideline coaching:** Parents will refrain from sideline coaching during practices and games. Parental interest is needed and encouraged, but "sideline coaching" and emotional displays are detrimental to the individual player as well as to the team. Conflicts, which arise when players are "coached" by individuals outside the coaching staff, result in confusion and slow progress of the individual player and the team's performance.

**Keep it positive:** Please do not discuss negative opinions of coaches or teammates in front of players. It hurts individual players and team unity.

**Parent Support:** Parental involvement is a key element to a successful team. Parents will be expected to volunteer for various team functions, including but not limited to (scorekeeping, leading fundraisers, chaperoning and sponsorship drives).

**Attendance:** If a parent cannot attend a tournament with their daughter, try to send your daughter with another family. If a tournament requires an overnight stay it may be possible to have the unaccompanied player stay in a room adjacent to a team staff member's room.

**Game time:** Parents are encouraged to support their children. However, during practices and games they should refrain from approaching the dugout to coach, counsel, or to critique their daughter. The dugout and the player's bench are off limits to parents. If parents do not abide by this, their daughter's playing time will be affected.

**Playing Time:** Every effort will be made to play all players during tournament pool play. However, there is no guaranteed minimum level of playing time. Not every player will play in every game. All players must be capable of playing multiple positions. That said, a player may not play a specific position that a parent may want them to.

**Conduct:** Good sportsmanship and professional behavior is expected at all times under all circumstances. There should be no bickering with umpires, coaches, players, or parents regarding a call or a play. Games can actually be forfeited if an umpire feels fan or parent conduct is uncalled for or out-of-line.

**Addressing Concerns/Problems:** The Lady Wolfpack organization encourages open communications between coaches, players and parents. Parents having concerns or questions regarding team activities or coaching strategies should address them with coaches directly at a time away from the game field or tournament. Every consideration will be given to your concerns; however, it should be understood that the best interest of the entire team takes priority.

If you have concerns or questions you should call your manager or coach to set up an appropriate time to discuss. For your sake and the sake of the players DO NOT bring up concerns during and after a game or in the middle of a practice.

We often find that waiting 24/hrs before expressing a major concern is valuable in helping parents, players and coaches reflect on what it is they are concerned about.

It is easy to exhibit good sportsmanship when things are going our way—its how we conduct ourselves when things are not going the way we think they should that ultimately defines who we are.

**Players Fees:** Each girl will be responsible for a player fee to be paid before the beginning of the season. Players and parents are encouraged to obtain outside sponsorships or hold fundraising activities to help reduce or even eliminate player fees.

Each team will be provided with information on the player fees at the beginning of the season. Player fees are determined by equipment/uniform needs, registration/insurance fees, tournament entry fees, coach's expenses/fees and the number of girls playing on each team.

Teams may establish "payment plans" for player fees based on a tournament schedule and prior agreed arrangements with team managers; however failure to pay fees on time will result in the player sitting on the bench. Players must still attend practice and/or a tournament in proper uniform but will not play until fees are paid. Failure to attend a practice/tournament or missing the next agreed upon payment date will result in that player being dropped from the team.

Failure to participate in fundraising and/or submitting player fees will be cause to remove a player from the team. Team equipment and uniforms must be returned at that time. If equipment and uniforms are not returned, or fees are not paid as due, then the player may be reported to the ASA commission which will result in their being unable to register as an ASA player until those items are returned or fees are paid.

## **FINANCES**

Each team will maintain individual accounts which will track team expenses, revenues and split out individual player contributions. Each team will generate its own revenues. There may also be joint fundraisers in which money raised will be divided among the teams participating based on the number of participants from each team.

Parents and players are strongly encouraged to find sponsors for their teams. A sponsorship letter is available on the LWP website under the "Documents" link or on the sponsorship page.

We understand and appreciate the commitment and investment required to play "A" level competitive softball and realize some families may not be in a financial position to support their daughter's participation. In this case sponsorship(s) may be used to pay an individual's player fee. That sponsor must indicate that the sponsorship is to be used for that individual player. Any additional sponsorship created by an individual player will be credited to the team and not the individual player. These sponsorships must be in at the time team fees are due.

Sponsorships obtained after team fees are paid will be used for general team expenses and not used for individual player fees.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

We will be playing in Amateur Softball Association (ASA) tournaments. Tournaments are usually on weekends and can last 1 to 7 days based on format. There are single and double elimination tournaments. Go to [www.asa.org](http://www.asa.org) for more information and a listing of ASA tournaments.

It is our goal to play a minimum of 10 tournaments (8 for the 12U team) in 2009. As often as possible, we will have each age division entered in the same tournament. This helps with camaraderie and enables the girls from each team to support each other.

Tournament entry fees typically range from \$380-\$450. College showcase tournaments for the older girls can be up to 3 times that and often there is a team fee as well as individual player fees. These fees will be paid by the team through their player fees and fundraisers.

Other fees that players and their families may incur are: gas (carpooling helps!), food for that day, water, hotel costs (when necessary), tournament memorabilia and gate fees for family members.

Most tournaments are close to the Hayward/San Lorenzo and Stockton areas, but we may travel further, even out of state, at times. As much as possible, we will try to help arrange reasonable rates for lodging so all of the girls and their families can stay at the same hotel.

## **UMPIRES**

Umpires at tournaments are sanctioned ASA umpires. The role of the umpire must be recognized and respected by the coaches, the team AND the parents. Remember that the umpires have complete authority over the coaches/players from the minute they enter the field until the game is complete.

Players and parents should never argue or dispute the decision of the umpire. The umpire will follow the rules/guidelines from their association. The rulebooks are available online from each organization.

**GENERAL**

**TEAM COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION**

The most up to date information on tournaments, practices, special events, fundraiser dates and more will be posted on the Lady Wolfpack website ([www.ladywolfpack.org](http://www.ladywolfpack.org)) under the "Calendar" link. Players and parents are strongly encouraged to check the site calendar on a regular basis. In addition, a Yahoo Groups will be setup for each team by the team manager. **Printed information will typically not be distributed.**

The Wolfpack organization and staff would like to thank each of you for making our teams possible this year. Please do not hesitate to talk with us if you have any concerns or suggestions, we want you to be involved. We also ask parents to trust in the coaching staff to work with your daughters to help them realize their softball dreams and to grow into the outstanding young ladies that we know they all are.

**I acknowledge that I have read and understand ALL of the Lady Wolfpack 2009 season team guidelines and have been informed of the program requirements and agree to follow through with all commitments:**

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

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to your team manger.

For LWP Use:  
Received by: \_\_\_\_\_