

RECREATIONAL & TRAVEL PLAYER & PARENT HANDBOOK



DIAMONDS
fast pitch softball

WEST BOCA RATON SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC

MARCH 2011

West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

League Parents and Players:

Hello and welcome to the Recreational and Travel Fastpitch softball season. This is our fourteenth season of fastpitch softball in West Boca. Last year was a great success and we anticipate that this year will be even better.

This Handbook explains to you, the parents and players in our League, what is expected of League parents and players and provides you with some information about the League. Included in this Handbook is a map of the fields and important information related to the League. We also have attached the **Players and Parents Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy** that every player and parent in the League every player and parent in the League agrees to comply with this code upon submitting their registration form.

Let us remember that the game is for the girls. Let them learn, play, and enjoy the practices and games. Let the umpires call the games and the coaches and managers work with the girls. If you see something you don't like, please talk with the coach or a Board member. Remember that all of us are volunteers and are trying to do our best to make sure the girls learn the sport and have fun doing so. As volunteers, we enjoy working together to make the League a place where all players can pursue their interest in Fastpitch softball. However, we do all have full-time jobs and families too. We will do our best to address your concerns in a timely manner.

As we continue to grow in the number of players in the League, the need for assistance grows as well. If you are interested in helping us out, please visit our website at: www.westbocadiamonds.com. At this site, you will find a wealth of information including season schedules, photographs, Board member e-mail addresses, and helpful links to our sponsors and other resources. Check it out; we think you will find it useful. This Handbook also provides details about our **eAlerts®** notification system. This is a very easy way to stay up-to-date on field conditions and last-minute changes to schedules. Subscription to the service is required. Please sign up for **eAlerts®** to make sure you have the latest information on League activities.

Again, this season we will have our concession stand open during games and possibly during our practices. We will need your help running the stand, and all teams must provide at least one parent to work during their daughter's game. Team parents who volunteer to work the concession stand will still be able to watch their daughters play as we will have your team playing on the two fields that are visible from the concession stand. The proceeds from the concession stand allow us to keep registration fees down and to continue to improve our facilities. When your team manager asks for volunteers for the concession stand, please step forward and help us out. THANKS!

We appreciate your interest and participation in the West Boca Diamonds Fastpitch Softball League. We are looking forward to our most successful season ever.

Jeanine Polimeni, League President

Dave Mulroy, VP of Travel



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Softball Fields At South County Regional Park | 4 |
| eAlerts Messaging System | 4 |
| Important Game & Practice Information | 5 |
| Equipment | 6 |
| General Recreational League Rules..... | 7 |
| 8U Recreational Rules..... | 7 |
| 10U Recreational Rules..... | 9 |
| 16U Recreational Rules..... | 9 |
| Travel Team Rules..... | 10 |
| Application To Manage / Coach WBRSA Travel Softball | 13 |
| Coach's Code Of Ethics | 14 |
| Volunteer Application..... | 15 |
| Athletes / Parents Code Of Conduct & Discipline Policy..... | 16 |
| Code Of Conduct Signature Page | 20 |



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

SOFTBALL FIELDS AT SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL PARK



eAlerts MESSAGING SYSTEM

WBRSA Enlists *eAlerts*® for Up-to-the-Minute Field Status Information and League News

WBRSA announces that it has registered with *eAlerts*® for real-time notification of field status, recreation and travel team updates, and League news. Simply go to the web site at <http://westbocadiamonds.ealert.com>, and register your telephone number (text messages); email; PDA or other two way communication unit and receive notifications & updates as they are posted. WBRSA will post an "alert" if, for example, the fields are closed because of rain, and *eAlerts*® will send a text message, or email to all those registered at the West Boca Diamonds link. **Please sign up for League News and the other categories of interest to you.** This will save countless telephone calls to individuals by the WBRSA Board of Directors and Coaches. Subscription to the service is required. Please note that the system is limited to two (2) e-mail addresses and one (1) cell number per subscriber. If necessary, log in a second time and add other contact information.

The service is free to subscribers so please help us to make communication smooth and efficient. Sign up now and be a part of this important notification system!



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

IMPORTANT GAME & PRACTICE INFORMATION

- **Players should be at the field at least 15 minutes before a practice and at least 30 minutes before a game.** We want to make sure that the players have sufficient time to warm up before a practice or game and that the coach has enough time to make a line-up before the game starts.
- Every **on-field** coach and assistant must have a background check performed each calendar year before being allowed on the field. The Volunteer Form is included in this Handbook and also available on the League's website at www.westbocadiamonds.com. The League will pay for up to three (3) background checks per team. Additional background checks can be conducted for \$10 each, to be paid by the applicant.
- If your daughter is **not able to make a practice or game**, **please let her coach know as soon as possible.** You will receive contact information for your daughter's coaches during the first week of the season.
- Players are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind, including necklaces, bracelets, earrings, etc.
- Remember that we are playing in South Florida and while it might feel comfortable at the house, the conditions at the field may be hotter or colder than expected. Please have your player dress accordingly.
- Games and practices will continue in the rain at the discretion of the coaches and umpires. Play is halted if lightning is in the area or if the field becomes unplayable.
- **Sunscreen is important and should be applied before coming to the park. Make sure your player has plenty of water or sports drinks (available at the concession stand) for practice and games. These items are as important as their bat, glove, and helmet.**
- All batters must wear a protective helmet with face cage. WBRSA also suggests that all players wear shin guards. All pitchers in the younger (10U and younger) divisions **MUST** wear a protective face mask while pitching and older divisions are strongly encouraged to protect their pitchers as well.
- **Every team** must provide volunteers to work the concession stand. Concession stand volunteers will be able to see the field their daughter is playing on, so you can help with the stand and still support your daughter.
- Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of his/her players. Subject to the umpire's discretion, parents exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct may be asked to leave the playing area. Failure to control parents' behavior may result in ejection of the head coach.
- No smoking, alcohol, or dogs (other than service animals) are permitted at the fields in compliance with Palm Beach County regulations.
- Your daughter's coach will talk with you and your player about the equipment needed for the season. Please talk with the parents from the older divisions, other coaches, or a Board member if you have any questions regarding equipment.
- Cleats are highly recommended for all players. Soccer cleats are acceptable for softball (although the reverse is not generally true due to the softball shoe's extra front cleat).



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

EQUIPMENT

- **Choosing the Right Helmet** – A helmet is an important part of every player's equipment and should fit snugly on the head. There are several styles available in the local sporting goods stores that allow long hair to be pulled through the back. Cushion, snug fit, comfortable cushioning, and secure face protector (cage) is important. All batting helmets must bear the official NOCSAE stamp to assure that it complies with the latest safety standards.
- **Choosing the Right Bat** – A great bat will not turn a poor hitter into a great hitter. If the player's hitting mechanics are all wrong, no bat will help. When choosing a bat, a number of factors must be taken into account. These are the size/strength of the player, the level of skill, the type of bat (material), the bat weight, bat length, and barrel size. According to CoachSoftball.com, for young players, especially new inexperienced, we advise that the lighter the bat the better. Players need to be able to generate enough bat speed to effectively hit the ball. So it's that much more important that a young, less-experienced player have a light enough bat to swing with enough bat speed to hit the ball.
- **Choosing the Right Glove** – The most important piece of equipment is the glove. A glove can have a big effect on a player's performance. According to CoachSoftball.com, the key to a glove is control. The player should be able to move the glove quickly to the ball, which requires a glove that's not too big and heavy for the player. Even more importantly, the player must be able to close the glove with her hand, so that the ball does not fall out. This requires a glove that is soft and "broken-in" enough so that the player can close the glove and 'squeeze' the ball. The new, pre-oiled gloves are usually excellent for Tee Ballers, as they are soft and require little or no break-in. As much as you want to buy the best for your daughter, avoid the expensive, stiff gloves for players under 10.
- **Breaking-in the Glove** - One of the easiest and most effect method to break in a glove according to CoachSoftball.com is from Rawlings. Commercially available 'kits' can be purchased at most sporting goods stores. **Rawlings' "master glove designer" recommends:**
 1. Press a small amount of shaving cream with lanoline on a clean, dry cloth and carefully work the cream around the outer shell, palm, and back. A light coating is all that is necessary. This will lubricate the leather fibers.
 2. Allow the cream to dry thoroughly for 12 to 24 hours.
 3. Wipe off the glove and play catch for 10 to 15 minutes, or 50 to 70 throws. This stretches and conforms the glove to your hand and speeds the break-in process
 4. Position a ball in the pocket and tie the glove closed for a few days with a string or rubber band around the outer perimeter.
 5. As the glove starts to break in, pour a small amount of glove oil on a clean, dry cloth, and carefully work the oil around the outer shell, palm, and back. A light coating is all that's needed.
 6. Allow the glove to dry thoroughly for 24 hours so the oil has time to penetrate and condition the leather.
 7. Store the glove in a cool, dry place with a ball in the pocket when not in use.
 8. Laces will stretch with use. Keep laces taut but do not over tighten them. Check for replacement if necessary after each season.
 9. Do not over oil your glove! Twice a season is sufficient!



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

GENERAL RECREATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

- The intent of the recreational program is to provide a competitive, yet instructional atmosphere for the players. These rules are provided as guidance to coaches and parents in order to provide a safe experience for the players.
- Home team is responsible for lining the fields.
- A recreational team is allowed to use substitute players from another team if they are short of players. Substitute players, not on the official league roster for a team, must play the outfield and bat last in the line-up.
- Every **on-field** coach and assistant must have a background check performed each calendar year before being allowed on the field. The Volunteer Form is included in this Handbook and also available on the League's website at www.westbocadiamonds.com. The League will pay for up to three (3) background checks per team. Additional background checks can be conducted for \$10 each, to be paid by the applicant.
- Players are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind, including necklaces, bracelets, earrings, etc.
- If there is a conflict during a game which needs further review than just the field umpire. Dave Mulroy shall serve as the League's Umpire In Charge (UIC). Respectfully request that the field umpire stop the game clock, and request Dave's assistance. In the event Dave is not available, Chris Polimeni will serve as UIC.
- **All games will be played on a one hour and 15 minute schedule.** No new inning will start after one hour and five minutes for the 8U and 10U Divisions; or one hour and ten minutes for the 16U Division. The field umpire shall maintain the official clock on which game time is defined.
- Score Keeping:
 - Keep the book for your own team.
 - Track the number of runs by the other team.
 - Scorekeepers should compare score after each inning.
 - After teams agree on scores, home team emails final score to: information@westbocadiamonds.com

8U RECREATIONAL RULES

GAMES:

- Coach pitchers and defensive coaches must survey the field before every pitch to make sure that players are prepared to react to a batted ball. This is not intended to slow the game, but to ensure that player safety is the foremost consideration during the game.
- Games are 3 or 4 full innings depending on time.
- Each team bats 3 or 4 times regardless of score. If home team is ahead, they still get their last at bat.
- If there are no other games scheduled on your field, the games will be allowed to run for one hour and 30 minutes. If there is a game scheduled after yours, a strict schedule of one hour and 15 minutes will be maintained. No new inning will start after 1 hour and 5 minutes for the 8U Division.

OFFENSE:

- All players will bat every inning. (If team A has 12 girls & team B has 10, team B still bats 12. The 1st inning, batters 1+2 hit twice, 2nd inning, batter 3+4 bat twice, etc.).



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

- Each batter will receive 5 pitches. If the last pitch is hit foul, she will get only one more pitch, which she must put in play, otherwise, she will be declared out on strikes.
- When 3 outs are recorded, the bases will be cleared.
- All runs scored in the inning will count.
- Last batter of inning, runners and batter keep running until any runner is forced out on base, tagged out, or ball is at home plate.
- Runners may leave the base when the pitched ball crosses the plate.
- If players run too far (3 ft. or more) out of base line, they're out. (Called by coach pitcher).
- One base on overthrows, except to 2nd (all you can get, ball is in play).
- Girls can be tagged out if they overrun 2nd or 3rd base (and are not pushed).
- 1st and 3rd base coaches call outs at their base. Pitcher calls outs at 2nd base and home and on the base paths (tag outs, running out of base line, etc.).
- Catcher for the next inning must have pinch runner to get gear on in order to speed up the game.

DEFENSE:

- The infield will consist of a player at catcher, 3rd base, shortstop, 2nd base, 1st base and one pitcher. These players will maintain their defensive position until the batter contacts the ball. Coaches are not allowed to 'slide' infielders up in their position (closer to home) in anticipation of a less skilled batter. After the batter makes contact, defensive play is allowed and the players can move throughout the infield as needed to make the play.
- Outfielders must be in "normal" outfield positions, behind bases.
- Players must rotate positions each inning and are not allowed to play the same position twice in a game
- The girl pitcher must have one foot inside the circle and be in the back half of the circle (i.e.: no closer than the pitching rubber).
- Coach pitcher should have both feet in the circle when they start pitching, and should finish with one foot inside the circle after the pitch. Early in the season, a coach pitcher may move closer to the batter in order to throw a hittable ball. As the season progresses, coaches are encouraged to start their pitch from within the circle in order to comply with the intent of this rule which is to allow the batter to become accustomed to having the ball pitched from the pitcher's mound.
- Players DO have to tag a girl on a NON FORCE out at a base (normal softball rules)
- Timeout can be called when any player has the ball in front of the lead runner – or – If the girl pitcher has the ball in the circle (should call timeout, but doesn't have to).
- If the runner is half way, or more, to the next base when time is called, they can advance to the next base. (Coach pitcher to make the call.)
- On defense, two coaches can be in the outfield with the girls.



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

10U RECREATIONAL RULES

WBRSA follows basic ASA Rules for 10U play. Some of the more important rules and local rules are as follows:

- Each team fields 10 girls on defense. The additional player is an outfielder.
- All girls are in the batting line up.
- Girls pitch from 35 feet and pitch until the player batting either hits the ball, strikes out or has a count that would allow a walk. There are no walks in the 10U league. When the count goes to a base on balls count, the coach of the offensive team comes in to pitch to his player. The coach is allowed to pitch enough pitches to make up the count in strikes. For example, if the count is 4-0, the coach has three pitches to pitch to his batter. If the count is 4-1, the coach has two pitches and if the count is 4-2, the coach has one pitch. If the batter fouls off the last pitch, she is allowed one more pitch from her coach. If she fouls that pitch, the batter is declared out on strikes.
- Stealing is allowed when the pitcher "releases" the ball from her hand. At that time the player can advance at their own risk.
- Five-run rule is in effect for all games, any half inning will end once the team batting has either scored 5 runs or has a 5 run lead, whichever occurs last.
- Game time is one hour and 15 minutes. No new inning will start after one hour and five minutes for the 10U Division. An inning begins at the moment the last out in the bottom of the previous inning is made. Once an inning starts, it must be finished even though time has run out unless the home team is batting and has the lead when time expires. Mercy rules are in effect for games at the three inning mark - 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4, and 8 runs after 5.
- Only one base is allowed on overthrows.
- All players will wear a protective helmet with face cage and chin strap. The helmet and face mask should bear the Official NOCSAE stamp. WBRSA also requires all players to wear shin guards in 10U division. All pitchers MUST wear a protective face mask while pitching.
- Bunting is allowed and follows ASA rules. However, there is no bunting or stealing when the coach pitches.
- If the coach who is pitching is hit by a batted ball, it is a dead ball; no pitch. If s/he is hit by a thrown ball, it is a live ball and play continues.

16U RECREATIONAL RULES

WBRSA follows basic ASA Rules for 16U play. A full set of ASA rules for the 16U Division can be found at: <http://www.azsoftball.org/misc/2006/Misc/05.softball.umpire>.

Game time is one hour and 15 minutes. No new inning will start after one hour and ten minutes for 16U Division. An inning begins at the moment the last out in the bottom of the previous inning is made. Once an inning starts, it must be finished even though time has run out unless the home team is batting and has the lead when time expires. Mercy rules are in effect for games at the three inning mark: 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4, and 8 runs after 5.



2011 Fastpitch Softball Travel Team Rules

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

TRAVEL TEAM RULES

1. West Boca Raton Softball Association is administered by a Board of Directors and is affiliated with the American Softball Association (ASA). The cut-off date for the youth age eligibility is December 31st. Whatever age the child is on December 31st of the prior year is the eligible division for the current year. Copies of birth certificates must be kept by the coaches in case of inspection. Example: A player who turns age 12 on December 31, 2010 is eligible to play on a 12 & Under travel softball team in 2011. A player who turns age 13 on January 1, 2011 is eligible to play on a 12 & Under travel softball team in 2011.
2. Travel Team divisions are comprised of the following teams:

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| 8U's | 7-8 year olds |
| 10U's | 9-10 year olds |
| 12U's | 11-12 year olds |
| 14U's | 13-14 year olds |
| 16U's | 15-16 year olds |
3. Managers of Travel Teams will be approved by the Board of Directors. Any person who wishes to apply for a Travel Team Manager position must submit an application to the Board of Directors expressing his or her interest and qualifications. An application is attached to this Handbook. This application must be submitted and approved before a manager can have any leadership involvement with a team. There will only be one (1) Manager per travel team.
4. An open tryout for all recreation League and outside players will be used to evaluate players for the Travel Teams. Further evaluations for the Travel Teams will be conducted by the travel managers/coaches during the recreation league season.
5. All Travel players and parents must sign the *Athletes and Parents Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy* attached at the back of this handbook. Travel players will not be allowed to participate in games until a completed agreement is returned to the Board. This agreement is based on the calendar year and shall be updated on an annual basis beginning in January or when the player is accepted on a Travel team if after January.
6. If there is more than one team in an age division within the Travel Program, the "A" Team Manager will have the opportunity to pick his/her players first from the available eligible players. To qualify as an "A" team, the team must compete in the "A" Division of the NSA, and be considered a candidate for a State/National Title.
7. If there is more than one team in an age division within the Travel Program, and no team will compete within the "A" division, the following rules will apply:
 - a). Travel teams must have competitive pitching. The number of travel teams within an age group will be determined by competitive pitching.
 - b). Travel teams for the 8U, 10U, and 12U divisions will be selected by the following method: Team One will consist of the oldest players within the age division (minimum of 70%). Team Two will consist of the youngest players within the age division (minimum of 70%). If the age division can support a third team, the third team Manager may select any players within the age division after Team One and Team



2011 Fastpitch Softball Travel Team Rules

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

Two have completed their team selections.

- c). If only one (1) team can be supported in any age division, then the top players, regardless of age, will be selected for that team. If during the travel season, enough players express interest to form a second team, then the team will be made up of those players. Competitive pitching should be a priority.
 - d). Travel teams for the 14U and 16U division will be selected by the following method. The manager of Team One will have the first opportunity to select players for Team One within the respective age division. The manager of Team Two will then have the opportunity to select players for Team Two within the respective age division. Team Two must have competitive pitching.
8. The Travel Team Manager will submit for the approval of the Board of Directors a list of names with completed background check forms for the positions of:
- Coaches (maximum of 2)
 - Assistant Coaches (maximum of 2, plus 1 alternate)
 - Team Parent (maximum of 2)
 - Business Manager (1)

All adults involved with on-field activities including games and practices, must be cleared through the background process before they can be involved with the team. Background checks are based on the calendar year and shall be updated on an annual basis beginning in January or when the adult is considered for involvement with a Travel team, if after January.

9. To play for a Travel Team a player must actively participate in the WBRSA recreational softball program during at least one season (Fall or Spring) in any given calendar year:
- a). Unless the player is currently playing for a middle or high school team, is a new resident of West Boca Raton, or new to the WBRSA program.
 - b). Late signups prior to completion of recreational league season will be rated and placed on a waiting list if there is no room available on a recreation team. These players will be eligible to try out for a travel team.
10. WBRSA Travel Teams must be comprised of a minimum of 70% of players who play in the WBRSA recreational league or are exempt as described in Section 9.a. Travel Managers may apply to the Board of Directors for variances from this minimum. This decision will be based on the competitiveness of the Travel Team.
11. Tournament Teams will play under the rules in effect at the tournament in which they are participating. However, WBRSA safety rules (as established by the Board of Directors) will remain in effect throughout the Travel season.
12. Players must play in their respective age divisions unless approved by the Board of Directors. Each player will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
13. Travel Teams are self-supporting. It is the responsibility of the Manager to raise funds to support the expenses incurred by the Travel Team. It is not the responsibility of WBRSA to fund Travel Teams, but the League may choose to support the Travel Teams for the



2011 Fastpitch Softball Travel Team Rules

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

benefit of the League.

14. As soon as a Travel Team is formed the Manager must present a proposed budget for the following:
 - a). Tournament entry fees and sanctions;
 - b). Outside and specialized coaching;
 - c). Equipment;
 - d). Travel expenses including rooms, meals etc.;
 - e). An outline for fundraising activities and the financial commitment from each family.

All corporate sponsorships pursued must be coordinated through the Vice President of Travel. Dispersal of funds raised will be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. All funds must be deposited in the WBRSA Travel Account. Fund requests will be made to the WBRSA Treasurer.

15. The primary method of communication for Travels teams will be through the *eAlert* messaging system. Subscription to the service is required for all participants in the Travel program. Details on subscription procedures is provided on Page 5 of this Handbook.
16. Once selected on a Travel Team, a player who quits for other than medical reasons (certified by a doctor) prior to the completion of her team's travel Fall or Spring season, will not be eligible to participate in any WBRSA Travel Team until after the next travel season. If the player leaves during the Spring season, they will not be allowed to play during the Fall season of that year. Similarly, if they quit the team during the Fall season, they will not be eligible to return to Travel team play until after the following Spring season. The manager must submit a detailed statement to the Board for review in cases where there are siblings involved. Appeals may be submitted to the Board of Directors.
17. Travel Teams report directly to the Vice President of Travel Programs, which reports to the Board of Directors. **ALL** issues, concerns and complaints should be handled internally, within the team itself. If a resolution cannot be reached within the team, then it will be brought to the attention of the Vice President of Travel so that it may be handled in an appropriate manner. Any action by a Manager, Coach, player or parent that is deemed detrimental to the team or the WBRSA Travel program will lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the team and the Travel program. All situations will be handled on a case by case basis. Each case will be brought to the attention of the WBRSA Board of Directors and a final decision will be made by the Board.
18. All Managers, Coaches, parents, and players must abide by WBRSA League rules, the Code of Conduct, and Coach's Code of Ethics. Violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action up to and including the removal of personnel from the Travel program.



2011 Fastpitch Softball Travel Team Rules

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

APPLICATION TO MANAGE / COACH WBRSA TRAVEL SOFTBALL

All information must be completed. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Address: _____ City: _____, FL Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Business Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Employer: _____

E-Mail: _____

QUALIFICATIONS

PERSONAL REFERENCES

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone No: (____) _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone No: (____) _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone No: (____) _____

I have read and understand the WBRSA Travel Rules and agree to follow these rules and the Coach's Code of Ethics. I understand that a background investigation will be performed to ensure the integrity of the Team and the League.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

COACH'S CODE OF ETHICS

THIS CODE OF ETHICS IS APPLICABLE TO ALL RECREATIONAL AND TRAVEL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

COMMITMENT TO THE PLAYERS

1. Coaches shall put the welfare of their athletes above all else while maintaining professional relationships with them. The use of profanity is not acceptable behavior.
2. All games shall be conducted within the letter and intent of the rules of fastpitch softball.
3. Coaches shall always remember that their players are student-athletes and not make demands upon them that will be detrimental to their academic goals or that compromise their academic pursuits.
4. Coaches shall encourage the athletes to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
5. Coaches shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, or qualified handicap or disability.
6. Coaches shall follow the organization and national governing body rules, and state and local laws, regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco use.
7. Coaches shall follow all local and state laws and statutes, thus setting a good example for the players.

COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM

1. Coaches shall behave in a way that shall bring credit to the program and to themselves.
2. Coaches shall exhibit professionalism in their actions, words, and attire.
3. Coaches shall act in full accordance with the program, national governing body, and sanctioning body rules.
4. Coaches shall report any violations of law, any violation of program rules or the appearance of coach misconduct to the Board of Directors.

COMMITMENT TO OTHER COACHES

1. Coaches have an obligation to be honest and forthright with other coaches in the program.
2. Coaches shall treat their colleagues with dignity and respect. The use of profanity is not acceptable behavior.
3. Coaches must refrain from making derogatory remarks about another coach or program.

COMMITMENT TO UMPIRES

1. All game umpires shall be treated in a professional and respectable manner at all times.
2. Any displeasure with an umpire's actions or conduct shall be addressed through the proper channels and not through public opinion or demonstration.
3. All coaches should strive to develop positive working relationships with the umpires.



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION



Volunteer Application

Use extra paper to complete if additional space is required



A copy of valid government issued photo identification must be attached to complete this application

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Business Phone _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Occupation _____ Social Security # _____
 Employer _____
 Address _____

Special professional training, skills, hobbies: _____
 Community affiliations (Clubs, Service Organizations, etc.) _____
 Previous volunteer experience (including baseball/softball and year): _____

Do you have children in the program? Yes No
 If yes, at what level? _____
 Special Certification (i.e. CPR, Medical, etc.): _____
 Do you have a valid driver's license: Yes No
 Driver's License#: _____ State _____
 Have you ever been convicted of or plead guilty to any crime(s): Yes No
 If yes, describe each in full: _____

Have you ever been refused participation in any other youth programs? Yes No
 If yes, explain: _____
 In which of the following would you like to participate? (Check one or more.)
 League Official Coach Umpire Field Maintenance
 Manager Scorekeeper Concession Stand Other

Please list three references, at least one of which has knowledge of your participation as a volunteer in a youth program:

Name _____ Phone _____

As a condition of volunteering, I give permission for the organization to conduct a background check on me, which may include a review of sex offender registries, child abuse and criminal history records. I understand that, if appointed, my position is conditional upon the league receiving no inappropriate information on my background. Thereby release and agree to hold harmless from liability the local organization, the officers, employees and volunteers thereof, or any other person or organization that may provide such information. I also understand that, regardless of previous appointments, the organization is not obligated to appoint me to a volunteer position. If appointed, I understand that, prior to the expiration of my term, I am subject to suspension by the President and removal by the Board of Directors for violation of policies or principles.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____
 Applicant Name (please print or type) _____
 Applicant E-Mail Address _____

Local League Use Only:

Background check complete by league officer _____
 on _____

System(s) used for background check (minimum of one must be checked):
 Sex Offender Registry Criminal History Records

Only attach to this application copies of background check reports that reveal convictions of this applicant.



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

ATHLETES / PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE POLICY

ALL RECREATIONAL PLAYERS AND PARENTS AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THEIR REGISTRATION FORM. TRAVEL PLAYERS AND PARENTS MUST SIGN AND RETURN TO THEIR COACH

West Boca Raton Softball Association requires all athletes and parents to demonstrate good moral conduct and ethical judgment which reflects favorably upon the West Boca Diamonds Recreational and Travel softball program. Athletes and parents are subject to the Regulations and Penalties as stated in this Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy, as well as federal, state, and local laws. In personal development, as well as athletic development, the athlete herself plays a critical role. She must understand and respect her relationship with, and her commitment to, the team, as a member of the team and of the program. The athlete must recognize that to achieve complete success, she should respect both the values and goals of West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch Softball and strive to achieve those standards. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their behavior re-enforces these standards. The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid the athlete, with the re-enforcement of the parent, in achieving a level of behavior, which will allow her to become a well-rounded, self-confident, and productive human being.

Athletes have a responsibility...

- to treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
- to display high personal standards and project a favorable image of their sport.
- to abstain from the possession or consumption of cigarettes or tobacco products.
- to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages or from using performance enhancing or mind altering drugs.
- to refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or other offensive language.
- to follow the training regimens, competitive programs, and team rules as mutually agreed upon by coaches and athletes.
- to regularly seek ways of increasing your athletic development and self-awareness.
- to uphold the sport's rules and spirit of the rules, and encourage others to do so.
- to treat opponents and officials with due respect both in victory and defeat, and to encourage other athletes to act accordingly.
- to be aware of the role sport plays in all athletes' lives and respect the pressures that may be placed on yourself and other athletes as you strive to balance physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual elements of your lives.



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

Athletes must...

- respect and obey the laws of federal, state, and local jurisdictions.
- report at all times individuals who may request sexual favors, who make lewd sexual advances, or who use threats of reprisal for rejections.
- act in a manner that ensures the safety of athletes, coaches, and officials in the game.
- respect other athletes' dignity; verbal or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are not acceptable.
- never use, or advocate or condone the use of, tobacco or tobacco products, drugs or other banned performance-enhancing substances.
- never conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, such as physically or verbally abusing an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator, or use profanity, vulgarity, taunts, ridicules, or obscene gestures.
- respect the property and rights of others.
- obey team rules and instructions from her coaches, within the guidelines of this code, and treat her coaches and teammates with respect.
- accept that they are role models for younger girls in the program who want to follow in their footsteps.
- realize that their actions, when representing the program either during games and tournaments effect the reputation of their coaches and the overall program.

Parents have a responsibility...

- to treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
- to display high personal standards and project a favorable image of the sport that their daughter is playing.
- to refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or other offensive language.
- to support the training regimens, competitive programs, and team rules as agreed upon by coaches and athletes.
- to regularly seek ways of increasing your daughter's athletic development and self-awareness.
- to uphold the sport's rules and spirit of the rules, and encourage others to do so.
- to treat opponents and officials with due respect both in victory and defeat, and to encourage other parents and athletes to act accordingly.
- to be aware of the role sports play in your daughter's life and show consideration for the pressures that may be placed on her and other athletes as they strive to balance physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual elements of their lives.



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

- discuss any problems or concerns with their daughter's coach and, if no resolution is achieved, contact a member of the Board of Directors for assistance.

Parents must...

- respect and obey the laws of federal, state, and local jurisdictions.
- register with **eAlerts®** for up-to-date notification at <http://westbocadiamonds.ealert.com>. Please sign up for **League News** and the other categories of interest to you.
- Allow the coaching staff to communicate with the players during games and practices without conflicting direction coming from the stands. Parental support is encouraged, but parental coaching during games, is confusing to the players.
- report at all times individuals who may request sexual favors, who make lewd sexual advances, or who use threats of reprisal for rejections upon an athlete.
- act in a manner that ensures the safety of athletes, coaches, and officials in the game.
- respect other parents' and athletes' dignity; verbal or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are not acceptable.
- never use, or advocate or condone the use of, drugs or other banned performance-enhancing substances.
- never conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner, such as physically or verbally abusing an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator, or use profanity, vulgarity, taunts, ridicules, or obscene gestures.
- respect the property and rights of others.
- remain at the park during all practices and games, in case of accident or injury involving their daughter.
- obey team rules and instructions from team coaches, within the guidelines of this code, and treat all coaches and athletes with respect.
- accept that they are role models for their daughters.
- realize that their actions, when representing the program either during games and tournaments effect the reputation of the players, coaches and the overall program.

Consequences and Penalties

Failure to live up to the Code of Conduct, whether it be by the athlete or parent, may result in one of the following sanctions being imposed by the Team Manager and/or the Board of Directors upon the athlete:

- a) Suspension from the team - the suspension imposed may range anywhere from one game or practice to one or more games or weeks, depending upon the severity of the misconduct and the surrounding circumstances.
- b) Dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.
- c) Permanent dismissal from the league.



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

ALL RECREATIONAL PLAYERS AND PARENTS AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THEIR REGISTRATION FORM.

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ONCE EACH CALENDAR YEAR FOR TRAVEL PLAYERS AND IS REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TRAVEL PROGRAM

PLAYERS WHO DO NOT SUBMIT THE SIGNED CODE OF CONDUCT FORM WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PLAY



West Boca Diamonds Girls Fastpitch

West Boca Raton Softball Association, Inc.

CODE OF CONDUCT SIGNATURE PAGE

ALL RECREATIONAL PLAYERS AND PARENTS AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THEIR REGISTRATION FORM. TRAVEL PLAYERS AND PARENTS MUST SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THEIR COACH ONCE PER CALENDAR YEAR.

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in the Athletes and Parents Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy.

Name of Athlete: _____

Signature of Athlete: _____

Date: _____

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in the Athletes and Parents Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy. I will strive to show consideration for the pressures that may be placed on my daughter and other athletes as they strive to balance physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual elements of their lives.

Name of Parent(s): _____ / _____

Signature of Parent(s): _____ / _____

Date: _____

**SIGN AND RETURN TO YOUR DAUGHTER'S COACH.
PLAYERS WHO DO NOT SUBMIT THIS SIGNED FORM WILL NOT BE
PERMITTED TO PLAY.**

