



## Sioux Falls Diamonds Fastpitch Softball Club By the Threads, LLC By-laws

The Sioux Falls Diamond's Softball Club is a premiere girls fastpitch softball club in the region which is owned and operated by "By the Threads, LLC." By the Threads, LLC's ownership team makes all of the decisions regarding the operations of the club and governs adherence of the bi-laws set forth for the Diamonds Club.

### I. Membership and Cost:

The Sioux Falls Diamonds Fastpitch Softball Club is a "members only" fastpitch softball club that assists with the development of softball skills for girls playing ball in the competitive 8U – 18U age divisions. We provide year round accessibility to our indoor practice facility (called the Core) to all of our club players. The Core has 3 batting cages with a pitching machine in each, 4 pitching lanes, and two 65ft x 70 ft turfed fields.

#### **The current cost per team is:**

- A. **\$2000 per season for 8U division teams** – (If a team has 11 players on their roster then it would be \$1500 divided by 11 players = \$137 per child/per season). 8U division teams are entitled to 1.5 hours of formal team practice time ONE time slot per week. This time is the same day/time of the week and is secured by the team's head coach. Each parent will have access to the Core to take their child to practice on your own. You must not interfere with any other teams' practices or with individuals giving lessons. It is first come- first serve for individuals wanting to use the facility and we ask that you keep your use to half an hour if there are others waiting in line. **Please remember that team practices and instructors get facility use preference.**
- B. **\$4000 per season for 10U – 18U division teams** - (If a team has 11 players on their roster then it would be \$4000 divided by 11 players = \$363.64 per child/per season). 10U to 18U division teams are entitled to **two** 1.5 hour time slots for team practice each week with one of those time slots during the week and the second on the weekend. These times are the same day/time each week and are secured by the team's head coach. Each parent will have access to the Core to take their child to practice on your own. You must not interfere with any other teams' practices or with individuals giving lessons. It is first come- first serve for individuals wanting to use the facility and we ask that you keep your use to half an hour if there are others waiting in line. **Please remember that team practices and instructors get facility use preference.**
- C. It is the club's mission to keep the cost of being a member of our premiere softball club at a minimum and for cost to not be the reason that any young athlete cannot be a part The Diamonds Fastpitch Softball Club. With this mission in mind, the club holds an annual fundraiser to help every member raise their entire annual club dues which pays for your team's use of the Core – which in essence makes it free for players to participate in our club.

- D. Team club dues **do not** pay for uniforms, equipment, league dues, travel expenses, tournament entry fees, or private lessons. Each team must decide to either fundraise or “private pay” for these team expenses.
- E. The Sioux Falls Diamonds Fastpitch Softball club offers private lessons from area professional softball skills instructors/coaches. The Instructors’ biographies, areas of expertise, and their hourly rates are posted on our website. You do not have to be a Diamonds Club member to take advantage of these professional resources.

## II. Practice facility (CORE) use and rules.

- A. Each member team will pay half of their annual team fee by October, 1 and the second half by February 1 for the upcoming summer softball season. If payment is not received by the stated deadlines, that teams CORE usage will be immediately suspended until payment is received.
- B. Every Diamonds 10u-18U team is entitled to 3 hours of practice a week, year round, with full payment of their annual team fees. **NO REFUNDS will be given for unused time or if a team decides to leave the club.** There is NOT a pro-ration of the club dues for teams that decide to join the club after the October 1 or February 1 payment deadlines. Each team can submit their practice time preferences to the ownership team by choosing a 1 ½ hour time slot on a weekday and a 1 ½ hour time slot on the weekend. The ownership team has the final decision on all CORE scheduling.
- C. **If a club team would like more than the standard 3 hours per week of team practice time, there will be an additional usage fee charged per hour and you must speak with a member of the ownership team to schedule/approve this additional time.** This means that if you want to have your pitchers and catchers practice together outside of your set 3 hours, that you must arrange and pay for this additional facility use. Parents can use the facility at no extra charge with **only** his /her daughter(s).
- D. Only players and coaches of the Diamonds softball club that are ASA insured are allowed to be out on the practice field (including batting cages and pitching lanes) during team practice times. Siblings, friends, and parents of players **MUST** remain in the designated waiting area by the front entrance while team practices are being held – **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- E. Outside parties may on occasion rent the facility but only with the approval of the ownership team and a formal rental agreement with the interested party and the ownership team.
- F. Helmets must be worn anytime a player is swinging a bat. Batting is allowed with “hard” softballs in the batting cages only.
- G. Anyone under the age of 19 must wear their catching helmet or a face mask when catching a pitcher. That means even when you are just starting your warm-up.
- H. When a team is using their assigned practice time, they are entitled to ONE batting cage, ONE pitching lane, and ONE turfed field. “Softie” softballs must be used for throwing/fielding drills and are provided by the club.
- I. Every member of the club will have open access to the CORE daily from 8am to 10pm. If you are coming into the CORE with your daughter for individual time you must respect the team that has that assigned time slot for practice before using the batting cages or pitching lanes. The open access is a privilege that is granted to all members. If abuses

of this privilege begin to occur – the ownership team has the right to suspend the benefit of open access. Possible abuses include but are not limited to:

1. Disrespecting the assigned teams practice time – ask the practicing team coaches for permission before assuming you can use any part of the practice field. Common courtesy will go a long way!
  2. We have pre-approved individuals that provide lessons in our facility so you must be courteous to their use of the space as well. You may NOT “invite” any individuals into the building to give your daughter lessons unless the management team has approved them.
  3. Unauthorized siblings, family members, or non-approved parties out on the practice field or in batting cages/pitching lanes.
  4. If the building is left unlocked/unsecured. There are offices and a lot of equipment in the CORE that the club will be providing to all of its members – we ask that all members be respectful of the facility and equipment being provided.
  5. If there is an issue with property/equipment damage, theft of equipment, or excessive uncleanliness.
- J. The only door that should be used for daily access in and out of the building is the south east door. All other exits are for emergency purposes only. When you leave the facility, please ensure that all doors in the facility are locked and that all of the lights are turned off. This is the responsibility of all club members.
- K. The thermostat is set at a constant of 53 degrees year round. This means that **no one** should touch the thermostats on the heaters - **Please leave these alone**. Encourage your players to dress warm during the winter months when practicing in the Core.
- L. It is everyone's responsibility to keep the facility clean and free from damage. Always clean up when you are finished using the facility by picking up all balls/equipment and put it in its proper place. We also ask that you please clean up any messes that you may find and that you report any damages to a member of the ownership team.
- M. Any questions or concerns regarding the CORE should be directed to a member of the ownership team.

### III. Coaches Rules and Expectations

#### A. Zero Tolerance

1. The Sioux Falls Diamonds have a ZERO tolerance stance on unruly acts by its coaches, parents, and players. The actions of one person can negatively affect our entire organization and hurt a child. The safety and well-being of our players is the main focus of our club. With this in mind, we are taking a stance against unruly and hateful behavior towards others. We see no reason for anyone in our organization to lose control of their emotions and lash out at anyone be it an umpire, a player, a coach, or fan. If a coach, parent, player from our club is acting in a manner that jeopardizes the safety and well-being of any of our players, that person will be asked to stop, apologize for their actions if needed, and promptly leave the venue if asked. If you disagree with this stance or cannot “control” your own behavior then the Diamonds Softball Club is not for you. **The following behaviors will not be tolerated:**

- a) Yelling at anyone in a negative manner. This includes umpires, coaches, players, and fans. There is no reason for anyone to be yelling in anger. If you can't help yourself then we encourage you bring a chair and watch the game from the outfield. Please control your emotions. It's a GAME.
  - b) Physical contact with a player or other person in anger is unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated. There is never any justification for this type of behavior and you will be asked to leave the club.
  - c) Foul language is also unacceptable and will not be tolerated. There is no room in the dugout, on the field, or in the bleachers for demeaning language. Our goal is to build up our girls – not to tear them down.
  - d) As a member of the club you are to be an advocate of the club and all of its members. Negative comments about our club coaches or players in a public setting will not be tolerated. It is unnecessary and unkind as they are all volunteers. If you can't say something nice... don't say anything at all.
2. The ownership team reserves the right to “visit” with any club coaches, players, fans, or parents whose behavior at a softball practice, game, or event has been reported as inappropriate or poor sportsmanship-like.

#### B. Recruiting

1. There is NO recruiting players from within the Diamonds organization. If there is any movement from one Diamonds team to another Diamonds team it MUST be initiated by the parent of the player. After the parent has made his /her wishes known, the two team coaches must civilly discuss the details of the transition so that is a good experience for the parent/player. There is no room for “coaches’ egos” in this process. Issues that cannot be resolved by the coaches must be brought to the ownership team for assistance with a solution that is equitable for all parties.
  2. Every coach is encouraged to recruit (from outside of the club) for open positions on their teams. Coaches are encouraged to get out to the softball fields, watch some games, and visit with parents/players of interest - try to get a feel on whether the player and parents would be a “good fit” for your team and the club.
  3. Each team can hold their own try outs whenever they have a need for players. The club will also hold open tryouts for specific age divisions as we see fit. Coaches from any age division can attend the tryouts and recruit any of the players that show up for the tryout. You must show up for the try-outs as we will not forward player information to you – if you need a player you or an assistant coach must be present. Ultimately it is the parents/players decision as what team/coach is the best fit for them so remain professional and positive during your recruiting efforts. Also, try to remember that it took a lot of courage for all of these girls to show up for tryouts. Every single one of them is a “diamond in the rough” and as a coach it is up to you to provide skill development.
- C. It is the goal of the club to keep teams together from year to year until the entire group is done playing. This means that when coaches form teams, they should try their best to keep the girls in their own age groups.
  - D. Coaches must always do their job with the safety and well-being of our players in mind first and foremost. The Diamonds Club has a Zero Tolerance Policy that every coach and assistant coach must read, understand, and sign off on. (Please see Zero Tolerance Policy).

- E. Playing time and positions are decided by the team coaches only and need not be justified to anyone. If a player wants to know what they need to work on so that they can play a requested position, coaches need to be honest and positive in giving the player feedback.
- F. Team control: Each team has control of their own budget, equipment, uniforms and season schedule. Uniforms must be purchased from the club as there is a set standard for all of our Diamonds teams.
- G. Pick-up player(s). Players playing for another Diamond's team as a pick-up player will be left up to the coach's discretion. The coach of the player's current team and her parents must be consulted before the player is approached. **Please check ASA and USSSA rules on pick-up players as you may not pick up players registered in a higher age/level of play division to play down in a lower age/level of play division for a tournament.**

#### IV. Parent Rules and Expectations

- A. We have club coaches who have accepted the responsibility of coaching our club teams, so your only responsibilities as a parent are to sit back, cheer positively for your player/team, and enjoy the games. If you cannot do this, then please do not come to the games.
- B. Parents **may not** question the coach's decisions about game strategy, player positions, or playing time. A parent may however encourage their daughter to speak with the coach about what skills need to be worked on to get more playing time or play certain positions.
- C. Parents need to be willing to practice with your daughters on the same skills that the coaches are working on, on your own time. Parents need to be realistic about the impact that the coaches have with their child during scheduled practice times – competitive level softball skills cannot be mastered in 3 hours per week. This is why all club members have access to the building anytime between the hours of 6am to 10pm as long as you do not interfere with another teams practice time.
- D. Please hold your child accountable for their behavior on and off the field, appropriateness on social media, and responsible for their own softball equipment. College coaches notice all of these actions and will base very important decisions on their observations.
- E. "Whispering" amongst parents is NOT allowed! There is nothing worse than parents talking poorly about the coaches, players, or other parents during a game or throughout the season. This behavior is POISON, destroys teams, affects the overall morale of the team, and quite simply will not be tolerated. Keep your thoughts to yourself – if you decide that that the current team is not a good fit for you or your daughter than finish out the season in a mature manner and move on! Keep in mind that college coaches take note of "team hoppers," notice players that have difficulty "playing well with others," and do not recruit players that are not loyal to a team. If you do it now, what will stop you from doing it in college?
- F. Parents please be aware that your behavior is under the microscope as well with college coaches. If you are carrying your daughters gear, allowing her to be disrespectful, or hovering/talking to your daughter by the dugout – your "hovering" behavior will affect your daughter's potential opportunities despite your daughter's talent level.
- G. Parents are **strongly encouraged** to help their player remain true to their team/commitments made. Many times in life, things do not go as we had planned or the way we want - that is part of life. Despite how you feel that the season may be going for your daughter, please finish out the **entire season** with the team you have committed. It is called character and it is vital to your daughter's success!

## V. Uniform/Equipment Policy

The Diamonds Fastpitch Softball Club will abide by the following policy when it comes to team/club uniforms/equipment. If any club team participates in fundraising efforts to raise money to purchase team uniforms or equipment then the uniforms become that club team's property. If a parent chooses to use personal funds to pay for their daughter's portion of the team fundraising requirements this is considered team funds and any uniforms/equipment purchased with these monies are also considered team property. If a parent/player uses their personal funds to pay for any specific piece of their daughter's uniform or equipment then that item(s) is theirs to keep. Should a player, voluntarily or involuntarily, leave a team all uniform apparel and equipment paid for with team monies must be returned to that club team upon departure.

## VI. Social Media Policy

As a club, the Diamonds will adhere and monitor the following policy in regards to social media sites. The club has an established website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram account. These are monitored and managed by the ownership team. Each team is encouraged to send information that you want to celebrate or share with the public to a member of the ownership team and they will be happy to post on your behalf. The ownership team has the right to censor all information that is submitted. Club teams may set up their own team Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts **only when an ADULT is solely responsible for all posts**. The ownership team **will not allow a** club player to set up/operate a "Diamonds club team account;" if such an account exists or is discovered, please report it immediately to a member of the ownership team so we can ensure that it is removed.