



## BSSA ELITE FASHPITCH SOFTBALL

### OPERATING PROCEDURES

### 2018-2019 SOFTBALL SEASON

The following outline is intended to summarize all pertinent issues so that you have a clear understanding about what Bellevue Shockers Softball Association (BSSA) expects of you and what you, in turn, can expect from BSSA. The rules set forth in the outline represent the guiding philosophies and procedures by which BSSA is managed.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. **Costs:** Each player is required to pay \$1100.00 (C level teams) and \$1100 (A/B level teams) registration fee for Shocker Black and Shocker Purple teams. A \$300.00 **NON REFUNDABLE** deposit is required within 7 days of your acceptance of a roster spot. If not paid within the 7 day period, your daughter's roster spot will be given to another player. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This fee as well as all the registration documents will be filled out at designated registration times. Date and times will be posted on the web site and/or communicated by email to each email address given.
- B. The remainder of the registration fee is due as follows:
  - a. A/C Level Teams: September 1, 2018 (\$266.66), November 1, 2018 (\$266.66), and January 1, 2018 (\$266.67)
  - b. C Level Teams - September 1, 2018 (\$266.66), November 1, 2018 (\$266.66), and January 1, 2018 (\$266.67)
- C. Failure to pay by the above dates will incur a **late fee of \$25.00** and your player being suspended from all team activities until payments are caught up. If arrangements have been made with the treasurer before the due dates, all you need to do is abide by your agreement. Consequences will be the same for failing to make a scheduled payment.

- D. If you should decide to leave the organization after payment(s) have been made for any reason other than injury or moving out of state, you will forfeit all monies paid to the organization. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS OF YOUR COMMITMENT OR REGISTRATION FEES. If some unseen reason makes it impossible for her to continue, outside of her control, the following refund policy will be used for the participation fee less the commitment fee. \*If a player is removed from their

January 1, 2019 = 50 %

February 1, 2019 = 25%

March 1, 2019 = 0%

NOTE: **BAD CHECK FEES ARE \$25.00** PER OCCURRENCE and your daughter will be suspended from all team activities until all fees are paid and your account is up to date.

- E. **FUNDRAISING:** The organization may conduct one or more fundraisers throughout the year, such as a chili or pancake feed, golf tournament, Shockers Night Out at local restaurants. Each family will be required to help make our fundraisers successful; details will be published separately. The money we raise from these fundraisers will go towards the Shocker Scholarship Fund, Equipment Fund and operational expenses. Individual teams may also do fundraisers if the coaches and parents decide to do so. Teams are responsible for making sure any funds donated are spent appropriately as advertised to donors by the end of the season. Any unused fundraising dollars at the end of the season will transfer to the general operating fund.

**We also participate in the Kroger's (Baker's) Card Program, Amazon Smiles, TAGG and Buffalo Wild Wings (Team B – Bellevue location only) – please check into participating in these programs with us and help us earn money for our general fund to cover some overhead costs low and keep fees low.**

- F. **SCHOLARSHIPS:** All graduating seniors who played for the Shockers for at least two years are eligible to apply for a, one time, \$250 scholarship. The check will be made out their secondary school of choice. Players who leave the organization under their own power will forfeit their eligibility for the scholarship. All seniors who want a scholarship must apply. Forms are on the website. A committee of 3 will review all applications and determine the recipients.
- G. **TRAVEL:** Each family is responsible for transportation of their daughter(s) to and from all team activities, including but not limited to Practices – Games – Tournaments - Out of town tournaments. Additionally, when your daughter plays out of town, each family is responsible for all meals, incidentals and housing. If you cannot accompany your daughter to an out of town tournament, it is your responsibility to arrange with another family to house, feed and transport your daughter.
- H. **EQUIPMENT:** Each player is required to provide her own proper glove, cleats, slider shorts and black practice pants. Each team will be provided with regulation balls and catcher's gear. It is a BSSA requirement that your daughter wears a mouth guard during all softball activities.

- I. **PARTICIPATION:** Your daughter will not be allowed to play for another Select Softball organization/team while her team is still competing. Any player caught playing for another organization/team will be removed from her team's roster and the organization as well with no refund.
  
- J. **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Our goal is to ensure participation in social media (i.e.; Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) that involves BSSA is conducted with respect, and safeguards confidential information of our participants.
  - 1. Postings should not disclose any information that is confidential or disclose information pertaining to individuals, volunteer parent or children.
  - 2. Postings will not contain negative comments or pictures regarding any aspect of BSSA. This includes but is not limited to coaching, officiating, parents, staff or participants.
  - 3. Comments that are posted that can be construed as harassment or bullying will not be tolerated.
  
- K. **CONDUCT:** Any family member that knowingly contributes to the disarray or chaos within a team, the player of the offending family will be removed from the team immediately. This offense can be by email or verbal conversations with other families and cannot be tolerated. All parents, guardians and players are required to sign a code of conduct form.

## **II. PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN FIELD ACTIVITIES, SCHEDULING AND DISSEMINATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

- A. Parents are ENCOURAGED to attend practices and games. Coaches may call upon parents in attendance to help with practice drills, score keeping, etc. Coaching responsibilities are however, left to the officially designated coaches only. Challenging the authority of a coach will not be tolerated, which includes coaching your daughter during games. Violation of this rule will lead to your daughter's dismissal from the organization.
  
- B. We want BSSA to be known as an organization with great integrity, sportsmanship and high principles. Toward that end, we ask those parents, other relatives or friends attending games to refrain from ridiculing or otherwise abusing umpires, opposing coaches, players, fans and of course our own coaches in anyway. We want to set a good example for our players. Fans who complain about questionable coaching and umpiring calls or rulings are a distraction to our coaches, players and other fans. Such behavior does not project the image we desire. This guideline shall be strictly enforced, first by the coaches of each respective team and then, if necessary by any board of director. To this end each coach has the authority and the responsibility to warn any parent or fan to leave the park if such behavior persists. If parent or fan disregards this direction, it will result in the suspension of the player whom the parent or fan is associated with, suspension can occur on the spot.
  
- C. To foster a healthy, family oriented spirit in the organization, parents and coaches are not to consume alcohol in the parking lot or anywhere near the players. We expect this rule to be obeyed and parents and coaches are strongly encouraged to help police any abuse, whether intentional or otherwise.
  
- D. Dissemination of Shocker Organization Information. The president will promulgate organizational updates via email on a monthly basis. If you are not receiving updates send an email to

[trod04@cox.net](mailto:trod04@cox.net) . All information that pertains to the entire organization will be disseminated via this avenue. There are always a lot of rumors started about things happening in the organization. If you hear rumors that you have not seen broadcasted via the Shocker Update, then it may not be true. Contact your coach or VP of Shockers or even the president directly for clarification.

- E. Board of directors meetings. WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARENTS TO ATTEND board of directors town hall meetings that are held twice a year. Our meetings are typically held in January and May of each year. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion about changes or compliments about the organization. Also, a lot of information is put out at these meeting and minutes are to be posted on the web site for your review.

### **III. PLAYER EXPECTATIONS**

- A. All players are expected to spring on and off the field between innings and otherwise exhibit extraordinary hustle during organized activities.
- B. Players shall not argue with coaches, umpires or other players for any reason. Respect for authority is a must.
- C. Players shall not throw anything, kick anything in disgust, or engage in other forms of conduct which could reasonably be considered embarrassing to the player team or organization. Players are expected to put up their own equipment or, if appropriate, to HAND such equipment safely to another player or coach.
- D. Players at all times adhere to the strictest interpretation of "GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP". Foul language, inappropriate body language or facial expressions, taunting or other actions, which reflect disrespect for opposing players, coaches, fans or umpires shall not occur.
- E. Players are not to wear any jewelry of any kind while in uniform or at practice and shall be appropriately groomed. Players are expected to present themselves so as not to draw attention to themselves and away from their team. Tattoos must not be visible.
- F. Shocker players shall always HELP their teammates by being positive and supportive, especially after a teammate has made a mistake or failed in some personal endeavor. Players will not criticize or demean a fellow team member for any reason.
- G. A player not adhering to the foregoing guidelines may be removed from a game and /or have her future playing time restricted at the discretion of the coach. An ongoing disregard for these guidelines may result in the player's dismissal from the team.

#### IV. COACHES EXPECTATIONS

- A. Coaches are to coach the ladies while on the field. They will provide clear direction as to when practices and games are and what the team rules are.
- B. Electronic devices, to include cell phones, Personal Digital Assistants will not be used while at practices or games as they create a distraction for the players and coaches.
- C. Coaches will have parents meetings at least twice a year to hear any concerns they might have and are also available for individual meetings, as necessary.
- D. Coaches will be coaches and not parents. Coaches will direct what time they are to be at the field between games and not dictate to families as to what they can and cannot do between games.
- E. Coaches will make every attempt to provide FAIR playing time to all members of their roster. Your daughter will play the position as what the coach dictates.
- F. Coaches will only bring or add players to their team if they do not have a player that can play said position. Catcher for a catcher, pitcher for a pitcher so on and so on.
- G. Coaches are not to be judged by the amount of wins they have, but development of the players and how well the team performs as a team. The goal of each coach is to develop players for the next level.
- H. Coaches will not pull players out of the game for one error. If a timeout is called and you are making a pitching change or a medical reason. We are not to make a spectacle of a child who is beating themselves up already.
- I. Coaches will make informed decisions about pool play lineups, Coaches are given the chance to play the top nine bats in certain situations. If a player sits a game on Saturday or Sunday, she is to start on league night and not be removed. If it was a pitcher who sat she will be moved to her secondary position if struggling in the circle. Elimination play is elimination play, teams are to play to win.
- J. Coaches will have the safety and general well-being of the players in mind at all times. Coaches will not intimidate players, embarrass them or ridicule them in public. That does not mean that your daughter will NEVER be coached in a negative manner. The emphasis will be on positive coaching. The aim of the coaches is to develop young players with sound values, competitive spirit, great work ethic and fundamental softball skills. Coaches will treat their players with respect and will not use any foul language around the players
- K. COACHES ARE ABSOLUTELY NEVER TO SWAT PLAYERS ON THE REAREND, MESSAGE SHOULDERS OR VIOLENTLY GRAB PLAYERS BY ANY PART OF THEIR ATTIRE.
- L. All coaches are required to sign a Coach's Code of Conduct

## V.     **BSSA RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Uniforms and Equipment. All teams will receive 2 jerseys, a pair of pants, and a pair of socks. You will also need to provide black practice pants. Pants and socks are available to purchase through the organization but can be purchased anywhere. Other colors of pants and socks may need to be purchased if the coach so chooses. The board of directors reserves the right to change uniforms design and color schemes, however, the colors black purple and white will always be utilized in any design.
- B. BSSA will strive to supply its teams with high quality softballs, catching equipment, fields, practice facilities and coaching.
- C. The goal is to provide the best coaching available. Head coaches will be required to attend, at least, 2 coaching clinics a year.
- D. If any parent feels a coach has violated the above guidelines or has any other concern regarding his or her daughter's team or the organization, it is imperative the parent adhere to the following procedures :
1. Speak directly to the head coach in a CIVIL manner. AWAY FROM any organized team activities. If something does upset you, you must wait a minimum of 24 hours before discussing it, so that things kept in perspective.  
Do not use E-mail or text messaging to discuss your concerns with your coaches, parents or players. Face to face conversation is preferred.  
In extreme cases if it cannot wait as you fear for your daughter's well- being call the BSSA President or other Board member, leave a brief detail of the occurrence and your name.
  2. If you feel after 24 hours the coach has not resolved the issue please contact the VP or President.
- E. There is a fine line between criticism and "second guessing" of coaches that may be considered constructive or "in fun" and that which is instead destructive or repeated often or routinely enough that it leads to dissension among parents and/or others somehow affiliated with the organization. You and those around you should know when you have "crossed" the line and we therefore ask you to carefully consider your comments before making them. If you have specific criticisms of your daughter's coach or BSSA, you should handle them in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section V, article D. A parent, who by his or her actions or comments is deemed to have "crossed " the line shall first be reprimanded and if such actions or comments nevertheless continue, the family of the offending party SHALL BE DISMISSED FROM BSSA. IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL may be warranted in cases deemed extraordinary by coaches and the BSSA Board of Directors.

## VI. PLAYING TIME/ POSITIONS

- A. Playing time is strictly a matter of the coach's discretion. There is no way to assure EQUAL playing time, fair playing time shall be strived for by all coaches.
- B. BSSA allows girls to play other high school sports or activities during the select season however; they must also be committed to their team. If a player misses practice or a game due to a high school, church or family activity, it will not be held against her as an unexcused absence. As long as it is coordinated with the head coach prior to the scheduled event. Of course, it may affect playing time as these activities are mandatory. Excessive unexcused absences will lead to the dismissal of the player from the team.
- C. If a player is participating in a high school activity, the player needs to make every effort to make softball practice upon completion of the activity. For example, if the softball team is having practice from 5-7 and your daughter's activity is over at 5:30, she is expected to be at her softball practice upon completion. If she fails to do so, it will be considered an unexcused absence.
- D. We encourage families who are planning extended summer vacations to take them as early as possible. Majority of the qualifying tournaments and regional/national events take place in June or July. Communicate with your head coach for off weekends.
- E. Tournaments and games demand a great deal of depth because of the number of games involved. Consequently, it is within the coach's discretion to add a player or players to a team's roster for a game or tournament. In this event the sub should only be used for the position brought in to play, or rotated in and out of the defensive lineup. Roster players should never sit a long period of time behind a sub unless sub is a pitcher.
- F. Playing positions. The extent to which (and frequency with which) a player is moved or not moved from one position to another is at the sole discretion of the coach. Coaches do NOT have to move players around.
- G. Shocker teams A/B Level teams will play approximately 50-65 games including both league and tournaments. C level teams will play approximately 40-55 games.
- H. Coaches will coordinate with parents/players as to what weekends fit best into their schedule and attempt to enter tournaments that offer maximum team member participation. It is possible a tournament will be scheduled on a weekend that not all players will be available. As the girls get older there are a lot of other things to consider when scheduling tournaments, such as prom, graduation, work schedules etc. etc.

*Thank you for choosing Bellevue Shockers Softball Association for your daughter's softball experience. We look forward to being a part of your family!*