



## COACHING PHILOSOPHY

Our coaches are fully engaged in the development of our young athletes. They love the game and the competitive environment. Each coach is focused on the individual growth of the player and strives to support them as athletes on the field, and as young adults off the field. Watching our athletes achieve success is incredibly rewarding to our coaches both personally and professionally.

As a society, we need good coaches who, first and foremost, have the best interest of the players in mind. We believe the impact our coaches have on our young athletes goes far beyond the game and the softball fundamentals being taught. A coach's influence will impact a young athlete in their personal relationships, in their future career, in their decision making skills and in their overall character as an individual.

Our coaching staff is dedicated to providing a safe and challenging environment in which our athletes can identify, pursue, and accomplish many goals. In an effort to consistently provide this type of environment to the players, our coaches follow seven guiding principles which support our philosophy...

**Goal Setting:** Everyone must work hard to identify their individual and team objectives. Both players and coaches are challenged to define and set goals for the current season.

**Teamwork:** As coaches you can expect our focus on teamwork to be tremendous. No individual is more important than the team. Players should not expect to be catered to by coaches or other players, based upon perceptions of their own ability. A player's respect towards and support of their teammates is an invaluable concept which all people should learn at an early age. The better you are the more humble and respectful you should be. Excellent teamwork will always be rewarded. You don't win games by yourself.

**Individual Development:** Fundamentals of the game are essential for success. The basics are the foundation! Developing organized practice environments which are strategic and focused on fundamentals will provide the stepping stones for player improvement. Good fundamentals; put the player in position to make the great play, and puts the "routine" in a normal play, which in turn builds confidence and good results. Bad fundamentals; puts the player in poor position to make even the easiest of plays, bad things happen at the wrong time and we know the rest of the story, team loses the game.

**Hard Work:** In order to improve everyone must work hard. All the players and coaches will be pushed to a higher level and we understand that players may be at different levels, both mentally and physically. However, a player's current level has nothing to do with how much work they must do in order to improve. Everyone has different motivation "buttons", as coaches we will strive to find those and learn how to push them appropriately.

**Consistency:** We believe in consistency in all aspects of behavior. Consistency in time management, team participation and in building upon newly taught skills. This is evaluated regularly and placed as a high priority by the coaching staff. Coaches are also held to high standards of consistency by the organization.

**Education:** As an organization, we place a high value on all forms of education, in the classroom and on the field. We expect our players to focus heavily on scholastic achievement and have established minimum requirements to be eligible to play for the organization. Sound overall learning skills translate to a well rounded player capable of assessing situations and making quick decisions to help the team. Coaches are also encouraged and expected to further their own skills through continued education in coaching, leadership, softball, etc., as recommended by the organization.

**Communication:** In an effort to achieve our goals and objectives and reinforce our philosophy, we will strive to provide an environment of open communication which is founded in clear expectations of players, parents, and coaches. The path of effective communication is circular, encompassing all of us. The coaching staff has an open door policy, there are no dumb questions, if it is important to you or your player then it is important to us. We ask that you respect other players, parents, the coaches, and the organization in your communications.