

# 2019-20 AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

## COACHES – PLAYERS – PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS

This agreement of understanding specifies the terms and conditions of coach, parent and player involvement with Warren Wave (“WW” hereafter). WW is part of Warren Township Girls Softball (“WTGS” hereafter). This document must be signed at the time of registration and prior to the parties’ participation in any WW events. This agreement covers coaches, parents and players anytime they are involved in a WW event.

The primary function of WW is to provide opportunities to play softball at a highly competitive level while simultaneously teaching sportsmanship, teamwork, and providing a safe and enjoyable experience.

## MANAGERS/ASSISTANT COACHES

The manager is responsible for the overall operation of their individual team within the framework of this agreement as well as direction from the Director of Travel (DOT) and WTGS. Coaches shall ensure a safe environment for all players and must promote a positive environment to develop and to build the confidence, ability and self-esteem of all players. Nevertheless, this is not a recreational team and as such, coaches must allocate playing time as set forth herein. Coaches must maintain open and honest communication with parents and players. Coaches will be required to submit to a background check and to attend continuing softball education.

The goal is to have each team consist of a Manager and two/three assistant coaches (game coaches), and possibly one or two practice coaches. The coaches will use statistics, in part, to manage their teams. Coaches are expected to positively represent the WW organization on and off the field, setting a great example for the players, and holding the parents to the same expectations of good sportsmanship.

## PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS

Parent/Legal Guardian participation and involvement is crucial to the WW. Parents/Legal Guardians shall abide by the [Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct](#) and should practice positive reinforcement while at WW events. Parents/Legal Guardians should reinforce to their children the commitment made to the WW and their teammates. Parents shall not challenge an umpire or the calls of an umpire. Parents should not have discussions with umpires about any call made during a game. This shall be the responsibility of the Manager. Parents removed by an umpire will be subject to disciplinary action from the WTGS board.

## 24-HOUR RULE

Parents agree to abide by the 24-hour rule. The 24-hour rule requires parents to refrain from discussing any issue(s) that occur(s) in a game or practice for at least 24 hours. Parents should set the example for players to follow regarding conflict resolution. Disagreements will occur throughout the season and parents are expected to work with Coaches to resolve disagreements directly and professionally.

## COACHING

Parents should not coach from the sidelines. Parents may be asked to leave the vicinity of a player's game or practice should the coach in charge or the Director of Travel (DOT) feel that the parent's continued presence at this event is determined detrimental to the primary function of the WW. If a parent fails to leave when asked, his/her child will be suspended from the team. The DOT may temporarily suspend a player/parent until the full review of the WTGS Board occur and the WTGS Board may suspend a player/parent, remove a player/parent from a team or from being present near team activities, or any other action it sees fit based on any conduct.

## PLAYERS

**Players are expected to attend all practices and games.** It is the policy of WW that playing time will be tied to practice time within reason. For example: A player missing part of the indoor practice season may play sparingly during the first quarter of the season. A player missing a practice during the season may be asked to sit a portion of the next game. WW understands that some players have multiple commitments. WW doesn't want to discourage these commitments, but the players and parents must understand that missing practice or games negatively impacts all of the players on the team and as such could hurt the team and the program. Players are asked to discuss potential conflicts with the Managers prior to the start of the season. During the season players must notify the manager in advance of any anticipated absences. If a player misses a tournament for anything other than health issues or family emergencies, then the player may be subject to suspension or reduced playing time as determined by the Manager and within the playing guidelines of WW. Should a player not exhibit the required energy level, she may be asked to leave the practice or game. Players should encourage teammates and practice positive reinforcement. If players have concerns with a teammate, they are to involve a coach. Actions of players undermining the team chemistry will not be tolerated. Players are expected to positively represent WW on and off the field.

## GENERAL

Coaches, parents and players will conduct themselves in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all times. There should be respect shown to fellow coaches, parents and players. Coaches will treat opposing coaches, parents and players with respect. Cheering should be of a positive nature. Profanity by coaches, parents and players will not be tolerated. The focus will always be on the program, and what is best for the kids and families that participate.

When feasible, WW will field multiple teams at any given level; 10U, 12U, 14U, and 16U. The teams will be split into and distinguished by the name of their coach. One of the teams will likely be more competitive team at each level and be comprised of the players that will form the best team from the kids eligible at that level. This may not always be the best players, as pitching, catching, and playing time considerations must be a factor. Second and third teams at each age group are more developmental teams; however, this is still a travel sport and the same level of commitment is expected of players, parents and coaches. All of our teams are expected to compete effectively at the appropriate level.

The WTGS organization strongly believes it is best for the team and the player to play and excel at their appropriate age level. If a player wishes to play at a level above their age eligibility, they must first inform the DOT in writing prior to tryouts. The player must try out at the appropriate age level first and only then can then try out at the level above, after submitting a written request to the WTGS board of directors. The board will grant a higher level tryout based on feedback from current level tryout and player needs of the higher level team. Players will be allowed to play above their birth level only in extraordinary circumstances. There are many factors in this decision, including maturity, attitude, skill level, and proper development. This decision will happen during the tryout process or shortly after tryouts and the specific family will be informed of the decision directly by the DOT. The decision will be made by a committee comprised of WTGS Board members.

## NATIONALS TOURNAMENT

If any WW team qualifies for a Nationals Tournament, the players and team are expected to attend the Nationals Tournament unless otherwise determined by the WTGS Board of Directors. Should players not attend, leaving open spots, the team will attempt to fill those spots with players from other teams within the WW organization. If there are still open spots, players will then be looked at from outside of the organization.

# SAFETY

## FACE MASK POLICY

WTGS and WW focus on the safety of our players as a top priority. In this regard the program has adopted a Defensive Face Mask Policy. All players at 10U and 12U SHALL ALWAYS wear a face mask when participating in softball activities. All 14U players participating in infield softball activities shall wear a face mask. All other players are strongly encouraged to wear facemasks as WTGS believes it is in the best interest of each player to wear a face mask. [Any parent/player who wishes to forgo wearing a face mask will be required to sign a waiver of liability.](#) At no time will a player be allowed to forgo wearing a face mask as set forth above at the 10U, 12U, and 14U levels even if a parent wishes to sign a waiver. Failure to comply with the face mask policy will result in immediate removal from the activity as well as additional disciplinary action.

## CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

If a parent or a coach thinks a player may have suffered a concussion, the player should be removed from all softball activities (practice, games, etc.) until they are cleared by a medical professional. As a parent, if you think your child or teen may have a concussion, you should:

- Remove your child or teen from play.
- Keep your child out of play the day of the injury. Your child should be seen by a health care provider and only return to play with permission from a health care provider who is experienced in evaluating for concussion.
- Ask your child's health care provider for written instructions on helping your child or teen return to school. You can give the instructions to your child's or teen's school nurse and teacher(s) and return-to-play instructions to the coach and/or athletic trainer.

Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Only a health care provider should assess a child or teen for a possible concussion. Concussion signs and symptoms often show up soon after the injury. But you may not know how serious the concussion is at rest, and some symptoms may not show up for hours or days. The brain needs time to heal after a concussion. A child's or teen's return to school and sports should be a gradual process that is carefully managed and monitored by a healthcare provider.

# SPECIFIC AGE LEVEL OBJECTIVES

## 10U

The primary objective at 10U is to develop. Players will receive nearly equal playing and fielding time during the league games and tournament seeding games. During the bracket games, playing and fielding time may not be equal. It is the goal of WW that by the end of the season every player will have played and fielded roughly as much as every other player. Players will receive fielding time at multiple positions and the coaches will try to ensure that each player receives fielding time at an infield and outfield position.

## 12U

The primary objective at 12U is to mix development with winning. Players will receive nearly equal playing and fielding time during the league/practice games. Playing time during tournament games (seeding & bracket) will be dictated by the competitiveness of the situation. As such, playing and fielding time may not be equal. Most players will receive fielding time at two positions. Some players may be asked to field multiple positions.

## 14U, 16U, & 18U

The primary objective at 14U, 16U, and 18U is to win, while also focusing on player development. If WW can field more than one team at each level, there must be a balance of winning and development. Some players will play more innings than others. Nevertheless, coaches are encouraged to use the league/practice games to develop players. Most players will field primarily one position however some players may be asked to field more than one position. Parents and players must understand that at each level the player may not play the defensive position that she wants. Parents and players must also understand that different playing time rules may apply to pitchers and catchers.

# FAMILY VOLUNTEER TIME TOWARDS WW/WTGS

Each family will be required to participate in the Wipeout Tournament for a specified number of hours. Each family is required to volunteer for 6 hours. If a family has more than one player they are required to volunteer for 8 hours. Wipeout volunteers completing the required hours must be 18 years or older.

In addition to Wipeout, there will be needs throughout the season. Each team will be assigned duties throughout the year to assist the WTGS Board members to supplement the

number of hours put in by the WTGS Board members. Each organizational event may have teams being assigned certain duties. For example, the end of the year banquet will have 10U arrive early to help set up chairs, tables, etc. 12U will be required to assist in the set up for drinks, plates, etc. For the in-house players clinic, 14U will be responsible for setting up all equipment, 16U may be responsible for assisting all the clinic stations, and so on. To be frank, we need more people to help in a structured form. Each family shall participate in volunteer hours or will be assessed an additional \$200 fee at the end of the season.

## FINANCIALS

### PAYMENT

Payment must be made at the time of registration. Payment can be made by credit card or ACH through SportsEngine and will be subject to processing fees of (3.0% + \$1.00) per payment. If fees are paid in full at the time of registration the charge will be 3.00% of the total plus \$1.00. If you choose to pay by installment the charge will be 3.00% of the total plus \$1.00 for each payment.

We do offer offline payment via personal check or ACH draft that can be set up outside of SportsEngine. If you choose an offline payment method, the WTGS Treasurer will contact you to arrange payment.

Failure to pay registration fees may result in your athlete being suspended from team activities until payments are brought current.

### FUNDRAISING

#### ORGANIZATION

Each spring WTGS and WW will hold a season kickoff fundraiser. The fundraiser is an adults-only event held at Jesse Oaks in Gages Lake. Each family will be required to sell (or purchase) 4 tickets at \$25 each for a total of \$100. No exceptions.

#### TEAM

Each team has an allocation of funds to use towards tournaments and league games (umpires for home games) throughout the season. The amount will be communicated to the team manager at the start of the season. Allocations vary by age level and the type of tournaments the teams would be expected to enter. The team manager shall be responsible for tracking the funds spent. Any funds needed above and beyond that allocation will be fundraised by the team families. This can be done however the team

chooses. Families can elect to pay a flat amount, or teams can fundraise through local businesses (i.e. Culver's, Chipotle, Potbelly, etc.) or by holding fundraising events (i.e. volleyball tournament).

## REFUND POLICY

Through registration each family is making a commitment, therefore the WTGS board has adopted a no refund policy for any fees paid after registration is complete. Any monies paid to WTGS/WW will not be refundable.

The WTGS Board reserves the right to waive this Refund Policy at its sole discretion at any time. Requests must be presented in writing to the Treasurer. Such waiver shall generally be in response to extenuating or highly unusual circumstances, and in no event shall the WTGS Board be obligated to waive this Refund Policy.

**I HAVE READ THE AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS STATED HEREIN.** I understand my participation in the WW is voluntary and my continued participation is subject to the discretion of the DOT and/or the WTGS Board.

Also, by signing below, I give permission for Warren Wave/WTGS to use my daughter's name and/or photo in news articles, on the internet or any other social media to promote the success of the team and or program.

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Player printed name(s)

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Parent printed name

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Parent signature

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Date