



## **Terms of Participation, What Parents Need to Know 2016-2017 Season**

Welcome to the Lancaster Pride Fastpitch Softball organization Travel Team! We hope you have fun this season. If you have any questions, please ask any of your coaches. Below you will find information important to the success of your player and the team.

### **2016-2017**

☐ **Signing Fee/Participation Fees = \$650**

#### **General Rules & Guidelines:**

It is the objective of the Lancaster Pride organization to instill in the girls the ideals of good sportsmanship, loyalty, courage and respect. Our primary goal is to build character in our children. Because of the excitement and high emotion of some of our games, we thought it important to express some guidelines regarding what we expect from you, our parents, your children and our team. Please know that we encourage cheering and exuberance, but please be careful to express this in a positive manner.

- 1 We will not tolerate any behavior on the playing field or in the stands that would hinder the spirit of sportsmanship and cooperation that we are trying to encourage.
- 2 At no time will we permit abusive language or profanity.
- 3 The coach(s) is responsible for deciding who plays and how much.

- 4 It is inappropriate for a parent to confront a coach after a practice or event. We ask that they wait until the next day and schedule a meeting with the coach.
  - 5 Making derogatory comments about umpires, coaches, players of either team or other parents and fans is unacceptable.
- ▶ All players and parents must sign a contract upon agreeing to play for the Lancaster Pride Travel Team and to agree to the above terms of participation.
  - ▶ Initiation costs are due at time of registration and contract signing with the Lancaster Pride Travel Team.
  - ▶ Once team contracts are signed, initiation costs will not be refunded, regardless of reason for termination of contract.
  - ▶ A Player's Parents have the right to terminate a contract at any time, no questions asked.
  - ▶ Parents and girls commit to fundraising on an annual basis to support the Lancaster Pride Travel Team.
  - ▶ Girls commit to dedication, commitment, and respect of all coaches, fellow players, parents, and the Lancaster Pride Travel Team.
  - ▶ Parents commit to the same dedication, commitment, and respect of all coaches and the decisions made by coaches relative to the Lancaster Pride Travel Team .
  - ▶ Lancaster Pride Travel Team has the right to terminate a contract at any time upon consensus of the coaches.

I hereby give permission to Lancaster Pride Travel Team to publish my child's picture, first name, and last name on the Lancaster Pride Softball organization's website. For your child's safety, no other personal information will be published.

### Practices and Games

Please remember to be prompt and prepared for practices and games. Bring liquid refreshment (water, Gatorade, whatever but No Pop) and a sweatshirt as well as necessary equipment. It's also very important to pick up your child on time. The coaching staff would appreciate your consideration in this matter. Ask your coach what their procedure is if you are unavoidably detained at the time practice ends.

### Dugout Rules

During games, the coach, manager, assistant coaches, and the players are the only persons allowed in the dugout. The girls are asked to remain in the dugout throughout the game. Remember all the great moments you want to share and review with them after the game. Your child will appreciate that hug and pat on the back just as much after the game. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### Attendance

Please take the time to make a call to the coach and tell him or her when your child will not be at practices and games. We understand there are emergencies and sometimes you can't make that

call. No problem, just give the coach a call as soon as you can. We are trying to teach the girls responsibility to their teammates and you can be part of that process.

## **Volunteer Policy**

As with any youth sport organization, our Lancaster Pride Travel Team is directed and maintained by volunteers. Many people contribute hundreds of hours to ensure your children have a worthwhile experience. In order for our team to run smoothly, every family must do its share. We require each player's family to help when called upon during the season.

## **Frequently Asked Questions and Some Not**

The Lancaster Pride Softball organization's Travel Team is an affordable opportunity for outstanding young ladies to meet one another, and team up to play exciting competitive fastpitch softball. Below are frequent questions and answers. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

### **Q. What is the organization's overall philosophy?**

A. Our philosophy is have a great team with great kids, great parents and give them a place to play competitive travel fastpitch softball with the goal of preparing these athletes for high school level softball and beyond. Our # 1 goal is for every player to make their high school team and our emphasis is on player development both on and off the field.

We teach a very successful program that requires commitment, dedication and hard work from the players. While we focus on playing as a "team" and winning, we do not compromise training and skill development as our first priority. We do not constantly bring in new players in a revolving door approach to building a team that wins. We take our players, develop their skills, and teach them to play together as a team that wins.

It is the objective of the Lancaster Pride Softball organization to implant in the girls the ideals of good sportsmanship, loyalty, courage and respect. Our primary goal is to build character in our children. Because of the excitement and high emotion of some of our games, we thought it important to express some guidelines regarding what we expect from you, our parents, your children and our team. Please know that we encourage cheering, and exuberance, but please be careful to express this in a positive manner.

### **Q. Where do you play?**

A. Tournaments generally within a two hour radius of Lancaster.

### **Q. What do you look for in players?**

A. Character, courtesy, good sportsmanship, team spirit, enthusiasm, discipline, respect, exemplary work ethic, outstanding softball skills/talent, commitment to development, in-depth experience, coach ability, and desire to be the best ...someone who is fun!

**Q. How many players are on a team?**

A. Generally, we carry 11- 12 players on a team due to the fact one or two players may fail to make a game on weekends due to illness, injury, or family/school issues.

**Q. What does it cost?**

A. The Lancaster Pride's team fee is \$650.00 Fundraising and Sponsorships are an option!

**Q. Does the organization make money?**

A. The Lancaster Pride Fastpitch Softball organization is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. We do try to accumulate enough funds in the bank to ensure our organization remains financially healthy.

**Q. Can players be removed from the team during the season?**

A. For the most part, once we commit to a player for a season, we do not remove the player from the team. However, if the player is a discipline problem or if she or her family is not abiding by the player contract, we reserve the right to terminate a contract of a player at any time upon consensus of the coaches.

**Q. What if the player quits during the season?**

A. We do not refund fees for players that quit during the season, but there are exceptions based on circumstances. We are a non-profit organization and try to be fair to our players and parents.

**Q. Should my daughter wear a mouth piece?**

A. YES! You probably know someone, or know somebody who knows someone, who has been hit in the mouth by a batted ball. In fast pitch softball, the pitcher, 3rd baseman and 1st baseman play quite close to the batter and occasionally reaction times are just not fast enough.

Often the result of being hit in the mouth is broken teeth or worse yet, teeth knocked completely out. Mouthpieces have been successfully used in contact sports for years and have a proven track record.

They are readily available and affordable. All it takes is once and they can pay for themselves in untold trauma, not to mention thousands of dollars. **Consider wearing one.**

Your toothbrush can get the dirt out of your teeth...your mouthpiece can keep your teeth out of the dirt. Get one and get used to wearing it. ***Remember avoiding an injury situation before it happens is better than treating it after it happens.***

**A Final Word:**

Please remember this is a game, not a life or death situation. We appreciate the spirit of competition that some of you bring. However, let's keep it all in perspective.

Let's try to avoid negative comments. You can easily hurt a girl's feelings and that is surely not your objective. Degrading players on our team, the opposing team and coaching staff is not a necessary part of the game and will not be tolerated by the Lancaster Pride Travel Team.

Most importantly, enjoy watching your child grow and improve as a player throughout the season. The kids love to have their own fans out there watching them play. They already have a coach; what they want is support from family and friends. Everyone makes an error now and then; some more than others. It's all part of the game. Let us all enjoy the triumphs as they come and learn from the mistakes.

In closing: Thanks again for playing softball with Lancaster Pride Travel Team. Good luck and best wishes throughout the season.

I hereby agree to the above,

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Player's/Participant's Signature

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Date

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Parent's Signature

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Date

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Coach's Signature

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Date