

# **OAKS DADS CLUB**

## **Select Softball Guidelines**



February 2024

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Overview
2. Teams
3. Team Manager and head coach
4. Players
5. Participant Requirements
6. Grievances
7. Notices

## **1.0 OVERVIEW**

The Oaks Dads Club (ODC) Select Softball Program is designed to provide a higher level of training and competition to those players that have a desire to develop their skills beyond that offered at the recreational sports level. This program is an integral part of the ODC program, and requires a significant parental and player commitment.

The purpose of the Select Softball Program is to provide a platform to effectively operate select sports teams within the ODC community and to help all participants develop the fundamental skills and aptitude to play competitive sports beyond recreational levels.

The ODC Mission Statement applies to the ODC Select Softball Program: *“The mission of Oaks Dads’ Club shall be to stimulate, promote and foster activities designed to provide a richer and more wholesome life for the young people of the area.”*

The ODC Select Sports Program offers:

- Higher level coaching
- Access to ODC insurance and facilities
- Competition with other Select Softball Program teams
- Advanced development for playing at higher levels, such as middle school and high school

The ODC Corporate Board (“the Board”) will decide,

according to a vote under its rules, whether it will oversee governance over the Select program or delegate such governance to the ODC Softball Board (“Softball Board”).

Unless the Board decides otherwise, the Board will retain its right to coordinate ODC facility use. Governance of the Select Softball Program includes responsibility for overseeing the following areas:

- Program guideline enforcement
- Final approval of teams, managers and coaches
- Dispute resolution

## **2. TEAMS**

ODC may offer select sports programs in each age group, given there is sufficient interest from both parents and players and sufficient coaching and player talent exists within each age group.

An ODC Select team shall only be organized if there are a sufficient number of players, confirmed by the Softball Board, with a talent level able to field a competitive team and a head coach as identified and committed to the team.

The formation of an ODC Select team requires application to the Softball Board for approval. Multiple teams within a specific age classification may be allowed. The initial Select team will receive priority in the player selection

process, although player parents hold the final decision on team assignment if there is interest from more than one team. Any player recruiting actions by team managers or coaches deemed to be dishonest or malicious, as determined by the Board will be subject to forfeiture of the team Charter.

Every approved ODC Lady Bats team will be duly registered with USA Softball for the purposes of insurance coverage as well as ability to access USA Softball-only tournaments. ODC Lady Bats teams are free to play in any tournament sanctioned by USA Softball or other equivalent governing bodies.

Any Select team that seeks the free use of ODC fields without paying rental fees, insurance or other benefits shall play under the ODC Lady Bats name and colors of navy blue, red and white with the optional usage of pink; and with a consistent logo. Team uniform selection and fee collections are the responsibility of the respective team managers.

All Lady Bats teams will have priority for field usage over outside field rentals, including non-Lady Bats “select” teams composed of ODC players, but during Spring and Fall ODC seasons, field usage will be subject to availability and approval based on season schedules.

### **3. TEAM MANAGER AND HEAD COACH**

Each ODC Select Sport team requires a Softball Board approved

team manager/head coach to coordinate and handle all matters related to the team. These responsibilities include:

- Coordination with the Board
- Communication with player parents
- Scheduling team practice
- Scheduling and payment of team games and tournaments
- Manage team funds and accounting for team expenditures
- Setting player fees
- Purchase of team uniforms and supplies
- Negotiation of fees and payment for any professional coaching, if applicable
- Team social media postings

When selecting the team head coaches the following criteria are evaluated:

- Interest in coaching
- Ability to positively represent ODC
- Coaching experience
- Ability to communicate effectively with the players and parents
- Any previous written complaints
- Any other pertinent information regarding the individual's qualifications to serve in this capacity
- Passing of an ODC administered background check

The head coach will be responsible for the following:

- Player evaluation and selection
- Team practice and workout schedules, including tryouts
- Head coach at all tournament games

All team managers and coaches are reminded that they

represent the ODC Lady Bats Program. They are responsible for the well-being of each team member.

The Softball Board reserves the right to remove any team manager or coach from the team. All managers, head and assistant coaches are required to be members in good standing of ODC and pass an annual background check administered by ODC.

#### **4. PLAYERS**

100% of 8U and younger teams and greater than 50% of 9U and older teams must be active or former ODC regular season players. At no point should a non-ODC player take a spot that could be held by a suitably talented and similarly skilled available ODC player, as determined by the Head Coach. A player can only participate on one ODC Select team.

Players in the 8U age group are required to participate in the Spring ODC Softball seasons. Players in older age groups are required to participate in the Spring ODC softball season unless playing middle/high school softball. If playing in middle/high school programs' softball, they are still required to pay an annual fee equal to the cost of spring registration with raffle ticket buyout to cover costs for field rentals, lights, etc

All newly formed teams shall hold an open tryout session. Established ODC Lady Bats teams are not required to hold an open tryout session for subsequent seasons. However, in the event there are open roster spots on the established team, an open tryout session shall be held to replace or add any

new players to the team roster. All current ODC players must be invited to participate in tryouts.

All Select program team tryout dates and related information must be posted on the ODC website and shall be communicated to the division parents of players for that group. The Head Coach for the Select team is responsible for disseminating information concerning such tryout dates and times to the Board.

Player evaluation tryouts will be set up and conducted by the team coach. All players will be assessed on basic softball skills: fielding, throwing, hitting, running and sportsmanship.

Players will also be evaluated on their aptitude for the various skilled positions such as outfield, infield, pitching and catching. Player selections may be based upon the results of this evaluation process along with how the talents and attitude of each player best contribute to the overall chemistry of the team. Coaches' evaluations from previous seasons or league tryouts can also be used in the selection process. Team selection results will be communicated to all participating players in a timely manner, including communicating the non-selection of tryout attendees.

Interested players should be reminded of the commitment required to participate in the ODC program. Tournament schedules are within the discretion of the team manager and coaches for each team.

Unlike the recreational league, select softball does not guarantee playing time for every player on the team.

Playing time is the coach's discretion based on the commitment of time and energy from the players as well as specific game situations. Both individual and overall team development are the goals of this program. Thus, players typically earn playing time provided they are dedicated and maintain a positive attitude. Select ball is a team sport, so every position is very critical. Players will be put in positions that are best suited for them to best help the team, as determined by the coaches. It is the responsibility of the team coach to communicate this to the players and parents. Parents can talk to coaches about their own child's situation at any time with regards to what they can improve on, how the player is doing and what the player can do to improve. Coaches should not discuss individual playing time or situations about another player on the team with parents of other players.

## **5. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

The ODC Select program is self-funded. Individual team fees can vary significantly depending upon the number of games and tournaments each team decides to play. Teams are allowed to solicit Board approved sponsorships and/or have fundraising events to offset out-of-pocket expenses, such as uniforms, tournament fees or other costs.

In addition to the required fees stated above, each charter team shall be required to provide at least 20 hours of adult volunteer time to ODC. Each ODC Lady Bats team shall be required to complete one service project per year involving

the players on the team.

The team manager is responsible for managing the cash flow and expenses for the season. A summary report including the above mentioned finances as well as participation in any tournaments and results should be prepared and available for distribution throughout the season, upon request, so parents and the Softball Board can view how team funds are being spent.

Funds received for participation in the Select program are typically non-refundable if a player subsequently elects to leave a team. Disputes concerning withdrawal from the Select program and refunds for fees paid shall be submitted to the Softball Board, in writing, for resolution.

## **6. GRIEVANCES**

Management of all questions, concerns and problems will always be handled first on a team level. The Softball Board encourages the player to approach the head coach or manager to ensure interaction and to attempt a resolution. If resolution cannot be agreed upon, then the parent and coach should attempt to resolve the issue. If the issue is still not resolved, the next step would be escalation to the Softball Board. The final step would be to file a written grievance with the Corporate Board. The Board will try and resolve the issue with all parties' interests in mind.

It is not the intent of the grievance process to manage or address day-to-day handling of teams. Game decisions such

as playing time and position play are not considered grievance issues and will not be heard by the Softball Board, and will not be subject to referral to the Board. These types of issues are within the coach's discretion and must be handled between the coach, player and, or parent.

## **7. NOTICES**

All notices and writings submitted to the Board shall be sent to the following address:

Oaks Dads' Club  
ATTENTION: Board of Directors 3410  
E. TC Jester Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77018

All notices and writings sent to the Board in connection with the Select program, or any dispute concerning the Select program as provided in these Guidelines, shall be made or sent to the addresses set forth above.