



Girls Travel Softball

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**16U Division
2011 Fall Season**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Congratulations on being selected to the **Fury 16U** softball team! We look forward to a competitive season and we look forward to being part of your player development! Please read this information and then both player and parent need to sign, date and return the Team Agreement (last page) to your Team Manager. **In addition to the Team Agreement, please submit a copy of your birth certificate.**

Please read the following guidelines that the **Fury 16U** softball organization expects its players and parents to follow. In an effort to clearly define what is expected from each player, parent, coach and manager the following guidelines have been developed. The **Fury Organization** reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any time with or without prior notice to players and parents.

The **Fury 16U** softball program is registered with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). This program is much more competitive than are the younger divisions and requires a greater level of commitment from everyone - players, parents and coaches. In order for our team/organization to reach full potential, the entire team/organization must be well coordinated and moving in the same direction.

TEAM POLICIES

The fall season begins in September and runs thru December.

The spring/summer season will begin in January and will end in August.

Season schedules will be posted on our website 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).

Goals

Our primary goal is to assist each athlete to obtain a college scholarship.

Our method of achieving this goal will include the following, but not limited to:

- Develop strong, confident and capable individuals with the ability to be strong leaders in today's society
- Advanced techniques on how to set and achieve personal/individual goals
- Learning the role of a team player and it's importance
- A solid mental foundation on how to compete in a highly competitive environment (both on and off the softball field)
- Improve softball skills and a raised level of understanding for the game of softball
- An opportunity to showcase your softball skills in front of many college scouts
- Participate in College Showcase events

Active Players

When an individual is chosen to be a member of the **Fury 16U** softball team, the individual becomes an Active Player once the Team Agreement is signed and submitted to the head coach. Active Players are not allowed to practice or play for any other team at any time. When we schedule time off, that time should be used for the sole purpose of giving our athletes time to rest and recover from the grueling softball schedule. If a Fury athlete is found practicing or playing for another travel ball team, the individual will be immediately terminated from the team, forfeiting all funds and fees paid to the organization.

Fundraising

Our fundraising events are designed to cover team equipment, apparel and uniform items. Everyone is expected to participate in our fundraising events without exception.

Refund Policy

The Registration Fee is **non-refundable**.

Pay to the Order of:

All payments should be made payable to ***Fury Softball***. Please submit your payment to your team's financial liaison.

Sponsor / Fundraising

The ***Fury Organization*** will organize fundraisers as needed to offset costs. However, each player should take the initiative to procure sponsors to help offset their own costs. Seventy Five (75) percent of the sponsor monies will go to the individual to be used only for ***Fury*** related items or fees. The other twenty five (25) percent will go to the team to help cover costs, i.e. (equipment items, etc.) ***Fury*** is a Non-Profit Organization.

Team Equipment

Each player will receive a complete set of uniform items from the ***Fury 16U*** organization within 4 weeks of paying their Registration Fee. The following items are provided but must be returned once a player leaves the team:

- 2 complete Uniform Tops
- 1 Bat Bag
- 1 Helmet
- 1 Dugout Bat/Helmet Hanger

Equipment

Players will be responsible for providing their own, cleats, bat(s), glove(s), and beverage container at each practice and game. Catchers shall supply their own catcher's gear. ***Fury 16U*** shall provide each player with 2 team practice Shirts. Players will wear the exact same uniforms at all games. **No exceptions!**

Practices

All team practices, unless otherwise stated, are **mandatory**. If a player cannot attend a practice session, the player (not the parents) must give advance notice of the absence or tardiness. Player participation during games can be affected by attendance.

Pitchers and Catchers shall arrive 60 minutes prior to the starting practice time for all other position players.

Each player shall arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the practice start time with gear on and ready to participate.

A positive attitude at all times during practice will be displayed by each player, coach and helpers; 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, collecting equipment and bases at the end of practice.

Every player shall do their part to make the practice run smoothly and 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.

Practices are designed to develop new skills and sharpen skills already acquired. Only the coaching staff is allowed to give instructions and directions during practice and/or games. Parents and spectators are not to interfere with the practice session or the team coaching staff in any way. Please reserve your comments or observations for the coaching staff until after the practice session has ended (***see 24-hour rule***).

Pregames

Each player shall arrive **1 hour, 30 minutes** prior to game time, ready to begin warm up.

Each player shall be wearing the required uniform and will have all required equipment at all times and have it in their bat bags.

Uniform shirts shall be tucked in at all times.

ALL JEWELRY SHALL BE REMOVED!!

The team will warm-up, stretch and run together.

Restroom runs are to be conducted prior to game time if possible!

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.

Never laugh or make fun of an opponent. No foul or inappropriate language will be tolerated. Sportsmanship is paramount for this organization. Proper field decorum is required by all participants at all times.

Players shall not visit with family, friends, or spectators during the game - and no family, friend or spectators shall distract the players during the game.

The coaching staff will handle any disputes with the umpires. Parents and players shall not become involved.

During games, gear bags should always be hung properly on the fence by hooks provided, as well as all helmets.

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 are to keep warm and stretch at all times, even substitute players. Continue to stretch, put jacket on, do hitting practice or run sprints in order to stay warm at all times and ready to play.

All players are to be cheering and supporting their team - watch the game and be prepared to go into a game at any time.

Each player shall bring water and healthy snacks.

Negative or disruptive behavior at anytime is cause for removal from the bench, the game and team.

Between Games

Rest and prepare for the next game

Stay out of the sun

Eat a light healthy snack or meal (if time permits)

Unless there is at least three hours between games - or the coach has okayed the player(s) leaving or it is unavoidable - please remain at the field with the team (this will prevent late arrivals for warm ups and games).

After The Game

Do not remove any of your equipment until the game is over and the cheer and handshake with the opposing team has taken place. Pick up all trash in the dugout.

After the game go directly to the area designated by the coaches for a team meeting. Parents **may NOT** go to this area with their players.

Travel Procedures

When the team travels out of area, the manager or coaches shall make every effort to insure each player and parent has a map or proper directions. Prior to each trip the team manager will brief the parents and players and provide them with the specifics for that trip. Generally speaking, while traveling, the team will stay as a group. Curfews will be set and the coaching staff would ask that parents try and observe team and hotel rules while on extended trips.

Parent Responsibilities

The parents are very important to this team's success. The manager and coaches depend on the parent's support and adherence to the Team/Player Policies and Codes of Conduct. We ask that each of you work with us in upholding the following:

Each athlete must be at practices and games on time. Punctuality is expected.

If an athlete is sick or injured and unable to participate in practice or game(s), the team manager or a coach shall be called the night before the scheduled game or practice.

Parents shall not slander any player, coach, manager, or other player's parent(s) on this team and this also includes the opposing team members.

24-Hour Rule

Parents may have prior experience playing, coaching, etc.; however, **Fury** has its own coaching staff, so coaching from the stands **will not be allowed**. Any comments or observations that a parent may have can 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 after the incident (concern) to give you time to think about your concern as well as provide you with a cool down period. If you still feel you want to address the issue with the coaching staff then feel free to call 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.

Should a parent have a problem with the coaching or managing staff of this team; arrange to meet privately with them off the field. No coach or manager shall entertain any discussion during practices and/or games.

Parents must realize and remember that the Registration Fee in no way guarantees your child's playing time.

Negative and/or disruptive actions by parents are cause for removal from the team.

Parents are asked to keep their child focused on her goals, assist with their outside skill work, and to be positive at all times so that the player stays positive.

PLAYER POLICIES

As a player with the **Fury** softball team all members are expected to understand and support the following Player Policies:

*Activity Priorities are: **FAMILY, FAITH, SCHOOL, and SOFTBALL***

Set Personal Goals & Work to Achieve Them

Do Your Best At All Times

Don't Walk Onto The Practice/Game Field Until You Are Able To Give 100% Attention To Softball

Show Respect For Teammates

Be On Time, Dressed, Ready To Begin Practices & Games As Scheduled

Attend All Practices if possible.

Call (24 hours in advance) A Coach If You Cannot Attend A Practice/Game

Show Good Sportsmanship At All Times

Help With Team Fund Raising.

*Players should make every attempt to include teammates in social circles and refrain from developing social clicks within the team structure, **be inclusive, not exclusive.***

TEAM CODES OF CONDUCT

Coachs' 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.

Regardless of the goals of the individual player we as a team are committed to play at an elite level, this is an elite organization, and we are an elite team. 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 and it is our commitment that each player on this roster plays and helps the team to succeed.

Players' Responsibilities

This is YOUR team and YOUR experience. As a team and as individual athletes, you will get out of this season what you put into it. There are many obstacles that we need to overcome, but if you are willing to work at it, we can do it. There will be demands on you that will be out of your comfort zone, but trust that our intention is to make you the best player that you can possibly be. Allow us to be coaches, and we will allow you to be a great player on a great team!

Parents' Responsibilities

The parents can be the biggest support or the biggest obstacle for a player. This year we want to be clear on what we expect of you as parents. We are a team – athletes, coaches, parents, and club. Parents need to support their child by allowing them to experience their frustrations, failures, and successes on and off the field. We want you to know that we always have the best interest of your child in mind. Our intention is no secret; it is to be the best. Understand that this is a process, and that by the end of the year your child will have improved tremendously. How much she improves depends upon her effort to be the best, and how much she is allowed to grow.

Fan-Officials Relationship

- Officials are necessary to the game.
- They are bound by a code of ethics that makes them rigidly impartial.
- Fans, and particularly parents, should never harass or taunt officials.
- Please leave the discussion of rules questions to the coaching staff.

Sportsmanship

- Parents have to demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as positive role models.
- Specific obligations:
- No vulgar or inappropriate language.
- Taunting and trash talking will not be tolerated.
- Outsiders must never intrude upon the field during a game.
- Cheerleading should be for our team, not against the opponents.
- Keep comments to a positive nature.

Responsibilities of the Athletes

- Put the team's goals, welfare and success before your own.
- Attend all practice sessions.
- Be receptive to coaching.
- Be responsible for all uniforms and equipment
- Represent the team and your community and follow the team's policies
- Report all injuries to a coach. (immediately)
- Be On Time
- Do Your Best
- Work on improving individual skills outside of team practices
- Work on physical conditioning when not at practice.
- Always strive to improve your skills.

Responsibilities of the Coach

- Select the squad.
- Determine the style and philosophy of play.
- Teach at practice sessions.
- Determine who starts at playing time.
- Establish and enforce team policies.
- Select team leaders.
- Always make sure safety and the athletes' welfare comes first.

Eligibility Requirements for Athletes

- Must conform to state and district regulations.
- Must maintain skill level and physical condition level and show improvement
- Must maintain school grades (GPA).

Participation on a Team

- It's a privilege, not a right.
- Players must accept all responsibilities in order to stay on the team.
- Nobody will be accorded equal or guaranteed playing time.
- Players must maintain, what the coaches think is an acceptable skill level to maintain their current position and status.
- All playing positions and roster spots are at the sole discretion of the coaches and manager.

Practice Sessions and Games

- Parents are not allowed on the practice or game fields unless asked by the coach (es) to help.
- The field is the athlete's classroom and should be free of distractions.
- Positive support is encouraged at games.
- Lateness and absence must be immediately and properly explained.
- Players are encouraged to obtain private instructors for individual skills such as pitching or hitting.
- Players are to work on skill individually when not at organized practice.
- Players are to maintain a physical fitness regimen and show signs of improvement as the season progresses.

The Fury Softball Organization may amend these Policies & Codes of Conduct at any time, with or without prior notice to Players and Parents.



16U

Girls Travel Softball Team

Team Agreement

Player

I have read and understand the Fury Policies & Codes of Conduct and pledge to follow them. Furthermore, I understand that NOT abiding by the Policies & Codes of Conduct may lead to removal from the team.

_____ Date _____

Player

Parent/Guardian

As the above player's parent/guardian I have read, understand and will abide with the team's Policies & Codes of Conduct. Further, I understand that NOT abiding by the Policies & Codes of Conduct may lead to removal from the team of my player.

_____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian
