



# **2022 Full-Time Travel Softball**

## **Player Handbook**

***General Information***

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

A program of the Glen Ellyn Park District, Phillies Travel softball is designed for players that are prepared for a higher level of competition, with a greater commitment to practice, a focus on individual development and development as a TEAM! We strive to help each player build and develop strong softball skills, while also focusing on the essential elements of character building and ethics in sports. Coaches, players and parents are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship through six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

The Phillies program requires a commitment from players, parents and coaches. For each team to reach their full potential, the entire team & program must be well coordinated and moving in the same direction (*The Phillies reserve the right to modify any guidelines, rules, regulations and procedures as deemed necessary*).

Upon reviewing and understanding this document, both player and parent need to sign, date and return a copy of the Player and Parent Responsibility Agreements to your Team Manager. In addition to the responsibility agreements, please submit a copy of your birth certificate to have on hand at tournaments.

## TEAM POLICIES

### **Schedule:**

#### **Indoor Winter Training**

January – March for 10U – 14U (non-high school teams)

January – February for 14U – 18U (high school teams) due to IHSA regulations

Winter training typically consists of (1 or 2) weekday training sessions and (1) Sunday morning practice.

#### **Outdoor Spring/Summer Practices & Games**

April (weather permitting) for 10U – 14U (non-high school teams)

Late May/June (upon completion of the high school season) for 14U – 18U (high school teams)

Season ends in mid-July, dependent on scheduling of games and tournaments by the team's coaching staff.

Season schedules will be provided by your team's coaching staff once they are finalized. If a player has prior or conflicting commitments, the player is asked to inform the head coach of such commitments as soon as the player is able.

#### **Game and Tournament Selection Philosophy & Policy**

Games, tournaments, and round robins should be scheduled within 60 miles of Glen Ellyn. One overnight tournament may be scheduled within a 300-mile radius of Glen Ellyn, allowing the tournament to be reached via a reasonable drive by parents. (All Lodging, travel, and food expense for this single overnight tournament are the responsibility of each family)

Parent questions and concerns about any games scheduled outside of these guidelines should be brought to the attention of the Travel Chair and the Girls Softball Executive Committee. It is not the intent of the program to allow teams to schedule additional tournaments, and ask or expect parents to incur additional expenses to cover registration fees, airfare, etc.

## Goals

It is a core goal of our program to help prepare each player with the knowledge and skill set to be an effective offensive contributor, and to play multiple defensive positions, in order to provide each player, the greatest opportunity to earn a starting position on their High School softball team. While playing time may vary at different positions, players are expected to exhibit a 100% effort wherever they are asked to play.

## Active Players

Individuals become an active player once the player is registered at the Glen Ellyn Park District, fees are paid in full or a payment plan is initiated, and the Team Agreement is signed and submitted to the head coach.

Only active players can participate in training, practices and games. Active players are not allowed to practice or play for any other travel softball program or team, at any time.

## 2022 Program Fees:

\$1,025.00 + Uniforms

Upon acceptance of an offered position, a **\$225.00 Non-Refundable Deposit** is required. Partial refunds may be given for medical reasons or family relocation, and will be evaluated on an individual basis.

### Game and Tournament Fee Policy

Tournament and Game Registrations must be made through the Glen Ellyn Phillies Program and paid for through the Glen Ellyn Park District. Phillies Coaches should not solicit additional funds from parents for games and tournaments without written approval of the Travel Chair and Girls Softball Executive Committee. If approved, any funds collected must be deposited with the Glen Ellyn Park District, which will then be disburse funds as appropriate.

### Uniforms:

#### Required Items:

Each player must have the following uniform items in good condition. Returning Phillies players need only purchase necessary items.

- Game Jersey
- Practice Jersey
- Navy Belted Softball Pants (2 pair recommended)
- Belt
- Sliding Pad and Padded Sliding Shorts (recommend)
- Navy Socks (2 pair recommended)
- Defensive Fielders Mask – for infield positions 10U -14U (metal wire style recommended)
- Navy or Navy & White Helmet (any navy helmet is acceptable)
- Navy Bat Bag (any navy bat bag is acceptable)

## Equipment

Players are responsible for providing their own helmet, cleats, bat, glove, and beverage(s) at each practice and game. Team catchers gear will be available for 10U-14U teams.

Please note that players wishing to pursue catching as a primary position, should consider purchasing their own catcher's helmet and gear to ensure proper fit, regardless of age.

16U and 18U catchers must provide their own gear.

## ***Fundraising & Phillies Tournament***

Phillies sponsored “**Program Wide**” fundraising events are designed to cover additional expenses to improve the program and your player experience. **All players are required to participate in our fundraising events without exception. Families must at a minimum, sell or purchase their full allotment of program raffle tickets that are issued.**

### **Phillies Team Fundraising Policy**

**No Phillies team will engage in individual team fundraising.** All fundraising efforts must be program-wide and all funds collected in the name of the Glen Ellyn Phillies must be deposited with, and dispersed through, the Glen Ellyn Park District.

We also host “The Glen Ellyn Invitational” annual softball tournament that is an outstanding experience for our players. This event requires many hands to create a successful event. **All families are required to provide volunteer assistance in helping to plan, coordinate, or work at this event. A little help from many volunteers makes for easier work for all!**

## **TEAM CODES OF CONDUCT**

### ***Coaches’ Responsibilities***

Our responsibility as a coaching staff is to develop the fundamental skills of each player on our team. Our main objective is to develop, train, and teach each player to maximize her ability as an athlete. The demands on each player will be rigorous, but the success of each player is contingent upon individual desire and effort. It is our job to promote excellent performance of each of our players and to help each realize her full potential.

All players will be given equal opportunity for training and development during practice and friendly games. When we compete at tournaments, the team will be playing to its strengths - each player will have a role that contributes to the success of our team. It is our commitment that each player on this roster plays and helps the team to succeed. The Coaching staff shall be responsible to:

- Teach the skills, logic and strategies necessary for competitive play.
- Assist athletes in developing to their full potential
- Training athletes, instructing players in relevant skills and by providing encouragement
- Analyzing their performances and providing constructive input to help the play improve.
- Balance player growth and development while fielding a competitive team
- Always make sure safety and the athletes' welfare comes first

# Player Responsibility Agreement



Coaches, players and parents are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship through six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. For each team to reach their full potential, the entire team & program must be well coordinated and moving in the same direction

It is a core goal of our program to help prepare each player with the knowledge and skill set to be an effective offensive contributor, and to play multiple defensive positions, to provide them the greatest opportunity to earn a position on their High School softball team. As a team and as individual athletes, each player will get out of this season what they put into it! Growth and development is a continuing challenge. Each year we will face stronger, faster, and more capable opponents. How we compete will be a measure of how we prepare as Individuals and as a Team.

Coaches will have high expectations, and place an emphasis on the details of the game. At times, you may be asked to make a change, or approach the game differently. Learning new mechanics may feel awkward or uncomfortable at first, but trust that our intention is to make you the best player that you can possibly be. Allow the coaches to help you become a stronger player on a stronger team.

**Players must have a “Team First” approach.** Each player will be required to play multiple defensive positions, and may be asked to contribute in various ways offensively, based on the specific needs of the team. Players are expected to exhibit a 100% effort in preparation, practice and during games.

## ***Second Sport Policy***

We encourage our players/athletes to participate in sports during the fall and winter seasons of the school year. We understand that this can create conflicts during our winter training season. During the softball season we request that softball practices and games take priority over other sport and non-school related activities.

## ***Practices***

- **All team practices, unless otherwise stated, are mandatory.** If a player cannot attend a practice session, the player must give advance notice of the absence or tardiness. Player participation during games can be affected by attendance.
- **Each player should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the practice start time.** Players must be on the field, ready to participate at the start of the practice.
- **A positive attitude is expected at all times** during practice; negative comments and behavior contrary to a positive learning environment are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- **Each player is expected to hustle throughout the practice session.** While on the playing field, each player shall run to and from each station as well as in their retrieval of missed balls and collecting of equipment at the end of practice.
- **Every player shall do their part to make the practice run smoothly, give their undivided attention to the coaching staff and follow directions.** If a player is unsure of a direction given to them or a drill being conducted – the player is encouraged to speak up and ask the coach for clarification.
- **Work on improving individual skills** outside of team practices
- **Working on physical conditioning** when not at practice, to improve the ability to play in multiple hot summer games.

### **Pre-Game**

Each player should arrive **45 minutes, to 1 hour prior** to game time, as designated by the coaches and ready to begin warm ups. Each player shall be attentive, ready to play, wearing the required uniform and have all required equipment at all times.

- Uniform shirts shall be “tucked in” at all times, and all loose jewelry shall be removed
- The team will warm-up, stretch and run together

### **Games**

Cheers and positive comments are encouraged. Only positive comments and cheers are permitted to both opponents and teammates. Respect your fellow teammates. There are no exceptions for misconduct or inappropriate behavior.

- Players shall not never laugh, talk negatively or make fun of another player, opponent, or adult.
- No foul or inappropriate language will be tolerated
- Sportsmanship is paramount, and reflection of the Glen Ellyn Phillies.
- Exhibiting proper behavior and respect is required by participants at all times.

All players are to be engaged in the game supporting their team. Players should be watching the game, if not warming up, so that they are prepared to go into a game at any time.

During games, gear bags should be hung properly on the fence. Helmets, defensive masks and gloves shall be stored in bat bags and not on the players' bench. Each player should bring water for games and healthy snacks for between games.

Gear and helmets are not to be thrown, nor shall any player display unsportsmanlike conduct. Such conduct may remove the player from the game and the line-up

Players should wait until after the game is completed to visit with family, friends, or spectators.

### **Between Games**

- Rest and prepare for the next game
- Stay out of the sun
- Eat a light healthy snack or meal (if time permits)

### **After Games**

Do not remove any of your equipment until the game is over and the handshake with the opposing team has taken place. Pick up all trash in the dugout, and leave it in better shape than you found it.

After the game go directly to the area designated by the coaches for a team meeting. Parents are to wait in the spectator area until the team meeting is completed.

### **Sportsmanship**

Players, coaches, parents, and family are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as a positive role model, to help our players to learn the value of good sportsmanship. Expectations of good sportsmanship and a positive representation of the program extends to any communication about the players, coaches and program, including social media.

I have read and understand the Phillies Policies & Codes of Conduct and pledge to follow them:

Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## ***Parents' Responsibilities***

We are a team – athletes, coaches, and parents. Parents can support their child by allowing them to experience challenges and successes, on and off the field. Please know that we always have the best interest of your child in mind. How much she improves throughout the year depends upon her openness to instruction, effort applied, and how she is encouraged to grow.

We need parent assistance to:

- Keep player availability updated and help with coordinating schedules and transportation for your player to attend a maximum number of practice & games on-time.
- Encourage your player to be receptive to coaching, and adhere to player responsibilities.
- Keep your child focused on her goals, assist with their skill work, and be positive at all times.
- Parents should not coach from the stands, and minimize contact during games.
- Report all injuries to a coach immediately, to allow coaches time to adjust practice and game plans.
- Seek out additional skill specific instruction as necessary. A staggered regiment of private or semi-private hitting and pitching lessons is recommended for most players to reach their full potential.

## ***Sportsmanship***

Players, coaches, parents, and family are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as a positive role model, to help our players to learn the value of good sportsmanship. The coaching staff will handle any disputes with the umpires.

## ***Alcohol***

The Glen Ellyn Park District and the Phillies Travel Softball program has a no-tolerance policy regarding alcohol. Alcohol is not permitted to be possessed or consumed on Park District property before, during or after youth sports events, practices and activities. Violation shall result in the following:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Warning and request to discard.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Removal from the park and two-week suspension from watching child's games, practices and activities.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** Removal from the park and suspension of viewing privileges for the remainder of the season.

Parents who are also coaches at any level (house/travel) with a child in the softball program, are held to a higher standard and are expected to serve as a role model even when not coaching. Coaches in violation of the alcohol policy either as a coach or parent shall be removed from their coaching duties for the remainder of the season.

## ***Parent Communication***

The manager and coaches depend on the parent's support and adherence to the Team/Player Policies and Codes of Conduct. ***Parents shall not slander any player, coach, manager, or other player's parent(s) on this team and any opposing teams.***

All communication with coaches shall be respectful and constructive. Violations include, but are not limited to; name calling, use of inappropriate language and making threats. Violations shall result in the following:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Warning.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Two-week suspension from watching child's games, practices and activities.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** Suspension of all viewing privileges for the remainder of the season.

## ***24 Hour Rule***

***Any comments or concerns that a parent may have regarding coaching decisions may be discussed with the coaching staff, after a 24-hour time period.*** In other words, if you have a complaint, we mandate that you wait 24 hours to allow time to think about, and help facilitate a calm discussion of your concern(s). If you still want to address the issue with the coaching staff, you may then call or email one of the coaches regarding your concerns. This rule is designed to help prevent all parties involved from saying something out of haste that may be regretted later. Please arrange to meet with the coaches outside of regular team activities. No coach or

*manager shall entertain these discussions during practices and/or games.*

Coaches will not respond to any comments or concerns regarding coaching decisions received prior to the 24-hour time period has concluded.

**Playing time:** Being a member of the team in no way guarantees your child's position or playing time. We would like to maximize playing time for all players while meeting team objectives. Positions and playing time can be affected by:

- Ability demonstrated during practices and in games
- Attendance and punctuality at practices and games
- Level of cooperation, and effort displayed during practices and games
- Attitude and positive participation during practices, games and other team activities

If a player has a concern about positions or playing time, we would encourage the player to ask the coach; "What they could work on to earn an opportunity at the position they desire" or "What they need to do to earn more playing time". Teaching players to ask questions is an important part of character building. We want players to learn to speak for themselves, and understand that positions and playing time are earned through practice and effort.

I have read and understand the Phillies Policies & Codes of Conduct and pledge to follow them:

Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_