

Diablo Diamonds Fastpitch Inc. Volunteer Coach Expectations

General Goals:

The general goals of the organization are listed below. Coaches are expected to strive to achieve these goals at every practice and game during the season.

- Teach young athletes the fundamentals of softball
- Instill values that will lead to success on and off the field
- Develop girls' skills, knowledge and passion for the game
- Provide positive role models for impressionable young athletes
- Build confidence and pride as a team and as individuals
- Improve season to season, tournament to tournament and game to game
- Have fun and win games!

Safety Expectations:

The safety of our players, coaches and families is our number one priority. Below are the expectations for coaches during the season.

- Prioritize the safety of players, coaches, and others involved with our team
- Complete the Safe Sport training and keep up on Safe Sport training and refreshers
 - Follow all Safe Sport guidelines for timely reporting of reportable incidents
 - Follow Safe Sport and organization guidelines for player interactions
- Allow only certified coaches to help during practices or games, this is a condition of insurance; if you want to, on occasion, use a parent, add them to roster ahead of time (requires background check and other training)
- Make sure that all the players are picked up by parents/guardians following practices and games. Never leave a player on their own at a practice field or other facility
- Have a first aid kit on-hand with the team for all practices and games
- Follow Diablo Diamond Concussion Protocol
- Follow all COVID and Field Permit safety protocols
- Allow adequate breaks and water breaks during practices
- Ensure the team understands and follows basic safety rules including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Any player with a bat will have their helmet on, players around those using bats will have helmets on and those swinging bats will check that it is safe to swing and are only doing so as part of a drill, on deck or at bat
 - All pitchers, first, and third positions will wear face masks unless you have talked with parents and confirmed they approve them not using a mask
 - During games, players should stay clear of dugout doors and be watching the games (keep attention on the game)

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Practice Goals:

We strongly believe practices are the key to player and team success and that everyone should look forward to productive, hard and rewarding practices. Below are the coach expectations for planning and running practices.

- Develop and share practice plans ahead of time, so all coaches understand the focus and timing of the practice
- Explain the purpose of drills and ensure players understand what you are looking for and why it is important
- Maintain a strong focus on fundamentals throughout all drills and practices
- Rotate all players through repetitions at at least 2 infield and 1 outfield positions to develop a well-rounded skill set
- Understand the areas of development for each player and work to give them extra work and direction at those skills so they can improve
- Follow the positive reinforcement practices outlined in the book "Mind Gym"
- Keep practices fun, build in games and acknowledge players for their hard work, following directions and small improvements you see during practice

Playing Strategy:

Our organization believes we win as a team, and we lose as a team. Follow the guidelines below to ensure all players have an opportunity to contribute to the team's success.

Saturday/Pool Play Games

- Set the playing lineups for Saturday ahead of time, so you can balance playing time. Try to keep to your original plan with only minor edits depending on how the game is going.
- Bat all players on Saturdays (When allowed by the tournament)
- Think through the positions where you want to see players. All players should have innings in the infield and outfield throughout the day.
- Ensure every player plays approximately half of each game (except in the event of injury/illness). We recommend 2 defensive line-ups per game, switched approximately half way through.
- Set a time for showing up and being ready, late players should be moved so they aren't starting the first inning, but they should play in the game (you likely will have to adjust the lineup).

Sunday/Elimination Games

- Build out your strongest lineup for Sunday based on Saturday's play plus recent practice and games (last couple weeks, not months) - you can bat your top 9
- Determine your substitutions ahead of the game start, you may adjust this, but your goal is to get everyone at least an inning in the field and one at bat. We recommend making substitutions approximately half way through the game
- *Second games on Sundays:* Players who started out during the first game on Sunday, should start the next game if possible. This does not apply to pitcher and catchers (when used as a strategy to get them rest) given the amount of involvement they have while in the game

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Communications with Parents:

In general, the Head Coach is the primary communication with team parents and players. Below are the expectations for communicating with parents.

- Host a parent meeting at the beginning of the season to explain your coaching approach and what parents and players can expect for practices and games
- Communicate team budget and player fees prior to collecting checks
- Communicate your expectations for practices and tournaments (i.e., attendance, arrival time, prompt player pick up, etc.)
- Ensure parents have a clear understanding of practice dates at least a few weeks in advance and have dates for all tournaments (even if tentative) shortly after the start of each season
- Address any concerns with playing time or positions in a respectful manner. Ensure you are able to justify your decisions based on effort, attitude and performance (refer to the organization's *Playing Strategy*, detailed above, when applicable)

Budgets, Equipment, Insurance and Fields:

The head coach will work with the organization to develop an approved budget. Our goal is to keep player fees as low as possible, while still providing a reasonable number of practices and tournaments. The Treasurer will provide the head coach the team budget balance monthly.

Insurance:

The organization will be the team's registration administrator and will be responsible for adding players and arranging team insurance.

Equipment and Player Gear:

Equipment purchases will be through the organization, unless agreed upon, and receipts will be provided for reimbursement as part of the approved budget. Equipment will be the property of Diablo Diamonds, but will be under the care of the team's coaches. The head coach will work with the organization on uniforms, practice shirts and other player gear.

Fields:

Field time will be set up between the head coach and the organization.

Tournaments:

Tournament entry will be arranged by the head coach. Payments will be made by the organization, unless otherwise confirmed and approved ahead of time.

Website Updates:

- The head coach will work with the organization on updates to the Diablo Diamonds website for team information and updates

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Documentation:

The head coach should have the following on-hand at every practice and game:

- Emergency contact info
- Signed Waivers
- Copies of insurance
- Copy of approved team roster
- Copies of COVID required tracking worksheets - these should be completed before each practice or game if stated in the field permits

Volunteer Agreement:

- As a coach volunteer you accept and will follow these organization expectations
- You acknowledge that you are volunteering your time and effort as coach (no compensation)
- You acknowledge that if, for some reason, you are not able to fulfill these expectations the organization can remove you as a coach volunteer
- You will complete necessary certification training
- You have read Diablo Diamonds Prevention Policies (MAAPP) and agree to follow them

By signing this document I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the expectations and terms discussed in this document.

Signature _____ Team _____ Date _____