

St. Ignatius Wildcats

Softball Handbook

I have received a copy of the St. Ignatius Softball Handbook. I will direct any questions I may have about it to the coordinators.

Child Name _____ Grade _____

Parent Signature _____

For 5th-8th Grade Parents

Does your child want to be considered for the %A+Team?

YES **No**

If yes, is your family willing to make the %A+Team your first extra-curricular commitment?

YES **No**

Communication of tryouts will be through email and school announcements.

Mission Statement:

As an extension of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, a Roman Catholic community, and the Saint Ignatius Athletic Association, the softball program exists to supplement the Christian Values being taught to the children of the parish through participation in softball. Through generously giving of our time and talents, we strive to make quality instruction and resources available to every child of the parish. We will provide participants a safe environment so that they can learn the sportsmanship, build self confidence, and develop respect for themselves, their teammates, coaches, parents, and officials.

Guiding Principles

- It should be self evident from our conduct that we are a Roman Catholic organization.
- Prayer is expected at all practices, games and team event.
- Provide an enjoyable, constructive outlet for our children.
- Stress fundamental, skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship
- Compete to the best of our ability and accept the results.
- Develop respect and appreciation of our God given talents and blessings.
- We will follow all rules provided by the Parish, Athletic Association, and the Girls Western Athletic Conference (GWAC).

Selection of Coach (s):

Effort will be made yearly to solicit and publicize need for coaches. This will be done at sign-ups. Based upon response and program needs, a pool of coaches will be reviewed and selected by the coordinator (s). Coordinators will do their best to find the most technically qualified and competent coaches to provide the student athletes the best possible learning experience.

While we appreciate the time commitment a coach invests, there is no guarantee that a coach will be selected to coach the following year based on previous years coaching. The criteria below will determine coach selection from year to year.

HEAD COACH and ASSISTANT COACH SELECTION:

The Coordinator (s) will make the final decision regarding coaches, based upon the criteria below:

- Completion of the required Archdiocesan Child Abuse Training and fingerprinting.
- Character and sportsmanship
- Knowledge of the sport fundamentals and rules
- Coaching experience
- Ability to communicate with children
- Time availability and dependability
- Ability to communicate with parents
- Fairness to children and the program
- Adherence to the Athletic Association policies
- Ability to follow rules

As per GWAC regulations, the children of the head coach and 1 assistant coach will be guaranteed to be on the team. Any additional coaches will be chosen after the teams have been determined.

PLAYING TIME RECOMMENDATIONS

Grade	GWAC	St. Ignatius
1-2	None	Equal as possible
3 rd /4th	Minimum of 2 Defensive innings	Minimum of 2 Defensive innings
5 th -8th	Minimum of 2 Defensive innings	Minimum of 2 Defensive innings

Playing time is at the discretion of the head coach.

TEAMS

1st/2nd – Instructional – Coach Pitch

- Grades 1-2
- All instructional
- Children are coached on positions and
- Emphasis placed on basic skills such as:
 - Throwing
 - Catching
 - Hitting
 - Base Running
- Coaches are present on the field and assist.
- Coaches pitch to their own team.
- There are no umpires . games officiated by coaches.
- SCORE IS NOT KEPT NOR IMPORTANT
- Softball is fun and coaches focus little on competition
- Every attempt is made to have players play as many positions as possible as long as it does not put any player in harms way.
- There is a continuous batting order regardless of whether the player is in the field.
- Copy of complete rule book available at gwacsports.com

Team Selection

- Players are drafted by head coaches or delegate in round robin fashion.
- Care taken to balance the number of girls from each grade on each team.

3rd/4th grade - Modified Fast Pitch

- Grades 3-4
- Players begin competitive play
- Score is kept and games are played with umpires.
- Games are 7 innings or 1 hour 10 min.
- Coaches are not permitted on the field during play
- Emphasis is placed on basic skills such as:
 - Throwing
 - Catching
 - Hitting
 - Base Running
 - Positions
 - Players are introduced to discipline (on time, prepared, responsibility to team).
- Players are expected to know roles and responsibilities as they relate to offense, defense
- Playing time is emphasized over winning and is directly commensurate with players ability to know roles, responsibilities and effort in practices and games.
- There are 10 defensive players on the field.
- There is no base stealing
- Pitchers arms may not come above parallel while pitching.
- Copy of complete rule book available at gwacsports.com

Team Selection

- Players are drafted by head coaches or delegate in round robin fashion.
- Care taken to balance the number of girls from each grade on each team.

5th/6th Grade - Fast pitch

- Grades 5 &6
- Competitive play
- Coaches **require** players to know roles and responsibilities as they relate to offense, defense.
- Coaches **require** effort and discipline

Determination of “A” and “B” Teams

- As per GWAC guidelines, if there are 2 or more teams entered from a school at a given group, at least one of the teams must be entered into the %A+or competitive division.
- If there are enough teams at an age group to have an %A+division, one of the teams must play in that division.
- If enough schools do not exist to have an %A+division, there will only be a %B+division and all %B+division rules apply.

Try-out Process

- Players graded on set of skills
 - Throwing
 - Catching
 - Hitting
 - Base Running and Speed
 - Positional Play
- Try-outs will be conducted by the co-coordinators with assistance of the coaching staffs at all grade levels.
- Final team assignments will be made by the co-coordinators.
- Any disputes with athlete placement must be discussed with the co-coordinators.

Basic Rules

- There are nine players on the field of play.
- Base stealing is allowed.
- Fast pitch motion allowed
- 7 innings or 80 minutes
- Copy of complete rule book available at gwacsports.com

7th/8th Grade - Fast pitch

- Grades 7 & 8
- Play to win
- Prepare players for high school softball

- Coaches **require** players to know roles and responsibilities as they relate to offense, defense.
- Coaches **require** effort and discipline

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- If there are enough teams at an age group to have an %A+division, one of the teams must play in that division.
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Communication You Should Expect From Your Coach

- Coach's perspective on the game of softball
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the team
- Locations and times of all practices and games
- Team requirements
- Procedure should your child be injured
- Discipline that impacts athlete's playing time or position

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate Procedures for Discussing Concerns with the Head Coach

- Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the athletic coordinator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the head coach)
- Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)
- Discussions with coaches are on an individual basis, not by committee
- Playing time discussions are asked to be scheduled according to the above criteria with a **minimum of 24hours** following the activity / game in question.

If The Meeting with the Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution

- Call to set up an appointment with the coordinator (s)
- Determine the appropriate next step at this meeting