



# **Papillion Outlaws Softball**

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

Congratulations on being selected to the **Papillion Outlaws** 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.**

The following is the guidelines the **Papillion Outlaws** 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 **Papillion Outlaws Organization** reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any time with or without prior notice to players and parents.

The **Papillion Outlaws** softball teams are registered with both the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) and the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA)

This program is competitive and requires a great 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 after try-outs and team selection in July and ends prior to Thanksgiving. The spring/summer season will begin in January and will end in July at the completion of Nationals. Season schedules will be put together by the coaches and submitted to 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 become the best athlete possible with the goal of 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 its 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

### Active Players

When an individual is chosen to be a member of a **Papillion Outlaws** 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 without the player's Head Coach's prior approval. 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 **Papillion Outlaws** athlete is found practicing or playing for another select ball team without the player's Head Coach's approval, 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.**

### Fees:

All payments should be made payable to **Papillion Outlaws**. Please submit your payment to your team's financial liaison. All fees must be paid per the fee payment schedule established by the organization. A team's coach may work with a player's parent to work out an alternate payment plan. Any players who are not current on their fee payments will not be able to participate in practices, games or any other team event.

## ***Sponsor / Fundraising***

The ***Papillion Outlaws Organization/Teams*** will organize fundraisers as needed to offset costs. Each player should take the initiative to procure sponsors to help offset team costs. The monies from team sponsors can be used to offset the player fees of the player securing the sponsor. The monies from Organization Level fundraisers will be used for Indoor Facility rental. The ***Papillion Outlaws Organization*** is a Non-Profit Organization.

## ***Team Equipment***

Each player will receive a complete set of uniform items from the ***Papillion Outlaws*** organization prior to the start of the Spring/Summer season. The following items are provided as part of the Uniform:

- Uniform Tops
- 1 Equipment Bag
- 1 Helmet
- Softball Pants
- Socks and Belts

\*Some teams may also purchase cleats, batting gloves or other items as a team as part of the uniform, but that is up to each Team's Coaching staff.

## ***Equipment***

Players will be responsible for providing their own glove(s), sliding shorts, protective pads and beverage container at each practice and game. Catchers shall supply their own catcher's gear. Players will wear the exact selected uniforms at all games. **No exceptions!**

- Uniforms must be clean prior to any game.
- Uniforms will be worn as designed.
- Rolling of the waistband on pants will not be allowed.
- Shirts must be tucked in.
- All jewelry must be removed.

\*Failure to be properly equipped in uniform may result in a player being benched for the game.

# **PLAYER POLICIES**

As a player with the Papillion Outlaws softball team, all members are expected to understand and support the following Player Policies:

## ***Practices***

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

Players must arrive to practice and be ready with gear on at practice time. If you arrive to practice on time, but still need time to get ready, you are late. A good rule of thumb is to arrive to practice 15 minutes early to allow enough time to get ready. Player participation during games can be affected by attendance.

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. Practice at "Game Pace" You are expected to treat practice just like a game. 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** (unless Head Coach directs differently) 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 equipment 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 will run on and off the field at the start and finish on an inning as a team after getting instructions from the Head Coach.

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.

"Sideline coaching" by parents and family members will not be tolerated. This is a confusing distraction and usually goes against the play called by the coach. It undermines the coach's authority in front of the team. One warning will be issued, and any other occurrences will be dealt with as decided by the Board of Directors, including possible expulsion from the organization.

Parents, do not enter the dugout unless the coach requests your presence. Your child/player should not leave the dugout unless a coach has granted permission. We do not want players wandering around during games. ASA rules do not allow any adults without certification into a team dugout.

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 in the equipment bags.

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 any time is cause for removal from the bench, the game and team.

Each player will be responsible for remembering to take home any equipment and clothing that they bring to any event.

## ***Between Games***

Rest and prepare for the next game Stay out of the sun

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

Drink plenty of water

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 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. Teams should travel and stay in the same Hotel. Curfews will be set by the coaching staff and we would ask parents try and observe team rules. When traveling, you are ambassadors for both the Papillion Outlaws organization as well as the city of Papillion, please leave a positive impression with everyone you encounter, both on the field and off.

## ***24 Hour Rule***

Parents may have prior experience playing, coaching, etc.; however, ***Papillion Outlaws*** 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.

## ***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 and show respect for your teammates.*
- *Be on time, dressed, ready to begin practices & games as scheduled attend all practices if possible.*
- *Call a coach if you cannot attend a practice/game (24 hours in advance)*
- *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

## ***Coaches***

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. Coaches have the responsibility to be present at all practices and games barring emergencies. Players are required to have 100% commitment; Coaches must match that level of commitment.

Regardless of the goals of the individual player we as a team are committed to play at a Select level, this is a Select organization, and we are a Select 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.

## ***Responsibilities of the Coach***

- Select the squad.
- Be present at all team events.
- 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.
- Exemplify behavior that is representative of being an adult, a coach, a member of the Papillion Outlaws organization, and a leader of young women.
- Demonstrate high ideals, good sportsmanship, and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards from his/her players.
- Emphasize to his/her players and support personnel the importance of proper behavior and the necessity of restraining from entering the playing field to engage in an altercation of any kind.
- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Cooperate with and assist the Papillion Softball Board in the planning, scheduling, and conduct of organization activities.
- Utilize positive educational methods in coaching; giving all players an opportunity to develop and use initiative, leadership, and judgment.
- Pay close attention to the physical condition and wellbeing of players; refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving his/her team's chances of winning.
- Discourage profanity or abusive language directed toward anyone involved with the Papillion Outlaws and its activities.
- Refuse to disparage opponent, officials, or others associated with the Papillion Outlaws or its activities.
- Conduct himself/herself properly when raising a question about or discussing a call with an official.
- Outlaws coaches have an obligation to participate in the building of the Papillion Outlaws organization, not just their team.
- Coaches are expected to interact with parents, fostering an atmosphere of open communications, trust and team.
- The coaching staff should ensure that players and parents understand what is involved in tournament play, and provide enough guidance to ensure families are properly prepared for the early and long days that often accompany tournament play.
- Coach should establish team rules, coaching philosophy, and properly set player and parental expectations on practice participation, playing time, in-game interaction between player and parents, etc.
- Coaches should conduct organized and productive practices. Practice should be conducted in a serious, "Game pace" manor. Practice is for learning and improving. Be prepared for practice and set the tone for your team.
- Responsible for budget

## **Players**

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!

## **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)
- 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.
- Always be on time for all softball related activities. Please be courteous enough to call if you cannot attend or will be late.
- Practice at "Game Pace" You are expected to treat practice just like a game. Practice is the time to learn and improve. We will not coach poor attitudes, we cannot coach effort, and effort comes from the player - on the inside.
- Always support your teammates on and off the field. We have stepped between the lines and the season has started. We are in this together.
- Be Coachable. Listen to your coaches' instruction. Ask questions if you are not sure. Be willing to try new positions, new techniques. Be willing to do whatever your team needs you to do.
- Accept your role on the team. If you do not like it, work harder to change it. Playing time is earned in practice and on the field.
- Do not transfer blame or make excuses. It is not acceptable. Learn from your mistakes and get better.
- Do not question the Coaches during a game, ever. We will meet 1-on-1, in a productive manner to clear up any misunderstandings. Coaches do make mistakes.
- Disrespect for coaches, parents, teammates, and umpires will not be tolerated.
- Always lead by example on and off the field.
- Be the good example and set the standard high for future Outlaws Players to follow.
  
- No inappropriate web blogging, Facebook, texts or Twitter postings about teammates, coaches, Outlaws, or opponents. Additionally, no inappropriate photos should be taken in Outlaws uniforms.
- Injuries will be taken seriously. It is important that players and parents have open and honest communications with coaches regarding injuries. Playing with soreness and slight pain is part of sports; however, playing injured is not. Health of the player is paramount. If you are injured, you are required to visit your doctor. A doctor's note will be required, and the doctor's orders will be followed by the coach. Injured players are still required to attend practices and 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.
- Drug or Alcohol use is absolutely prohibited and will be grounds for immediate dismissal.

## **Parents**

The parents can be the biggest support or the biggest obstacle for a player. 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 softball organization in the Omaha metro area. Understand that this is a process, and that by the end of the season your child will have marked improvement. How much she improves depends upon her effort to give 100% effort at all times, and how much she is allowed to grow.

## **Responsibilities of Parents**

- 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 will treat others the same way that I wish to be treated.
- Parents have to demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as positive role models.
- Keep your player healthy. Hydrate players before sending them to games and send plenty of water with players to practices, games and tournaments.
- 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.
- 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.
- Parent, understand that if you fail to practice good sportsmanship, that you may be ejected from the fields, and that your child may also be banned from playing for the Papillion Outlaws.
- **Parents shall not slander any player, coach, manager, or other player's parent(s) on this team, or any opposing team members. Doing so may result in player expulsion from the team.**

## **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.

## **Eligibility Requirements for Athletes**

- Must conform to state and district regulations.
- Must maintain skill level and physical condition level and show improvement
- Must maintain passing 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.

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

[www.papillionoutlaws.org](http://www.papillionoutlaws.org)





## Team Agreement

### Player

I have read and understand the Papillion Outlaws 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

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### 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

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