

KSO Commitment Expectations

Expectations during the off-season

Any off-season practices are optional opportunities. We do think they can be very helpful if your daughter is interested and able to attend. However, we do understand that these young ladies (and their families) are busy people. We welcome all the girls to attend but no pressure or requirement. Also, playing catch with parents, friends or siblings throughout the year can be very helpful in their development as well.

Expectations during the season

Being part of a team requires a commitment. KSO is designed to create a positive and hard-working culture on each team. Development is not just about an individual player's development; it is also about the team's development. The team's development does not happen by accident. The team must work towards that common goal and that cannot happen without the commitment of each player on the team. For that reason, KSO does have commitment expectations for its players.

Practice: Typically, KSO teams practice two times a week. The exact days are chosen by the coaches in advance of the season. While you are expected to make every practice, we do understand that your daughter will miss a few practices; occasional misses are understood. At a minimum, you are required to make at least one practice a week on a regular basis. Coaches would like to see, and have the discretion to require, more attendance but that is the KSO minimum standard for the program.

For those teams that have many girls who play Appleton Little League or Combined Locks (or an alternative softball league), the coach will try to work around those league nights but it is not guaranteed. In fact, it can be impossible to do so as some teams may have girls who play in different levels of league play and in different leagues, all happening on different nights. Please keep that in mind as you plan your summer schedules.

Tournaments: By committing to KSO, you are committing to play in all of the tournaments for your team. The only exceptions to this would be injury or illness and a family vacation for which the coach is informed well in advance. You cannot miss a KSO tournament to play for another softball team.

Other Softball Teams: KSO expects you to prioritize KSO over all other organized softball. To put another way, if you play softball with any other team, it cannot interfere with your commitment to KSO. If your daughter plans to play on another team or is thinking about it, please talk to your daughter's coach right away and talk through the details to see if it can work. We have seen this work both very well and very poorly in the past. Please note that if your coach feels the other team will interfere with your daughter's commitment to KSO, do not take it personally; your coach needs to think about the impacts on the entire team. Your coach also needs to stay within KSO guidelines; it is sometimes not his/her call to make.

Family Vacations/Overnight Camps: We get it: summer is a popular time for family vacations, overnight camps, etc. We do not expect softball to get in the way of these wonderful aspects of Wisconsin summers, assuming you don't vacation for the entire summer. ☺ Our tournament schedules are typically out months in advance (anywhere between January and end of March) and some teams do a rotation for tournaments. Hopefully that gives you enough time to work around the softball schedule.

If not and you still have a conflict, please let your daughter's coach know of the conflict as soon as possible. Knowing well in advance allows the coaches to find a substitute player if needed. We would expect you to inform your daughter's coach at least a few weeks in advance of missing a tournament; hopefully it is much sooner than that but that would be the minimum.